

June 2023

BOLT

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Banking & Finance

1. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank opens Retail Loan Processing Cell

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) opened a Retail Loan Processing Cell (RLPC) at Dharwad.**
- The RLPC will cater to the needs of the city branches of Dharwad region in processing and sanctioning retail loan products such as housing loans, mortgage loans, vehicle loans and education loans.

2. RBI launches Survey on Computer Software and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Exports: 2022-23

- The Reserve Bank has launched the 2022-23 round of its annual survey on **Computer Software and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Exports.**
- The survey collects data on various aspects of computer services exports as well as exports of information technology enabled services (ITES) and business process outsourcing (BPO).
- The survey results are disseminated in public domain besides being used in compilation of India's external sector statistics.

3. RBI launches the 14th round of Survey on Foreign Collaborations in Indian Industry

- **The Reserve Bank of India has been conducting the survey on Foreign Collaborations in Indian Industry since 1965. The 14th round of survey with 2021-22 and 2022-23 as the reference period has now been launched.**
- The schedule of this survey is required to be filled by the Indian companies having technical collaborations with foreign companies.

- The survey collects information on the operations of the Indian companies having foreign technical collaborations in terms of **performance indicators** (e.g., production, exports, imports, cost of material) along with the **crucial features of technology transfer agreements** (viz., nature, duration, mode of payment, export restriction, provision of exclusive rights, use of technology after expiry of the agreements).

4. RBI launches the Survey on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Mutual Funds and Asset Management Companies: 2022-23 round

- **The survey collects the information from mutual fund companies and asset management companies** on their external financial liabilities and assets as at end-March of the latest financial year. The survey results are disseminated in the public domain besides being used in compilation of India's external sector statistics.
- The Reserve Bank of India has been conducting the survey on Foreign Collaborations in Indian Industry since 1965.
- **The 14th round of survey with 2021-22 and 2022-23 as the reference period has now been launched.**

5. RBI imposes Rs 2.20 cr penalty on Indian Overseas Bank for rule violations

- The penalty by Reserve Bank of India on IOB has been imposed as bank failed to make minimum mandatory transfer of a **sum equivalent to 25 percent of its disclosed profit for the year 2020-21 to its reserve fund and there was significant divergence between the**

non-performing assets (NPAs) as reported by it and as assessed by the inspection.

- Ajay Kumar Srivastava is the MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.

6. SBI launches Project Kuber in Bengaluru

- To source, facilitate and cater to various banking needs of customers, **State Bank of India, Bengaluru Circle launched 'Project Kuber', which will have four Transaction Banking Hubs and One Corporate Salary Package Hub.**
- These hubs will help to increase the market share in liability products of SBI.
- Transaction Banking Hubs will offer services to corporate/non-corporate clients, from account opening to onboarding them on SBI's digital platforms.

7. ESAF Small Finance Bank adopts paperless initiative

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank**, a leading small finance bank in India, has crossed another milestone in its digital journey with **the adoption of e-signature for micro-loan disbursements.**
- As on March 31, ESAF Bank has disbursed over 5.27 lakh loans through e-signatures, showcasing its commitment to digital transformation.

8. RBI launches (ANTARDRIHSTI) Financial Inclusion Dashboard

- Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, launched a Financial Inclusion Dashboard, named, **(ANTARDRIHSTI).**
- As the name suggests, the dashboard **will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.**
- The Reserve Bank has been promoting financial inclusion through various

policy initiatives. To measure the extent of financial inclusion, RBI had constructed the Financial Inclusion (FI) Index in 2021, based on three dimensions of financial inclusion, viz., 'Access', 'Usage' and 'Quality'.

9. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Sawantwadi Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sawantwadi, Maharashtra

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order, imposed a monetary penalty of **'3.00 lakh (Rupees Three lakh only) on Sawantwadi Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Sawantwadi (the bank)** for contravention of directions contained in the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) issued by RBI under section 36 (1) read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **'1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) on Kokan Mercantile Co-operative Bank Limited., Mumbai (the bank)** for contravention of directions issued by RBI on Maintenance of Deposit Accounts.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **'2.00 lakh (Rupees Two lakh only) on Bajirao Appa Sahakari Bank Ltd., Ankalkhop (Maharashtra) (the bank)** for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Investments by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks' and 'Know Your Customers' (KYC).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **'1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only) on Shri Laxmi Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mhaisal (Maharashtra) (the bank)** for non-compliance with the directions

issued by RBI on 'Know Your Customers' (KYC).

10. RBI releases data on ECB / FCCB / RDB for April 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India released the data on **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCB) and Rupee Denominated Bonds (RDB)** both, through Automatic Route and Approval Route, for the month of April 2023.

11. Bank of Baroda launches cash withdrawal facility via UPI on its ATMs

- Bank of Baroda announced launch of **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility wherein a customer can withdraw cash using UPI from the bank's ATMs.**
- The **first public sector bank** to launch this service, Bank of Baroda customers as well as customers of other participating issuer banks that use BHIM UPI, bob World UPI or any other UPI application enabled for ICCW on their mobile phone can withdraw cash from a Bank of Baroda ATM without using their debit card

12. Axis Bank Joins Hands With Kiwi App To Facilitate UPI Payments Using Credit Cards

- **Axis Bank has partnered with Kiwi, a credit card platform, to launch the Credit on UPI app. The app aims to offer a one-stop solution for RuPay credit card users.**
- With the Kiwi app, the company aims to craft a direct-to-customer model in the credit card market wherein customers can pay either using a bank account directly or a credit card via phones in a secure manner.
- Furthermore, users of the Kiwi Credit Card will be given a digital RuPay credit card instantly through which users will

be able to link the UPI and Rupay Card in the app to help them avail the Credit on UPI offers and cashback.

13. HDFC Bank introduces Millennia Credit Card

- HDFC Bank has introduced a **new credit card Millennia** offering cashback. The card comes with contactless technology allowing customers to 'tap and pay' via POS machine.
- The HDFC Millennia Credit card offers cashback and reward points on Amazon, Flipkart, and other e-commerce platforms. In addition, the card also offers 1 per cent cashback on offline purchases, smart EMI.

14. RBI permits banks to issue RuPay Prepaid Forex cards

- In order to expand payment options for Indians travelling abroad, the Reserve Bank of India decided to allow issuance of RuPay Prepaid Forex cards by banks in India for use at ATMs, PoS machines and online merchants overseas.
- Further, RuPay Debit, Credit, and Prepaid Cards will be enabled for issuance in foreign jurisdictions, which can be used internationally, including in India

15. PNB plans to raise funds via Employee Stock Purchase Scheme

- **State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has proposed to raise funds from the sale of up to 15 crore shares under its Employee Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS).**
- At the current market price, PNB would raise up to Rs 780 crore from the scheme.
- Employee stock purchase scheme (ESPS) means *a scheme under which the company offers shares to*

employees as part of a public issue or otherwise.

16. YES BANK reveals new brand identity with renewed logo

- **YES BANK unveiled a lively new logo that continues and expands on the bank's visual identity.**
- The tick has been converted into a soaring bird, representing the bank's current soaring position, according to the firm. Furthermore, the smoothed-out corners and fluid curves have replaced the former logo's jagged edges.
- Furthermore, YES BANK is preparing to launch an integrated campaign with the motto '**Life Ko Banao Rich,**' which reflects the bank's main goal of being a total solution provider for all financial matters.

17. RBI permits FLDG between fintechs & banks, NBFCs

- The RBI issued first **loss default guarantee (FLDG) guidelines** for digital lenders. **The central bank has allowed a 5% default loss cover for bank-fintech deals.**
- The RBI had earlier specified that banks and NBFCs must abide by securitisation norms before entering into any guarantee arrangement.
- Subject to certain guidelines, the RBI has decided to permit arrangements between regulated entities and lending service providers or between two regulated entities involving default loss guarantee.
- The limits are aimed at reining in the risk of large slippages in tie-ups between lenders and fintechs.
- The default loss arrangements must be backed by an explicit, legally-enforceable contract between the

regulated entity and the default loss guarantee provider like a digital lender.

18. Kotak Bank launches Rserve, a premium account for the super rich

- Kotak Private Banking, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, has unveiled **Kotak Rserve, a Savings Programme curated exclusively for UHNIs(Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) & HNIs(High Net Worth Individuals).**
- This by-invite programme extends beyond banking services, offering a range of exclusive amenities to provide clients with an unparalleled luxury banking experience.

19. South Indian Bank launches digital platform for hassle-free account opening

- South Indian Bank has introduced **SIB SWIFTe, an innovative and customer-centric digital account opening platform that eliminates the hassle of paper-based documentation.**
- The platform prioritises customer convenience and transforms the account opening process, enabling the bank to swiftly on-board customers in less than five minutes. It provides a seamless start-to-finish digital experience for opening a Savings Account.
- This facility brings the branch-like experience to the comfort of customers' homes, allowing them to connect with bankers at their convenience.
- SIB SWIFTe, a user-friendly and intuitive interface, provides clear instructions and visual cues to guide both customers and bank representatives through each step.

20. KVG Bank launches new deposit scheme

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a new deposit scheme '**Vikas Ashadeep 400 days**'.
- Shreekant M Bhandiwad, Chairman of KVGB, who launched this scheme, said the scheme is of a tenor of 400 days with an interest rate of 7.50 per cent for senior citizens and 7 per cent for general public.

21. RBI permits banks to undertake compromise settlement of willful defaults, fraud accounts

- In order to ensure maximum recovery from distressed assets, the Reserve Bank of India has **allowed banks to go for compromise settlement of fraud accounts and willful defaults**.
- The objective would be to maximise the possible recovery from a distressed borrower at minimum expense, in the best interest of the Regulated Entity (RE).
- All regulated entities (REs) will be required to put in place board-approved policies for undertaking compromise settlements, with the borrowers as well as for technical write-offs laying down the process to be followed for all compromise settlements and technical write-offs, with specific guidance on the necessary conditions precedent. Conditions would include minimum ageing, deterioration in collateral value etc.

22. PNB launches IVR based UPI 123PAY

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched an **IVR-based UPI solution, UPI 123PAY**, in line with the Digital Payment Vision 2025 of a cashless and cardless society.

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a 24-hour payment channel that allows customers to make secure, real-time payments.
- Until, the solution was only available via smartphones or the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) service, and it was reliant on adequate internet connectivity.
- The UPI 123PAY solution would broaden the functionality and make it easier for phone users and those in areas with limited internet connectivity to conduct UPI transactions.

23. Bihar State Cooperative Bank fined Rs 60.20 lakh by RBI for multiple deficiencies

- The Reserve Bank imposed a penalty of **Rs 60.20 lakh on The Bihar State Cooperative Bank Limited, Patna**, for a slew of shortcomings and violations.
- The RBI said that a statutory inspection of the Patna-based bank by NABARD after FY20 had revealed that it failed to put in robust software for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions.
- It also failed to submit off-site surveillance system returns within prescribed timelines, submit data to all the four credit information companies, and also constitute a customer service committee of the board, among other things.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '60.20 lakh (Rupees Sixty Lakh and Twenty Thousand only) on The Bihar State Co-operative Bank Limited, Patna (the bank).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '**10.00 lakh (Rupees ten lakh only) on The Co-operative Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot (Gujarat) (the bank)**'.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed, a monetary penalty of **'6,00,000/- (Rupees Six lakh only) on Jowai Cooperative Urban Bank Limited, Jowai, Meghalaya (the bank).**

24. SEBI comes out with framework for execution-only platforms for investing in direct MF schemes

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on introduced a **regulatory framework for online investment platforms that facilitate investments in commission-free mutual fund (MF) schemes.**
- The regulation brings clarity on obligations of such platforms while opening an avenue to monetise their business.
- It also addresses investor concerns on associated risks and introduces grievance redressal mechanism.
- As per the framework, platforms providing MF investment services in direct (commission-free) plans will have to apply for 'execution only platform' (EOP) licence either with Sebi or the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) within three months of the regulation coming into force, which happens in **September 2023.**
- As of now, these MF investment platforms operate under a stock broker or investment advisor (IA) licence.

25. Bank of Baroda to open six mid-corporate branches in FY24

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) is planning to open **six mid-corporate branches across the country in FY24** as part of its strategy to focus more on mid-corporate advances.
- The public sector bank opened 15 mid-corporate branches in FY23 for quick processing of corporate proposals and

tap opportunities available in the segment, as per the Bank's latest annual report. Mid-corporate branches usually meet loan requirements of companies up to **'100 crore.**

- The bank now has four mid-corporate clusters at strategic locations — **New Delhi (North), Chennai (South), Mumbai (West), and Kolkata (East).**

26. RBI Imposes Rs 20 Lakh Penalty On Manappuram Finance

- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of **Rs 20 lakh on Manappuram Finance** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the NBFC norms.
- This penalty on the Thrissur-based gold loan company, which by AUM is the second largest such pure-play lender.
- The Reserve Bank of India conducted a statutory inspection of the company concerning its financial position as of March 2021.

27. Urban co-op banks seek increase in gold loan limit from '2 lakh to '5 lakh

- **Urban co-operative banks (UCBs) have sought enhancement in the ceiling on loans against gold and gold jewellery from '2 lakh to '5 lakh** under the bullet payment scheme in order to meet the funding requirements of small/marginal borrowers.
- RBI permitted bullet repayment of gold loans up to '1 lakh to start with (in 2007), which was increased later (in 2014) to '2 lakhs, with the repayment being restricted to 12 months.
- Under bullet repayment, the principal and interest on a loan are paid in lump sum by a borrower to a lender at the end of the loan tenure.

28. Credit Card NPAs Rose 25% To Over Rs 3,800 Crore in Nine Months of FY23: RBI Data

- In the first nine months of FY23, bad or non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks' credit card segment jumped by Rs 765 crore, or 24.5%, to Rs 3,887 crore.
- The risk weight for consumer credit, including personal loans, is 100%. For credit card receivables, it is 125%.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, 46% people borrowed money to run their households.
- A credit card account is treated as an NPA if the minimum amount due, as mentioned in the bank statement, is not paid fully within 90 days from the payment due date mentioned in the statement. Credit card loans are not backed by any specific assets for the banks to seize at the time of non-payment.

29. IndusInd Bank collaborates with Wise to offer low-cost & fast inward remittance to India

- IndusInd Bank's multi-partner remittance service platform ' Indus Fast Remit (IFR) and Wise Platform ' merged to provide NRIs with multi-currency inbound remittance service.
- Wise Platform, Wise's infrastructure offering for banks and non-banks, is also being launched in India as a result of the merger of IFR and Wise Platform.

30. RBI imposes monetary penalty on The Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Rourkela (Odisha)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '**6.00 lakh (Rupees Six lakh only)** on **The Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Rourkela (the bank)** for contravention of/ non-adherence with the directions

issued by RBI on Know Your Customer (KYC) and Maintenance of Deposit Accounts ' Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '**65.00 lakh (Rupees sixty-five lakh only)** on **Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad (the bank)** for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Basic Cyber Security Framework for Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs), 'Comprehensive Cyber Security Framework for Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs) - A Graded Approach' and 'Internet Banking Facility for Customers of Cooperative Banks'.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of '**50.00 lakh (Rupees fifty lakh only)** on **Dombivli Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Dombivli (the bank)** for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Basic Cyber Security Framework for Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and 'Comprehensive Cyber Security Framework for Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs) - A Graded Approach'.

31. RBI allows remittances under LRS for paying fees to foreign institutions in IFSCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has allowed **remittances under liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) for payments of educational fees in foreign universities or foreign institutions in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)**. Presently, remittances to IFSCs under liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) can be made

only for making investments in securities.

- Under the LRS scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to **\$2,50,000 per financial year (April – March)** for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- After the exhaustion of the limit, all resident individuals can approach RBI through their authorised dealer bank for consideration.
- However, remittances are prohibited for the purchase of lottery tickets/sweep stakes, proscribed magazines, etc, purchase of FCCBs issued by Indian companies in the overseas secondary market, among others.

32. RBI imposes fine on Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Axis Bank

- The Reserve Bank said it has imposed a penalty of **Rs 2.5 crore on Jammu and Kashmir Bank** for non-compliance with certain directions, including one related to 'time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls'.
- A penalty of **Rs 1.45 crore has also been imposed on Bank of Maharashtra** for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on Man in the Middle (MiTM) Attacks in ATMs'.
- The RBI said a penalty of **Rs 30 lakh has been imposed on Axis Bank**. The lender, it said had levied penal charges in certain accounts for late payment of credit card dues though the customers

had paid the dues by the due date, through third-party platforms.

33. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Standard Chartered Bank-India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of **'30.00 lakh (Rupees Thirty Lakh only) on Standard Chartered Bank-India (the bank)** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'.
- The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2021) of the bank was conducted by RBI.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **'24.75 lakh (Rupees Twenty four lakh seventy five thousand only) on Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited, Mumbai (the company), of '26 lakh (Rupees Twenty six lakh only) on TransUnion CIBIL Limited, Mumbai (the company), of '24.25 lakh (Rupees Twenty four lakh twenty five thousand only) on Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Mumbai (the company) & of '25.75 lakh (Rupees Twenty five lakh seventy five thousand only) on CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited, Mumbai (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 [CIC (R) Act] read with the Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006 [CIC Rules].**

34. Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2022-23: RBI

- **India's current account deficit (CAD) in the January-March quarter of FY23 narrowed to \$1.3 billion, accounting**

for 0.2 percent of the country's GDP, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) This positive development was primarily attributed to a reduction in the trade deficit and a significant increase in services exports.

- **Key Features of India's BoP in Q4:2022-23**
- India's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to **US\$ 1.3 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4:2022-23 from US\$ 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3:2022-231, and US\$ 13.4 billion (1.6 per cent of GDP) a year ago [i.e., Q4:2021-22]**.
- The sequential decline in CAD in Q4:2022-23 was mainly on account of a moderation in the trade deficit to US\$ 52.6 billion in Q4:2022-23 from US\$ 71.3 billion in Q3:2022-23, coupled with robust services exports.
- Net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.
- Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to US\$ 28.6 billion, up by 20.8 per cent from their level a year ago.
- Net outgo on the primary income account, largely reflecting net income payments on foreign investment, increased on a year-on-year basis, while showing a marginal decline sequentially.
- In the financial account, net foreign direct investment (FDI) at US\$ 6.4 billion was higher than US\$ 2.0 billion in Q3:2022-23, although lower than a year ago (US\$ 13.8 billion).

- Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of US\$ 1.7 billion – driven by the equity segment, as compared with an outflow of US\$ 15.2 billion during the corresponding period a year ago.
- Net external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India recorded an inflow of US\$ 1.7 billion, as against an outflow of US\$ 2.5 billion during Q3:2022-23 and an inflow of US\$ 3.3 billion in Q4:2021-22.
- There was an accretion to the foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis) to the tune of US\$ 5.6 billion as against a depletion of US\$ 16.0 billion in Q4:2021-22

35. Canara Bank Offers UPI Payments Through RuPay Credit Cards

- Canara Bank has become the **first public sector bank in India to introduce UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments for merchants through its RuPay Credit Card**.
- This exciting feature is now accessible within the bank's 'Canara ai1' Banking Super App, thanks to a partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

36. IDFC FIRST Bank raises Rs 1,500 cr in domestic bond markets

- **IDFC FIRST Bank has raised Rs 1,500 crore of tier-2 bonds in domestic Indian bond markets.**
- These privately placed bonds are issued as unsecured, subordinated, rated, listed, nonconvertible, fully paid-up, taxable, redeemable Basel III compliant tier-2 bonds (in nature of debentures).
- Money through these bonds is raised through private placement on the NSE e-bidding platform.

- The bonds were issued for a tenor of 10 years with a call option at the end of five years and carry a coupon of 8.40%.
- This would increase the bank's capital adequacy and provide greater headroom for the bank's growth.

37. RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, June 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India released the 27th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the Indian financial system.
- **Highlights:**
- The global economy is facing heightened uncertainty amidst banking system fragility in certain countries, persisting geopolitical tensions and moderating but elevated inflation.
- Despite global headwinds, the Indian economy and the domestic financial system remain resilient, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals.
- Continuing growth momentum, moderating inflation, narrowing current account deficit and rising foreign exchange reserves, ongoing fiscal consolidation and a robust financial system are setting the economy on a path of sustained growth.
- Healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates are engendering a new credit and investment cycle and brightening the prospects of the Indian economy.
- **The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of scheduled**

commercial banks (SCBs) rose to historical highs of 17.1 per cent and 13.9 per cent, respectively, in March 2023.

- SCBs' gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio continued its downtrend and fell to a 10-year low of 3.9 per cent in March 2023 and the net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio declined to 1.0 per cent.
- Macro stress tests for credit risk reveal that SCBs would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios. The system-level capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) in March 2024, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios, **is projected at 16.1 per cent, 14.7 per cent and 13.3 per cent, respectively.**

38. SEBI slashes IPO listing time to 3 days

- The SEBI board has approved the proposal for reducing the time period for **listing of shares in a public issue (Initial Public Offering) from the existing six days to three days, from the date of issue closure (T Day).**
- The new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after **September 01, 2023** and mandatory for the ones on or after **December 01, 2023**, according to the capitals markets regulator.

39. HDFC makes HDFC Life a subsidiary by raising its stake to 50.33%

- **HDFC has increased its stake to over 50 percent in HDFC Life Insurance Company after getting the green light from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (RDAI).**

- HDFC now holds **50.33 percent** of the total paid-up share capital of HDFC Life

40. RBI grants non-banking institution licence to Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, cancels bank permit

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted **non-banking institutions licence to Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Dharwad, Karnataka, after cancelling its banking permit.**
- This will not stop the bank from conducting the business of 'banking' and acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect.

41. ICICI Securities to become wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank, board approves delisting

- India's fifth largest stock broker ICICI Securities announced that it will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of its parent company ICICI Bank upon delisting.
- As part of the acquisition, which is akin to merger but not merger, public shareholders of ICICI Securities would be allotted 67 equity shares of ICICI Bank for every 100 equity shares of the company.

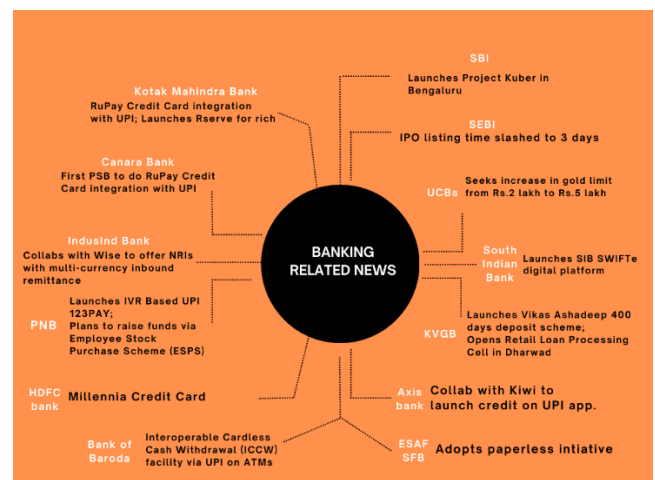
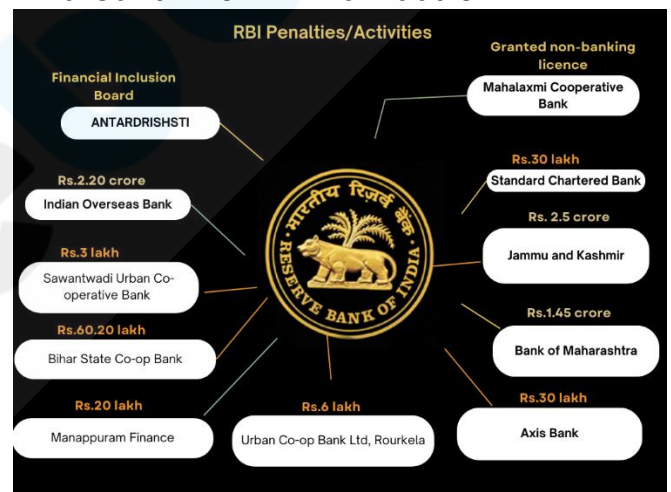
42. Kotak Bank integrates Rupay Credit Cards with UPI

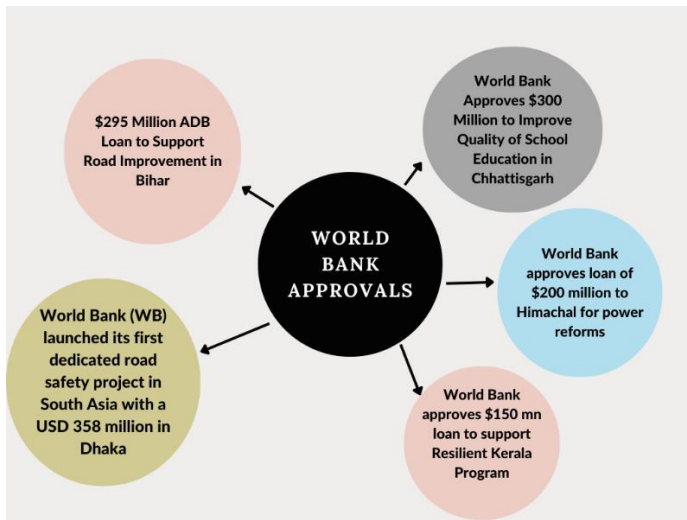
- Kotak Mahindra Bank, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the facility of linking its RuPay Credit Card to UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps.
- Customers are no longer needed to carry their physical credit card.
- Customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank can transact through UPI apps like Google Pay, PhonePay, and Paytm, following the linkage.
- They can choose from seven RuPay credit cards and scan QR codes or

initiate transaction on POS (Point of Sale) through out the country.

43. India's indigenous HDFC to seal place in top echelons of world's most valued banking space

- The merger between HDFC Bank and HDFC will give birth to a financial powerhouse that will claim the fourth spot in equity market capitalisation, trailing only JPMorgan Chase, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of America.
- With the merger set to take effect on July 1, the new HDFC Bank entity will serve a staggering customer base of around 120 mn. individuals.





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For Bank Exams

1:1 Mentorship:



- ✓ 1:1 Mentorship with dedicated Super Mentors
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- ✓ 2,000+ Mock Tests for All Bank, Insurance Exams
- ✓ Daily Live Group Practice Sessions

Validity
1 Year

Interview Preparation & Mock Interviews:*



- ✓ 6 Mock Interviews with ex-IBPS/SBI panel
- ✓ Live classes for interview preparation
- Personalized coaching by Mentors

Physical Books:



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Economy

1. India's Manufacturing PMI Surges To 31-Month High, Maintains Expansion For 22 Consecutive Months

- India's manufacturing sector continued to show robust expansion in May, according to data released on June 1.
- **The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing reached a 31-month high of 58.7, up from April's reading of 57.2.**
- The PMI has now remained above the key level of 50 for 22 consecutive months, indicating sustained growth in activity.
- In a statement, S&P Global highlighted the positive developments seen in May. The demand conditions exhibited remarkable strength, with factory orders experiencing the fastest growth since January 2021.
- This surge in sales led to increased production, employment, and quantities of purchases. Furthermore, supply-chain conditions improved, resulting in a record accumulation of input inventories.
- The report also noted a significant boost in international sales, driven by exports, leading to the quickest expansion in this area in six months.
- While average cost burdens increased moderately, they remained below the long-run average. However, selling prices rose at a faster pace in May. The rate of inflation reached a one-year high, driven by sustained increases in input costs and a supportive demand environment.
- The data indicates a positive outlook for India's manufacturing sector, with strong demand, improved supply-chain

conditions, and robust international sales contributing to the expansion. The acceleration in inflation, coupled with rising selling prices, suggests a favorable environment for businesses operating in the sector.

2. Miss World 2023 pageant to be held in India after 27 years

- Nearly after three decades, the coveted international beauty pageant Miss World will be hosted in India this year.
- The 71st edition of Miss World is expected to take place in November this year, the final dates are yet to be ascertained.
- India had last hosted the Miss World pageant in 1996.
- The month-long event would witness contestants from over 130 countries and will feature a series of rigorous competitions, including talent showcases, sports challenges, and charitable initiatives all aimed at highlighting the qualities that make them ambassadors of change

3. Food regulator FSSAI proposes new category for 'low alcohol' beverages

- In a significant development, the food regulator, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has created a category of **'Ready to Drink' or low-alcohol beverages, having an alcohol content of 0.5-8 per cent.**
- In the same notification, it has laid down what should constitute 'country liquor' or 'Indian liquor' and the constituents that should go into its making.

- The notification defined country liquor or Indian liquor as alcoholic beverages obtained from distilling fermentable carbohydrates of agricultural origin.
- It further said the criterion for being designated “plain country liquor” or “plain Indian liquor” was that it should be made from alcoholic distillate obtained from fermented molasses, jiggery (gur), a mash of cereals, potatoes, cassava, fruits, juice or sap of coconut and palm trees, mahua flowers or any other carbohydrates of agricultural origin.
- Blended country liquor or blended Indian liquor is a mixture of an alcoholic distillate, rectified spirit, or neutral spirit.

4. SBI Ecowrap report: GDP growth revised to 6.5% for current FY

- In its 'Ecowrap' research report, SBI said that domestic GDP growth is now on firm footing with urban demand showing good traction, while the lagging rural demand is a cause of concern. **The apex bank has also revised GDP growth marginally upwards from 6.4% to 6.5 % for the current financial year.**
- **Inflation for the current financial year has been pegged by 5.1%.**

5. OECD raises India's FY24 growth forecast a jot to 6%

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) moved its forecast on India's economic expansion for this **fiscal year higher to 6%, from 5.9%**, while citing weak global demand and the effect of monetary policy tightening as factors constraining the growth.
- **In FY25, it expects India's economic growth to pick up to 7%. OECD expects**

4.8% inflation in India in FY24 and 4.4% for FY25.

6. Unemployment rate dips 7.7% in May on decline in labour participation: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)

- **The unemployment rate in India fell to 7.7 per cent in May due to a decline in the labour participation at 441.9 million.**
- Compared to April, labour participation rate (LPR) fell by 1.1 percentage point to 39.6 per cent in May.
- **Unemployment rate in India among people aged 15 years and above fell to 7.7 per cent in May 2023, from 8.5 per cent in the previous month.** Mumbai based-CMIE is an economic think tank founded by Narottam Shah on 13 April 1976.

7. India, UAE Discussions On Rupee-Dirham Trade Progressing Very Fast

- Discussions between the **central banks of India and UAE** on promoting bilateral trade in the rupee and dirham to reduce transaction cost is progressing at a "very" fast pace and an outcome is expected soon on this.
- India and the UAE have already implemented a free trade agreement (FTA) in May last year to give a boost to bilateral trade and economic ties.
- The central banks of both countries are discussing the standard operating procedures and modalities.

8. India's WPI Stays In Deflation Zone, Falls 3.48% In May

- India's wholesale prices contracted for the second straight month in May, led by a fall in prices across all major categories.
- **The Wholesale Price Index declined 3.48% year-on-year in May compared to a fall of 0.92% in April, according to**

data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- Retail inflation, too, moderated in May to hit a 25-month low of 4.25%.

9. India's overall exports in May 2023 stands at US\$ 60.29 Billion

- The Ministry said, **the country's overall exports including merchandise and services are estimated to be over 60 billion US dollars in May this year.** Merchandise exports were 34.98 billion US dollars in the last month while the estimated value of services export for May 2023 is 25.30 billion US dollars.
- The Ministry said the country's trade deficit has shown a considerable decline in April-May 2023.
- **The overall trade deficit for this period is estimated at 13.28 billion US dollars as compared to the deficit of 20.56 billion US dollars during April-May 2022,** registering a decline of 35.41 percent.
- Electronic goods, Iron Ore, Ceramic products, and several agricultural commodities have registered growth in export in the last month in comparison to the corresponding period of last year.
- According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, electronic goods registered 73.96 percent growth while other cereals witnessed a significant increase by 67.96 percent, spices 49.84 percent, Iron Ore 48.26 percent, and Ceramic products 17.36 percent.

10. RIL gets RBI nod to retain extra \$2 billion from lenders

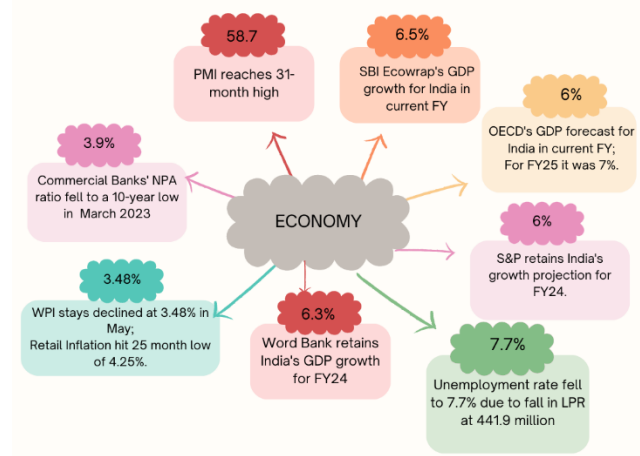
- Reliance Industries, the country's biggest company by market value, has

received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **permission to retain \$2 billion over and above the \$3 billion** it had raised last fiscal in what was the largest syndicated loan facility in years.

- The facility may have a maturity period ranging between three to five years.

11. Indian banks' gross bad loans fall to a 10-year low of 3.9%: RBI's Financial Stability Report

- **Scheduled commercial banks' net non-performing assets (NPA) ratio fell to a 10-year low of 3.9 percent in March 2023,** the Reserve Bank of India noted in the latest edition of its Financial Stability Report.
- **Gross and net NPA ratios have fallen from a high of 11.5 per cent and 6.1 per cent in March 2018 to 3.9 per cent and 1.0 per cent in March 2023 respectively.**
- As per the report, macro stress tests for credit risk reveal that SCBs are well-capitalised and all banks would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under adverse stress scenarios.



National

1. Cabinet approves establishment of a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi

- The Union Cabinet has approved to establish a **Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in New Delhi**, India to undertake UPU's development cooperation and technical assistance activities in the region by entering into an agreement with UPU.
- The approval enables India to play active role at multilateral organizations in postal sector with emphasis on South-South and Triangular cooperation.
- India will provide a Field Project Expert, staff and office set up for UPU's regional office.
- Projects on capacity building and trainings, improving efficiency and quality of postal services, enhancement of Postal technology, e-commerce and trade promotion etc will be prepared and implemented for the region by this office in coordination with UPU.

2. Cabinet approves Constitution and Empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for Facilitation of 'World's Largest Grain

- **The Union Cabinet has approved the constitution and empowerment of an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) for facilitation of the 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector' by convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.**

- In order to ensure time bound and uniform implementation of the Plan in a professional manner, Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected Districts of different States/ UTs in the country.
- The Pilot would provide valuable insights into the various regional requirements of the project, the learnings from which will be suitably incorporated for the country-wide implementation of the Plan.

3. Non-Fossil Fuel-Based Power Generation Capacity To Be 68.4% By 2031-32: Government

- **India's non-fossil fuel-based power generation capacity is likely to increase to 68.4% of the total installed capacity in 2031-32 from 42.5% at present as per the National Electricity Plan (NEP) unveiled by the power ministry.**
- This assumes significance in view of India's target of net zero by 2070 and having 500GW of renewable energy by 2030.

4. Startup20 Engagement Group gears up for its 3rd meeting in Goa

- Startup20 Engagement Group, operating under the esteemed India's G20 presidency, is all set to host its much anticipated third meeting here in **Goa**.
- International delegates from G20 nations and Indian delegates will be arriving on 2nd June onward to Goa.

5. FCI becomes leading recruiter in recent years by recruiting a large number of youth every year

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI), one of the largest Public Sector Undertakings**

under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for ensuring the food security of the nation has been one of the leading recruiters in recent years, recruiting a large number of youth every year.

- The recruitment process of FCI is conducted only through online mode of examination and is widely advertised in the Employment News as well as leading National/Local Newspapers.
- The selection is done through open competition and is on a purely merit basis. FCI ensures utmost transparency and genuineness by strictly adhering to the Rules and Regulations of the Corporation / Government of India.

6. Union Minister For Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Launches Unified Registration Portal For GOBARdhan

- The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Unified Registration Portal for **GOBARdhan** which will act as a one stop repository to assess investment and participation in Biogas/CBG sector at pan India level and more importantly streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants in India
- Any government, cooperative or private entity operating or intending to setup a Biogas/CBG/Bio CNG plant in India can obtain a registration number by enrolling in this unified registration portal launched.
- The registration number will enable availing of multitude of benefits and support from the Ministries & Departments of Government of India.
- Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) is a vital umbrella initiative of Government of India, based on the whole of Government approach

and aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting circular economy.

- Government of India intends to build a robust ecosystem for setting up Biogas/Compressed Biogas (CBG)/ Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) plants to drive sustainable economic growth and promote a circular economy

7. Third G20 Health Working Group meeting begins in Hyderabad

- The 3rd G20 Health Working Group meeting was formally opened in **Hyderabad**.
- Minister of State for Health Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar behalf of Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, is taking forward the agenda of the G20 Health Track under India's Presidency. the Government is committed to providing all health and medical service by the year 2030.
- The 3-day meeting is focusing on priorities including Health Emergencies Prevention, Preparedness, and Response, Access, and Availability to Affordable Medical countermeasures, and Digital Health. The meeting will voice the challenges of the Global South and discuss the solutions.

8. India G20 - South Centre Event on International Taxation concludes successfully at Nagpur

- India G20 - South Centre Event on International Taxation concluded successfully at Nagpur.
- A two-day event on International Taxation was organised on the 1st and 2nd June at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur in collaboration with South Centre, a Geneva-based intergovernmental policy research think-tank of 55 developing countries, including India.

9. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flags off maiden International Cruise Vessel, MV Empress in Chennai

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the **maiden International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai.**
- This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal at Chennai, built at a cost of 17.21 crore rupees, heralding a new age of cruise tourism and maritime trade in the country. Coinciding on the occasion of Environment Day, Mr Sonowal along with the port officials also planted 2,500 tree saplings at the port.

10. Rediffusion, Lucknow University collaborate to launch Bharat Lab

- Ad agency **Rediffusion and University of Lucknow have collaborated to launch The Bharat Lab, a thinktank to deliver cultural and consumer insights, and could collaborate with platforms like Google and Meta for the same.**
- 'The Bharat Lab' – India's first consumer insights think tank aimed at delivering cultural and consumer insights about the people of Bharat.

11. Centre allows Primary Agricultural Credit Societies to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras

- The Central government granted permission for **2,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras**, in a move aimed at increasing access to affordable medicines across the country.
- The **application fee for opening a Jan Aushadhi Kendra is set at Rs. 5,000.**
- However, applicants falling under special categories such as women

entrepreneurs, Divyang (people with disabilities), Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Ex-Servicemen are exempt from paying this fee.

- Furthermore, aspirational districts, the Himalayan Mountain Region, North-Eastern States, and Islands are designated as special areas.

12. Government approves over Rs 89 thousand crore revival package for BSNL

- **Union Cabinet has approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of 89 thousand 47 crore rupees.**
- It includes an allotment of 4G and 5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion.
- The authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from one lakh 50 thousand crore rupees to two lakh ten thousand crore rupees. With this revival package, BSNL will emerge as a stable telecom service provider focused on providing connectivity to the remotest parts of India.
- The Government approved the first revival package for **BSNL and MTNL in 2019.**
- It amounted to 69 thousand crore rupees and brought stability to BSNL and MTNL.
- In 2022, Government approved a second revival package for BSNL and MTNL amounting to 1.64 Lakh Crore rupees.

13. Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya releases fifth State Food Safety Index in New Delhi

- Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released the **fifth State Food Safety Index in New Delhi.**
- The Index is an annual assessment released by the **Food Safety and**

Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

This index assesses states' performance in **six food safety parameters**.

- On this occasion, Dr. Mandaviya awarded the winning states in different categories. **Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu** were awarded in the Large State category, and **Goa, Manipur, and Sikkim** in the Small States category.
- **Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, and Delhi** got the awards in the Union Territories category.

14. Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes

- The Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting (IFA WG) under the Indian Presidency concluded in **Goa**.
- The two-day meeting saw the participation of approximately 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, and various international organizations, including multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- **The meeting was jointly steered by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India along with France and Korea, the Co-chairs of the IFA WG.**
- The meeting saw detailed deliberations on the key priority areas of the IFA WG, which include strengthening MDBs to address shared global challenges of the 21st century; managing global debt vulnerabilities; strengthening the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN); following up on the IMF's general SDR allocation; strengthening financial resilience through sustainable capital flows; and assessing the macro-

financial implications of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

15. NTPC Kanti Launched Girl Empowerment Mission for 40 Girls

- **NTPC Kanti has launched the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2023**, a four-week residential workshop program for 40 underprivileged rural girls from Kanti block as part of its CSR initiative.
- This is the first time NTPC Kanti is organising the GEM program. Eight students have been selected from five schools in Kanti Block.
- The workshop aims to prepare the girl students to become well-rounded individuals, instil curiosity, and develop better communication and social skills.

16. IGI Airport introduces DigiYatra facility at T-3 without downloading app

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI)** announced that a new facility DigiYatra has been introduced to make travel easier.
- DigiYatra allows passengers to enjoy the benefits without having to download the mobile application. The initiative has been launched at Terminal 3 and it simplifies the registration process for the passengers into three steps.

17. Extremely Severe Cyclone Biparjoy to cross Saurashtra, Kutch, Pak coast on June 15

- **Biparjoy** is likely to cross Saurashtra, Kutch and adjoining Pakistan coasts between Mandvi (Gujarat) and Karachi (Pakistan) around noon of June 15 as very severe cyclone with wind speed reaching 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph.

- **'Biparjoy' was suggested by Bangladesh and the word means 'disaster' or 'calamity' in Bengali.**
- **Biparjoy is also the strongest cyclone in Arabian Sea after cyclone Tauktae.**

18. PM Modi to address US Congress for the second time, making history as the first Indian

- Indian Americans are eagerly preparing to extend a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will visit the United States from June 21 to June 24.
- With this visit, PM Modi will become the first Indian PM to address the joint meeting of the US Congress for the second time.

19. Govt e-Marketplace to organize Buyer-Seller Workshops in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) will organize Buyer-Seller Workshops in all **75 districts of Uttar Pradesh** .
- GeM is an online platform for the procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies. The workshop will continue till 31st August this year
- These workshops aim to enhance the understanding of GeM's functionalities among buyers and sellers in the state, as well as provide a platform to address any queries or concerns.

20. EPFO set to be ISSA affiliate member, get global recognition

- **The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation will soon gain access to professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services and support from the International Social Security Association (ISSA) for its pension subscribers while gaining international**

recognition as a full administrative social security institution.

- The move comes after the central board of trustees of EPFO gave its go ahead to the retirement fund body to change its membership status with ISSA from associate member since **1962** to affiliate member.
- This, however, comes at a cost as the annual membership fees for an affiliate member, based on the number of pension subscribers of EPFO, will be '2.14 crore compared with '10.34 lakh for an associate member.

21. Education loans register 17% growth in FY23, turning positive for first time in five years

- **For the first time in five years, growth in education loans not only turned positive but also registered a 17 per cent surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023.**
- According to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew 17 per cent at '96,847 crore in the year 2022-23 as against '82,723 crore in the previous year.

22. SJVN Green Energy secures 200 MW wind power project from SECI

- State-owned SJVN Limited said that SJVN Green Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SJVN Limited has **been awarded the full quoted capacity of 200 MW in the Phase-XIV of the bidding process conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).**
- Once commissioned, the 200 MW wind power project is expected to generate approximately 578.16 million units (MUs) of electricity annually. Over a span of 25 years, the cumulative

energy generation is projected to reach around 14,454 MUs.

- This initiative aligns with the government's mission to reduce carbon emissions, as the project is expected to offset approximately 708,246 tonnes of carbon emissions during its operational lifetime

23. Vigyan -Vidushi ' 2023, a three-week summer programme to address gender balance in the discipline of Physics

- **Vigyan -Vidushi ' 2023, an initiative to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level, has commenced at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), in Mumbai from.**
- 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India, who have just completed their first year MSc in Physics, are attending this programme .
- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), through its Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), has started the three-week summer programme “Vigyan Vidushi” for girl students pursuing Physics at M.Sc. level, since 2020.

24. Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) attains accreditation for outstanding Earth Science Training

- The Ministry of Mines said that the **Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving accreditation from National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET).**
- This recognition acknowledges the institute's invaluable contributions and the exceptional standards it upholds in the field of earth science training.

25. DGCA issues aerodrome licence to Pithoragarh's Naini Saini airport

- **The Naini Saini airport has received the DGCA's aerodrome licence to operate civil flights.**
- The licence which permits the take-off and landing of civil flights at the airport is valid for six months.

26. DGTR recommends for continuation of anti-dumping duty on Chinese steel wheels for 5 yrs

- The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR has **recommended for continuation of anti-dumping duty on Chinese steel wheels for five more years** with a view to guarding domestic players against cheap imports.
- Continuation of the existing duties on the imports of Flat Base Steel Wheels from China would address and mitigate the likelihood of injury to the domestic players.

27. Department of Consumer Affairs and Advertising Standards Council of India host consultation with stakeholders on "Dark Pattern

- **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) along with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) hosted an interactive consultation with stakeholders on "Dark Patterns" in Mumbai.**
- The session was chaired by Shri Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Dark patterns encompass a wide range of manipulative practices such as drip pricing, disguised advertising, bait and click, choice manipulation, false urgency and privacy concerns. The increasing prevalence of these deceptive practices that infringe on

consumer rights prompted this collaborative effort by DoCA and ASCI.

28. G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting to begin in Hyderabad

- The **G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting will begin in Hyderabad.**
- About 200 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries and International Organizations will be attending the meeting.
- The Agriculture Ministers from various countries and the Director Generals from International Organizations will take part in the meeting

29. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flags off Gabon's first Agri-SEZ Project

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off Gabon's first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi.
- The project will be implemented by AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner.
- In the first phase of the program, 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agri and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, which is an Aspirational district of Odisha, will be travelling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ which is being developed under this project.

30. Indian coal stock position crosses 110 million tonnes logging increase of more than 44 %

- **Overall coal stock position has touched 110.58 million tonnes as of the 13th of June.** The Coal Ministry said, this indicates a substantial increase of 44.22 per cent as compared to the stock of 76.67 MT last year. It

added that this higher coal stock position indicates the commitment to maintaining an ample supply of coal by the Ministry.

- Overall, cumulative coal production for 2023-24 has witnessed remarkable growth, with a production of 182.06 MT, representing an impressive growth rate of 8.26 per cent compared to the previous year's production of 168.17 MT for the same period

31. Smt. Annapurna Devi inaugurates the multimedia exhibition

- Union Minister of State for Education Smt. Annapurna Devi inaugurates the multimedia exhibition showcasing best practices in education, FLN, digital initiatives, research and skill development.
- The multimedia exhibition with focus on foundational literacy will be held here in Pune.
- Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Annapurna Devi highlighted the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy i.e. **NIPUN Bharat Mission, which emphasizes the need to attain Foundational Literacy and Numeracy goals nationally in a time-bound (2026-27) manner.**
- The exhibition showcased the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam and Jharkhand presenting the best practices in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy of respective states.

32. Passengers carried by Domestic airlines registered an annual growth of 36.10% and monthly growth of 15.24%

- The Civil Aviation sector in the country has witnessed an impressive growth, with the number of passengers carried

by Domestic airlines growing substantially.

- Based on the traffic data provided by different Domestic airlines, the passenger count reached an impressive milestone of 636.07 lakhs during January-May 2023, reflecting a significant annual growth rate of 36.10%.
- **In the month of May 2022, passenger count was 114.67 lakh, which in May 2023 rose to 132.41 lakh, registering a Month-on-Month growth of 15.24%.**
- This consistent growth is a testament to the collective efforts of airlines, airports, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation in fostering a safe, efficient, and customer-centric aviation ecosystem.
- The notable increase in the volume of passengers demonstrates the strength and durability of India's aviation sector, showcasing the continuous endeavours to improve connectivity and offer convenient travel choices to our country's citizens.
- The higher load factor of 636.07 lakhs passengers during January – May 2023 suggests a rising demand for air transportation, underscoring the favourable direction of the aviation industry.

33. National Yoga Olympiad organized in Madhya Pradesh

- The **National Yoga Olympiad is being organized in Madhya Pradesh** ahead of the main event on the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21 at Jabalpur.
- The three-day National Yoga Olympiad was inaugurated by Governor Mangu Bhai Patel in Bhopal.

- National Yoga Olympiad is being organized for the first time outside the national capital Delhi.

34. G20 Tourism Working Group and Tourism Ministerial Meetings start in Goa

- The concluding and last **G20 Tourism Working Group meeting along with the Tourism Ministerial Meeting, began in Goa.**
- Union Minister For Culture, Tourism And Development Of North Eastern Region Shri G Kishan Reddy addressed first session of "Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel".

35. Third G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting begins at Mahabalipuram near Chennai

- The **third and final G20 sustainable finance working group meeting under India's presidency began at Mahabalipuram near Chennai.**
- The inaugural session began with the Indian chair Geethu Joshi, international economic relations and Chandni Raina from Department of Economic Affairs addressing the participants. The session is co-chaired by the representatives from the US and China.

36. Road Transport Ministry Approves Proposal For Truck Makers To Provide AC Cabins For Drivers

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said **approved a proposal to make it mandatory for truck manufacturers to provide AC cabins for drivers.**
- According to an estimate, the additional expenditure for providing AC cabins in trucks would cost in the range of Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 per truck.
- The new feature will be **mandatory from 2025.**

37. 4th Education Working Group Meeting commences in Pune

- The **4th Education Working Group meeting (EdWG) commenced in Pune** to finalize outcome documents to be presented at the Education Ministers meeting on 22nd June, 2023.
- Deliberations with the G20 delegates on the draft ministerial declaration took place on day 1 of the 4th EdWG meeting.
- The International Organisations (IOs) UNICEF, OECD and UNESCO presented the education working group report.

38. NHAI launches knowledge sharing platform for inclusive development of national highways

- To promote inclusive development of national highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched a knowledge sharing platform
- This platform aims to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and innovative best practices among experts and citizens in the field of road design,, construction, road safety.

39. Ramayan Temple in Bihar set to become world's largest, projected completion by 2025

- The construction work of the '**world's largest Ramayan temple**' starte in the **East Champaran district of Bihar** following some religious rituals at the site.
- The reports stated that the '**Ramayan temple**' in Bihar will be taller than the **12th-century Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia**.
- The estimated cost of the temple's construction is '500 crore.
- The Ramayan temple will consist of 12 domes, of which, the highest will be of 270 fr tall. In addition, it will also have

around 22 sanctum sanctorum for different deities along with marriage halls and guest houses in the complex.

40. Two-day G20 Labour Engagement Group meeting begins in Patna, Bihar

- The two-day meeting of the G-20 Labour Engagement Group started in Patna, Bihar with the theme of 'one earth, one family and one future'.
- Around 150 delegates from G-20 members countries and eight guest countries are participating in the event.

41. PM Modi's Yoga Day event at UN HQ creates Guinness World Record

- The Yoga Day event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations headquarters in New York created a Guinness World Record for seeing the participation of most nationalities in a Yoga session.
- Earlier in the day, the Yoga Day event organised in Gujarat's Surat set a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering for a yoga session in one place with 1.53 lakh people joining the program.
- The previous world record was set in 2018 in Kota city of Rajasthan when 1,00,984 people participated in a Yoga Day session in one place.

42. Hon'ble Minister of Steel to inaugurate Silica Reduction Plant Project at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines

- Hon'ble Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, virtually inaugurated from New Delhi, the **Silica Reduction Plant at Steel Authority of India Limited's (SAIL) Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines**.
- The iron ore reserves in the 60-year-old mines of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli and Rajhara group are depleting rapidly and study revealed the need to refine

iron ore of size less than 1 mm to achieve the desired grade for effective usage in the Blast Furnace.

- The Silica Reduction Plant, with an investment of over '149 Crore, is aligned with the existing Crushing, Screening and Washing (CSW) wet plant at Dalli.
- This plant is equipped with the state-of-the-art beneficiation equipment and aims to enhance the iron ore supplied to Bhilai Steel Plant, thereby increasing the annual production from the blast furnaces and reducing coke consumption & carbon emission.

43. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches PM Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature

- The PM-Kisan Mobile App with **Face Authentication Feature** was launched by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar under the central government's ambitious and popular scheme for income support to farmers "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi"
- Best example of modern technology using Face Authentication Feature from this app farmer can complete e-KYC remotely, sitting at home easily by scanning face without OTP or fingerprint and helped 100 other farmers to do e-KYC at their home.
- Recognizing the need to make e-KYC mandatory, the Government of India has extended the ability of farmers to perform e-KYC to officers of state governments, so that each officer can complete the e-KYC process for 500 farmers.

44. North India's first skin bank opens in Safdarjung Hospital

- A skin bank ' a first for North India was inaugurated in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.
- The country has 16 skin banks ' a facility where the skin of deceased persons can be donated ' with seven in Maharashtra, four in Chennai, three in Karnataka, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

45. Micron semiconductor test, assembly plant to be set up in Gujarat with investment of \$ 2.75 billion

- Computer storage chip maker **Micron will set up its semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of USD 2.75 billion** (around '22,540 crore).
- Phase 1, which will include five lakh square feet of planned cleanroom space, will start to become operational in late 2024, and Micron will ramp capacity gradually over time in line with global demands.

46. BIS makes license mandatory for 24 footwear products from 1st July

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) license will be mandatory for **24 footwear products from the 1st of July, 2023**. The Director General of the BIS, Pramod Kumar Tiwari highlighted the importance of the Quality Control Orders issued recently by the government for footwear and other products.

47. Centre clears '56,415 crore to 16 States for capital investment under special assistance scheme

- The Ministry of Finance has approved **capital investment proposals of '56,415 crores for 16 States in the current financial year** under a special assistance scheme announced in the Budget.

- In order to boost capital spending by States, the '**Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24**' scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24**.
- Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to the States in the form of a 50-year interest-free loan up to an overall sum of '1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24.
- Capital investment projects in diverse sectors have been approved, including health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges, and railways.
- The scheme for financial assistance to States for capital investment/expenditure, first instituted by the Ministry of Finance in 2020-21 in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

48. Indian miner NMDC plans \$61 million investment in first gold block

- **State-owned Indian iron ore miner NMDC is likely to invest around 5 billion rupees (\$61 million) in its planned first foray into gold mining.**
- According to local rules, it must secure the mining lease for the gold block within three years of signing the letter of intent.
- India meets more than 90% of its gold demand through imports, spending \$36.6 billion on overseas purchases of the precious metal in 2022, and a record \$55.8 billion in 2021. Currently state-run Hutti Gold Mines Co Ltd, based in the neighbouring Karnataka state, is the country's only major gold producer.
- The gold block, located in the Chittoor district of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, has estimated gold reserves of around 1.83-million tonnes,

containing 5.15 grams of gold per tonne.

49. DIAL introduces self-baggage drop facility at Delhi airport

- Delhi airport operator DIAL said that it has introduced Self Baggage Drop (SBD) facility at Terminal 3 which will help reduce the waiting time for passengers at the airport.
- SBD aims to streamline the baggage drop-off process, reduce the wait time for passengers by around 15-20 minutes and further enhance the overall airport experience.

50. GAIL Achieves Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) T3 Status

- **GAIL India Limited received the title of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) T3 Status.** It is the highest level of facilitation for Exporters and Importers by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance.
- AEO is a program run by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) that aims to improve international supply chain security, facilitate the movement of legitimate goods, and promote the ease of doing business in India.

51. Dairy sector to grow at over 6% in FY2023-24

- **The dairy sector is expected to grow at more than 6% in 2023-24,** said Union Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala.
- Milk production has been growing at an annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.1% over the last eight years, and in the coming season, it is expected to grow at over 6%.
- Dairy is the single largest agricultural commodity that contributes 5% to India's national economy and employ more than 8 crore farmers

directly. With a contribution of 23% to global milk production, India holds the first production.

52. Release of tur from Centre's buffer stock unlikely to cool off prices

- The **Government of India announced to release Tur from the national buffer in a calibrated and targeted manner till imported stocks arrive in the Indian market.** The move is part of several measures being taken to curb food inflation, which continues to be elevated.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has directed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) to dispose of Tur through online auction among eligible millers to augment the available stocks for milling into Tur Dal for the consumers.

53. Indian govt proposes billion-dollar subsidy for grid battery makers

- The Indian government is developing a substantial subsidy program worth billions of dollars to support companies engaged in the production of electricity grid batteries. This initiative is part of the country's shift towards clean energy.
- A draft proposal outlines a production-linked incentive subsidy scheme in India. Under this scheme, **companies would receive 216 billion rupees (\$2.63 billion) from 2023 to 2030 to establish battery cell manufacturing capacity within the country.**

54. All panchayats to be UPI-enabled on August 15 for revenue collection

- All panchayats across the country will mandatorily use digital payments for all development work and revenue collection this Independence Day onwards, and will be declared UPI-enabled.
- "Payments worth almost Rs 1.5 lakh crore have been made through the Public Financial Management System (PMFS). Payments to panchayats will now be made digitally. Payments in cheques and cash have almost been stopped.

54. Cabinet approves ratification of Headquarters Agreement between India, CDRI

- The Union Cabinet approved ratification of the Headquarters Agreement between the Indian government and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) signed on 22 August 2022.
- It is a global initiative launched by the India and is seen as country's attempt to obtain a global leadership role in climate change and disaster resilience matters.
- On the 28 August 2019, the Cabinet had approved the setting up of CDRI along with its supporting Secretariat in New Delhi and also approved financial support of '480 crore over a period of five years from 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- on the 29 June 2022, the Cabinet had approved recognition of CDRI as an international organization and for signing of Headquarters Agreement for granting CDRI exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under Section-3 of the UN (P&I) Act, 1947.

International

1. First IIT in Tanzania to open in October 2023

- **Indian Institute of Technology will open its first-ever overseas campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar in October 2023** with a batch of 50 undergraduate students and 20 master's students.
- The new IIT campus will be set up in Zanzibar under the name IIT Madras at Zanzibar. Zanzibar will be one of three campuses outside of India, with the others located in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur.

2. Canada to become first country to print health warnings on cigarettes

- **Canada is to become the first country to print health warnings on individual cigarettes.**
- The stark messages include "poison in every puff" and "cigarettes cause impotence."
- The country's new Tobacco Products Appearance, Packaging and Labelling Regulations will be form part of the government's efforts to help adults who smoke to quit.

3. Joe Biden signs debt limit bill, avoiding US default

- U.S. President Joe Biden has signed a bill that suspends the U.S. government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, averting what would have been a first-ever default with just two days to spare.

4. Israel Conducts the First Test of an Autonomous Flying Taxi

- Israel has begun conducting initial tests of autonomous drones that could one day serve as public transportation.
- A series of tests and experimental flights were conducted throughout

Israel over the past week by 11 companies, in the context of Israel's National Drone Initiative.

- Israel hopes autonomous Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft will help to ease its worsening traffic problems.
- Israel's National Drone Initiative, a partnership between government entities and the country's Civil Aviation Authority, was launched in 2019.

5. Iran to reopen its diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia, to restore diplomatic ties

- Iran said, it would reopen its diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia , restoring diplomatic ties after a seven-year rift.
- In March, **Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish diplomatic ties**, in a Chinese-brokered deal, representing a major breakthrough in the region.
- Saudi Arabia broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts in Tehran and the northeastern city of Mashhad during demonstrations triggered by the execution of a prominent Shiite cleric and 46 others in the oil-rich Kingdom.

6. S Korea, 4 other countries to join UNSC as non-permanent members

- The United Nations General Assembly has elected **Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and South Korea to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for two-year terms starting on January 1, 2024**, as non-permanent members.
- These countries will replace Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates.
- The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of

international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

- UNSC has five permanent veto-wielding members: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.
- Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

7. China completes the construction of the most powerful wind tunnel in the world

- The **wind tunnel in the mountainous Huairou district of northern Beijing is known as JF-22.**
- It has a diameter of 4 meters(13 feet) and is capable of generating extremely high airflow speeds of up to 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) per second.
- This impressive capability allows it to simulate hypersonic flight conditions up to Mach 30, which is 30 times the speed of sound.

8. UBS completes completes Credit Suisse takeover, gains clout as global wealth player

- Swiss bank UBS said it completed its emergency takeover of embattled local rival Credit Suisse, the biggest banking deal since the 2008 global financial crisis, creating a giant bank with a balance sheet of \$1.6 trillion.
- The mega group will oversee \$5 trillion of assets giving UBS, the world's largest wealth manager, a leading position in key markets it would otherwise have needed years to grow in size and reach.

9. Antony Blinken lands in China on rare trip with hopes low for any breakthrough

- U.S. Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** arrived in Beijing, the first top American diplomat to visit China in five

years, amid frosty bilateral ties and dim prospects for any breakthrough on the long list of disputes between the world's two largest economies.

10. Canada decides to conduct an 'expeditious' review of its involvement in the AIIB

- **Canada commented that it would conduct an 'expeditious' review of its involvement in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).**
- Canada's comment has underlined the continuing shadow of politics over the functioning of the multilateral lender in which China holds the most voting power with 26.58%

11. World Bank launches its first road safety project in South Asia

- **The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.**
- The project seeks to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.
- Two national highways of Bangladesh, Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6), will be taken up for the implementation of this project. The project will pilot comprehensive road safety measures, including improved engineering designs, signage and marking, pedestrian facilities, speed enforcement, and emergency care. These measures will help reduce road traffic deaths by more than 30 percent on these two highways.

12. United Nations adopt first-ever treaty to protect marine life in high seas

- The United Nations has adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life in the high seas. UN Secretary-General António Guterres hailed the historic agreement as giving the ocean a fighting chance.
- Delegates from the 193 member nations approved the treaty with jubilation.
- The treaty to protect biodiversity in waters outside national boundaries, known as the high seas, covering nearly half of earth's surface, had been under discussion for more than 20 years as efforts to reach an agreement had repeatedly stalled.
- The new treaty will be opened for signatures on September 20, during the annual meeting of world leaders at the General Assembly, and it will take effect once it is ratified by 60 countries.

13. UAE and Qatar Reopen Embassies to Restore Diplomatic Ties

- The **United Arab Emirates and Qatar have reopened their respective embassies in Abu Dhabi and Doha 2023.**
- This marks the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries, which had been severed in 2017.
- The reopening of the embassies is based on the Al-Ula agreement, which was signed by the leaders of the GCC countries in January 2021.
- The reopening of the embassies is a significant step in the normalization of relations between the UAE and Qatar. It is also a boost for the GCC, which has been seeking to overcome the divisions

that have plagued the region in recent years.

14. Submersible Titan has imploded near the site where the British passenger liner sank in 1912

- The submersible, Titan, which set out on an expedition to the Titanic shipwreck site, almost 13,000 feet below sea level, has imploded near the site where the British passenger liner sank in **1912**.
- All five members onboard the ill-fated vessel have been declared dead in the 'catastrophic implosion', ending the multinational five-day search. The submersible was owned by US-based firm **OceanGate**.

15. EAM mulls \$650-mn U.S. 'green' anode unit

- Epsilon Advanced Materials (EAM), an India-based battery materials firm, plans to invest \$650 million in the U.S. to set up a 50,000 TPA unit to supply high-capacity anode materials produced through green technologies.
- The proposed facility in the U.S. will provide critical battery materials to power more than one million electric vehicles. Currently, this synthetic graphite anode processing facility is the largest Indian investment in the U.S. electric vehicle battery industry."

16. Meta introduces more parental control on Messenger, Facebook, and Instagram

- Meta has announced new **parental control on Messenger**, where they can have access to Messenger's supervision tools and resources.
- These controls are currently available in the U.S., U.K., and Canada, but the company will soon launch these features in more countries around the world.

17. ADB approves USD 50 mln loan to improve Nepal's overall trade infra

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a USD 50 million loan to the Nepal government to support the implementation of policy reforms and help improve the Himalayan nation's domestic and international trade with its key economic partners like India and Bangladesh.

- The programme will help implement the current customs reform and modernization plan by improving customs processes through the introduction of digital technologies, such as electronic payments of customs duties and fees, and electronic submission of export documents, according to the ADB.



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Sports

1. Finale Bahnen-Tournee 2023 cycling: India's Esow Alben wins bronze medal in keirin

- Indian cyclist **Esow Alben** won the bronze medal in the elite men's keirin event at a UCI Class 1 Event-Finale Bahnen-Tournee 2023 cycling competition in **Dudenhofen, Germany**.
- The 22-year-old also listed himself in being the first cyclist from India to participate in the UCI Champions League. Alben was also the first Indian who won a medal in a cycling world championship.

2. Junior Men's Asia Cup Hockey 2023: India beat Pakistan 2-1 to win title

- India's junior men's hockey team maintained their continental dominance, defeating arch-rival **Pakistan 2-1 to win the Asia Cup for the fourth time**.
- Angad Bir Singh (13th minute) and Arajjeet Singh Hundal (20th minute) scored for India, while Abdul Basharat (37th minute) scored for Pakistan.

3. India's Manjeet wins bronze in UWW ranking series wrestling event in Kyrgyzstan

- India's **Manjeet clinched bronze in the men's Greco Roman 55kg category** to open India's medal account in the UWW Ranking Series wrestling event.
- He lost to Ikhtiyor Botirov of Uzbekistan in the quarterfinals with the latter notching up victory by superiority (VSU1, 13-4).

4. Five Iron Golf opens their first venue in India, Bringing cutting-edge virtual golf to Greater Noida Read

- Five Iron Golf, a renowned name in the indoor golf industry, is excited to announce the grand opening of its

location in India, situated in **The Grand Venice Mall, Greater Noida**.

- On a mission to make golf accessible to all ages, Five Iron Golf India offers a unique, immersive, and state-of-the-art indoor golf experience for enthusiasts of all skill levels.

5. Indian wrestlers Manisha wins Gold, Reetika clinches Silver and Sarita Mor bags Bronze at UWW Ranking Series event in Bishkek

- Indian grapplers have signed off with three medals in the UWW Ranking Series event in Bishkek, with Manisha grabbing Gold, Reetika finishing second-best and Sarita Mor getting her hand so on the Bronze Improvising with the small sized-draws, Manisha bagged Gold in the 65 kg weight category.

6. 3rd Khelo India University games conclude in Varanasi

- **Third khelo India University games** concluded. The closing ceremony was held at **IIT BHU campus in Varanasi**.
- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur along with Union Minister of state for Sports, Nishith Pramanik and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath were present at the closing ceremony.

7. MOC approves Olympians Elavenil Valarivan and Pravin Jadhav's proposals for equipment servicing and upgradation

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell on June 1st approved Olympic Shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** and Archer **Pravin Jadhav's** proposals for equipment servicing and upgrade.
- While Elavenil will head to Walther Factory in Germany for her weapon

servicing and pellet testing, Pravin will purchase his second set of archery equipment that is now required for international events as there is no time allocated for servicing in case of an equipment failure during the event.

- The MOC approved Commonwealth Games medallist Sreeja Akula's proposal for financial assistance towards participation in WTT CONTENDER - LAGOS, Nigeria which is to take place later this month.
- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) would be funding Sreeja's Flight Tickets, Food, Accommodation, Local transport, Visa costs, and Insurance fees among other expenditures.

8. India win three medals in Asian U-20 Athletics Championship

- India started their **2023 Asian Under 20 Athletics Championships** campaign by winning three medals, including two gold, on the opening day in **Yecheon, South Korea**.
- **Rezoana Mallick Heena and Bharatpreet Singh** kicked off their campaigns by clinching gold medals in women's 400-meter race and men's discus throw respectively.
- **Antima Pal** won India's third medal of the day, a bronze, in the women's 5,000-meter race with a time of 17 minutes and 17.11 seconds.

9. ISSF Junior World Cup: Gautami Bhanot, Abhinav Shaw win India's second gold medal

- Indian shooters **Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot** have given India their second gold at the ISSF World Cup Junior after winning the final of 10 meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in **Suhl, Germany**.
- Indian team of Shaw and Bhanot registered a 17-7 win over the French

pairing of Oceanne Mueller and Romain Aufrere in the gold medal match.

- The Indian pair had qualified second to the French pair but turned the tables on them in the final. India now has two gold medals, one silver and one bronze from the World Cup after two days of competition

10. Flanders Cup 2023 Athletics: Top Indian sprinter Amlan Borgohain bags two gold medals

- Top Indian sprinter **Amlan Borgohain** bagged two gold medals, one each in the men's 100 and 200-meter races at the Flanders Cup 2023 athletics meet, known as the International Antwerp Athletics Gala, in Merksem, Belgium.
- Borgohain clocked 10.70 seconds to emerge as the fastest man of the meet. He holds the 100-meter national record of 10.25 seconds.
- Meanwhile, Sapna Kumari finished behind Belgium's Amber Vanden Bosch in the women's 100m hurdles after clocking 14.10, in what was a two-woman field.

11. Panjab University topped the KIUG 2023 medals tally with 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals.

- The **Khelo India University Games 2023 concluded with Panjab University reclaiming the title after three years**.
- Panjab University, who won the inaugural Khelo India University Games title back in 2020, topped the KIUG 2023 medals tally with 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals (total - 69 medals).
- Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University came in second in the overall championship race with 24 gold, 27 silver and 17 bronze (total 68

medals).The team with the most gold medals wins the team title

12. U-20 Asian Athletics Championships: India's Siddharth Choudhary clinches gold in men's shot put

- India showcased its dominance on the second day of the Under 20 Asian Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea.
- India's **Siddharth Choudhary clinched gold in men's shot put with a personal best throw of 19.52 metres**
- Further three other players Sharuk Khan (3000 metre steeplechase), Shivam Lohakare (Javelin), and Susmita (Long Jump) claimed silver medals in their respective events.
- Shakeel (800 metre) and the mixed relay team concluded the day by winning the bronze medal. With this India won six medals on day 2 with the overall tally accounting to nine.

13. ISSF: Dhanush Srikanth wins India's third gold at Suhl Junior World Cup

- **Dhanush Srikanth** won the men's 10m Air Rifle on day three of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Junior in Suhl, Germany, giving India their third gold of the competition so far.
- Dhanush posted 249.4 in the 24-shot final to leave silver winning Swede Pontus Kallin, a clear 1.3 points behind in a clinical display.
- India also picked up a bronze in the Skeet Mixed Team competition, when Harmehar Lally and Sanjana Sood defeated Swedish opponents, the pair of David Jonsson and Felicia Ros.

14. Iga Swiatek retains French Open 2023 crown after defeating Karolina Muchova

- **Polish Iga Swiatek defeated Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7,**

6-4 in 2023 French Open Women's Singles final.

- Swiatek has become youngest women's player to clinch consecutive titles at the French Open since Monica Seles (1990, 1991, 2002).
- She further became the first woman to win back-to-back French Open titles since Belgium's Justine Henin (2005, 2006, 2007).
- Swiatek also joined Seles and Naomi Osaka as the only women in the Open Era to clinch each of their first four Grand Slam finals.
- The Polish star earned more records by becoming the youngest to win a fourth Grand Slam title since Serena Williams (1999 US Open, 2002 French, 2002 Wimbledon, 2002 US Open).
- Swiatek's four major titles include the French Open (2020, 2022, 2023) and the US Open (2023).

15. Rodri named UEFA Champions League player of the season 2022-23

- The technical observer panel of UEFA has named Manchester City's midfielder Rodrigo Hernandez Cascante, famous as Rodri, as the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League Player of the season.
- The 26-year-old Spanish professional footballer scored the winning goal as City lifted the trophy for the first time when they beat Inter Milan 1-0 in Saturday's UEFA Champions League Final 2023.

16. Squash World Cup Championship to begin in Chennai from 13th to 17th June

- **The Squash world cup championship will begin in Chennai from the 13th to the 17th of this month.**
- India will participate along with Hongkong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt,

South Africa, Australia, and Colombia in the tournament.

- **The last edition of the World Cup was played in Chennai in 2011.** Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh, Joshna Chinappa and Tanvi Khanna will represent India.
- There will be a round-robin pool stage followed by a knockout stage. Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh, Joshna Chinappa and Tanvi Khanna will represent India in the tournament.

17. Indonesia Open Badminton tournament begins in Jakarta

- Indonesia Open badminton tournament begins in Jakarta today. Top Indian players, including PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy, will be seen in action in the opening round of the tournament.
- In Women's Singles, two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will open her campaign against local favourite Gregoria Mariska Tunjung
- In the Men's Singles, World number 8 and seventh seed HS Prannoy, who won the Malaysia Masters last month, will face Japan's World No. 11 Kenta Nishimoto in his first-round match.
- The Indonesia Open is the third Badminton World Federation Super 1000 event of the season after the Malaysia Open and the All-England Open. The tournament will conclude on 18th of this month.

18. MOC approves Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu and CWG medalist Bindyarani Devi's proposal to train in St. Louis, USA

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) in the recent meeting approved the foreign training camp for Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athletes Mirabai Chanu and Bindyarani

Devi's proposal to train in St. Louis, USA.

- The Olympic and Commonwealth Games medalists would be training at St. Louis's SQUAT University under Dr Aron Horschig and working on their rehabilitation and strength training process ahead of the upcoming Asian Games.

19. India win one Gold, 3 Silver & 3 Bronze medals in U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships

- In wrestling, India wrapped up their campaign in the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships with one gold, three silver and three bronze medals on the final day in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Ankush won India's only gold medal of the day in the freestyle 55kg weight category, defeating Iran's Amirreza Ali Teymorizad.

20. Anjali Devi Wins Stunning 400m Gold In National Inter-State Championship

- The 24-year-old Anjali, who last ran a 400m race in October 2019 at the Indian Open Championships in Ranchi, clocked 51.58 seconds to beat the up-and-coming Haimashi Malik (51.76s) for the gold medal at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Bronze was won by R Vithya Ramraj (52.49) of Tamil Nadu
- The 21-year-old Malik, as well as the bronze winner R Vithya Ramraj (52.49) of Tamil Nadu and fourth place finisher Aishwarya Kailash Mishra (52.79) of Maharashtra, all ran below the Asian Games qualifying time. But, only two of the four will be selected as a country can send just two participants per event.

21. Indonesia Open 2023: Satwiksairaj, Chirag become 1st Indian pair to win doubles title in Super 1000 event

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the men's doubles title at Indonesia Open Super 1000 event, ending India's long wait for a top podium finish in a Super 1000 event. The duo won the final by defeating world champions **Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia**. The Indonesia Open 2023 is also Satwik-Chirag's first-ever Super 1000 title.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted history on Sunday, June 18 by becoming the first Indian doubles pair to win a title at a Badminton Super 1000 event in Jakarta.
- The World No. 6 pair, who won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and bronze at the World Championships last year, defeated Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yika of Malaysia in a stunning 2-game battle in Jakarta.
- Indonesia Open (Badminton) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 13 - 18 June 2023.
- The winners of Indonesia Open 2023 in different categories are –Men's Doubles – S. Rankireddy and C. Shetty (India) Women's Doubles - S.H. Lee and H.N. Baek (S.Korea) Mixed doubles - Y.Q. Huang and S.W. Zheng (China) Women's singles - Y.F. Chen (China) Men's singles - V. Axelsen (Denmark)

22. Asia Cup 2023: Pakistan and Sri Lanka to co-host tournament

- This year's Asia Cup will be split between two venues, the Asia Cricket Council (ACC) announced, with officials

opting to stage the tournament in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- **The other sides involved in the six-team tournament are India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal.**

23. Indian Men's Senior Football Team beat Lebanon 2-0 to clinch Intercontinental Cup in Bhubaneshwar

- **Indian men's senior football team clinched the Intercontinental Cup with a 2-0 victory over Lebanon in the final at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar.**
- The first half was goalless while in the second half, the hosts made it 1-0 in the 46th-minute with Indian captain Sunil Chhetri's goal.
- Lallianzuala Chhangte netted the second goal in the 65th -minute, making it 2-0.
- This is India's second title in the tournament, following their win in the inaugural edition in 2018. Korea won in 2019.

24. UpGrad Mumbai Masters Triumph with Narrow Victory in Global Chess League's Opening Match at Dubai

- The opening match of the Global Chess League took place at Dubai, showcasing a clash between the Triveni Continental Kings and the upGrad Mumbai Masters.
- The upGrad Mumbai Masters emerged victorious with a narrow 8-7 win over the Triveni Continental Kings.
- Dubai witnessed the launch of the inaugural Global Chess League night, marking a significant milestone for the sport. This groundbreaking event aims to revolutionize chess and expand its global reach by introducing the world's first chess team franchise

25. Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first male player to make 200 international appearances

- Twenty years have passed since Cristiano Ronaldo, the 38-year-old five-time Ballon d'Or recipient, made his national team debut against Kazakhstan in a warm-weather match.
- Now he is making his **200th appearance for Portugal**.
- Since then, he has established milestones for both the greatest number of goals scored and the most matches in men's international football.

26. Egypt retains World Squash Championship

- **Egypt has retained the World Squash Championship.** Egypt beat Malaysia 2-1 in the final in Chennai today. Malaysia won the silver.
- The third place was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan. India was beaten by Malaysia 3-0 in the semi-final. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin presented the golden cup to the winning team.

27. Spain win UEFA Nations League title after edging past Croatia on penalties

- **Spain won the UEFA Nations League title** for the third time after edging past Croatia on penalties in the final in **Rotterdam, Netherlands**.
- Unai Simn was Spain's hero making two saves in the shoot-out following a match that finished goalless after extra-time.
- The next edition of UEFA Nations League is due to begin in September 2024, with the finals scheduled for June 2025.

28. Shot-putter Toor smashes own Asian record at National Inter-State C'ships, qualifies for Worlds

- Shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor overcame a personal loss to smash his own five-year-old Asian record with a big throw of 21.77m and qualify for the World championships on the concluding day of the 62nd National inter-state athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium.

29. Special Olympics World Summer Games: Indian Contingent Script History In Berlin With Record 202 Medals

- India finished the final day of the Games by taking their medal tally to 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver, and 51 bronze), with the last of the medals coming from the athletics track.
- Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Berlin Germany from 17-25 June 2023.
- From India, 198 Athletes and Unified partners and 57 Coaches participated in 16 Sports.
- Chairperson Special Olympics Bharat, Dr. Mallika Nada.
- The World Games Berlin 2023 motto is "unbeatable together," and that spirit infused is infused in the mascot.
- The official mascot of the World Games Berlin 2023 is called '**Unity**'.

30. Table Tennis, Indian women's doubles pair of Sutirtha and Ayhika clinches WTT Contender tournament title in Tunis

- The Indian women's doubles pair of **Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee won the World Table Tennis, (WTT) Contender** tournament in Tunis, after beating the Japanese pair of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto.

- The Indian duo won 3-1 (11-5, 11-6, 5-11, 13-11) in a challenging final.
- The pair also became the first Indians to win a Contender title this year.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. NTPC Green Energy, UPRVUNL tie up to develop renewable energy parks in Uttar Pradesh

- **NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, has entered into a partnership with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) to develop renewable energy parks in Uttar Pradesh.**
- The collaboration aims to support the government's energy transition goals and facilitate the development of clean energy infrastructure in the state

2. Tata Group signs Rs 13,000-crore EV battery plant deal with Gujarat

- **The Tata group signed an outline deal with the Gujarat government on building a lithium-ion cell factory with an investment of about Rs 13,000 crore (\$1.6 billion).** The move comes as India is looking to create its own electric vehicle (EV) supply chain.
- The decision to set up the EV battery plant at **Sanand, Gujarat**, was taken earlier this week at a Tata Sons board meeting.

3. OPEC+ to lower production targets from 2024 by 1.4 mln bpd

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies led by Russia (OPEC+)** reached a deal on output policy after seven hours of talks and decided to reduce overall production targets from **2024 by a further total of 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd).**
- Saudi Arabia, OPEC cartel's dominant member, will make deep production cuts of 1 million bpd starting from July, as part of a broader output-limiting

OPEC+ deal as the group faces flagging oil prices and a looming supply glut.

- The rest of the OPEC producers agreed to extend earlier cuts in supply through the end of 2024.

4. ISRO awards Gaganyaan Mission mandate to Tata Elxsi to deliver Crew Module Recovery Models (CMRM)

- **ISRO's Gaganyaan project** envisions a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching the crew into a 400-kilometer orbit for a three-day Mission and safely bringing them to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.
- One of the key requirements of this project is the safe recovery of the crew, which must be carried out with minimum lapse of time.
- Currently, two Recovery-Models (CMRM and GSF) have been delivered to Naval training teams at Kochi and Visakhapatnam to train the recovery teams.

5. Air India Subsidiary Inks Pact To Build Country's Largest Multi-modal Cargo Hub At Noida International Airport

- **Air India SATS** will develop a multi-modal cargo hub (MMCH) at the upcoming **Noida International Airport at Jewar In Uttar Pradesh.**
- The concession agreement to build a state-of-the-art multi-modal cargo hub was signed between Sanjay Gupta, Chief Executive Officer of AISATS, and Christoph Schnellmann, Chief executive Officer of Yamuna International Airport Private Ltd.

6. NHPC inks MoU with Department of Energy, Govt. of Maharashtra for Pumped Storage Schemes and Other Renewable Energy Source

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between **NHPC Limited and Department of Energy, Government of Maharashtra** for the development of Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects in the state of Maharashtra.
- The MoU envisages development of **four Pumped Storage Projects** aggregating to a total capacity of 7,350 MW, namely Kalu – 1,150 MW, Savitri – 2,250 MW, Jalond – 2,400 MW and Kengadi -1,550 MW. Other Renewable Energy Source Projects too will be developed in the state under the agreement.
- The MoU entails harnessing the Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to help achieve the national objective of Energy Transition, i.e., installed capacity of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070.

7. NHRCL signs contract for construction of India's 1st undersea rail tunnel

- **National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) has signed contract with Afcons Infrastructure Limited** for the construction of 21 km long tunnel including **India's first 7 km long undersea rail tunnel in the state of Maharashtra for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor under MAHSR C-2 package.**
- According to NHRCL, the 21 km long tunnel will be between underground station at Bandra-Kurla Complex and Shilphata in the State of Maharashtra.

- About seven kilometre undersea tunnel at Thane Creek (Intertidal Zone) will be the first under sea rail tunnel to come up in the country.
- This tunnel will be about 25 to 65 meters deep from the ground level.

8. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Signs MoU With Amazon Kisan To Empower Farmers

- The MoU is for guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.
- ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network. It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield.
- It will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India, including through Amazon Fresh.

9. Sidbi ties up with the Niti Aayog to finance 50,000 EVs for MSMEs

- SIDBI launched mission **EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem)** in association with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to finance MSMEs in the EV space.
- The new scheme seeks to finance **50,000 EVs.**
- Evolve is designed to support around 1.5 million EVs. SIDBI is the principal financial institution for MSMEs in India.

10. GAME and SIDBI launch 'NBFC Growth Accelerator Program' to ease funding woes of MSMEs

- **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME),** a mass entrepreneurship enablement platform and **Small Industries Development**

Bank of India (SIDBI), announced their joint partnership to launch the **NBFC Growth Acceleration Program (NGAP)**.

- This programme aims to handhold smaller NBFCs that have at least 60% of their exposure to MSMEs.

11. BCI signs MoU with Bar Council of England and Wales for exchange of students, lawyers for training

- Bar Council of India (BCI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Bar Council of England and Wales and Law Society of England and Wales for an **exchange programme of lawyers and students for training and learning about each other's jurisdiction**.
- However, the Lawyers recommended by the Bar Council of India would have no right to practice in UK in terms of the MoU.

12. IICA and RRU sign MoU for academic and research collaboration

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian **Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** and **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**.
- The MoU intends to synergise the professional capabilities of IICA and RRU towards capacity building, education, research and consulting in the domain of Internal Security, Financial Crimes, Law Enforcement, Corporate Frauds etc. **RRU is an under the Home Affairs Ministry**.
- **IICA is an institution established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, Government of India as an autonomous body to act as a think-tank and a centre of excellence to support the growth of the corporate

sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.

13. Tata Steel inks deal to cut carbon emissions with Germany's SMS group

- In a bid to cut carbon emission and achieve net zero carbon emission by 2045, **Tata Steel signed an agreement with SMS Group**.
- Indian steel major has signed this deal with the German company to collaborate on a technology that may cut carbon emission by more than 50 per cent during steel making process.
- Tata Steel went on to add that major goal of this deal is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 50% from the blast furnace's baseline operation.

15. Indian Oil Corp to set up aviation fuel plant with LanzaJet in Haryana

- Indian Oil Corp to set up **aviation fuel plant with LanzaJet in Haryana**. The company is looking at an investment of about **23 billion rupees** (\$280.1 million). The refiner is also running a pilot project for green fuel in association with Praj Industries in the western state of Maharashtra.

16. HPCL to open vehicle service centres in India with Saudi Arabia's Petromin

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has partnered with Automin Car Services, a **subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's Petromin Corporation**, to open co-branded HP-Petromin Express vehicle service centres in India.
- The service centres will be located at HPCL's select retail outlets in metros and other major cities across India.

17. Asian Energy Services receives LoA worth Rs 78.24 cr from ONGC for 3D seismic data acquisition services

- Asian Energy Services Limited (AESL), a leading provider of energy services, announced that it has received a contract from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- The contract, in the form of a Letter of Award (LOA), is valued at **Rs 78.24 crores** and entails the provision of 3D Seismic Data Acquisition services in Gujarat. It added that the contract duration is for 11 months.

18. GRSE signs MoU with Kongsberg Maritime for licensed production of Water Jets in India

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Kongsberg Maritime (KM), Finland**, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-production of indigenous Water Jets (WJs) of up to 3.5 MW.
- Waterjet Propulsion Systems are extensively used onboard Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard ships and therefore, this collaborative effort of GRSE & Kongsberg Maritime (KM) has huge market potential in the coming years.

19. Air India Signs Purchase Agreement With Airbus, Boeing For 470 New Planes

- Tata Group-owned Air India signed the purchase agreements to buy **470 aircraft from European manufacturer Airbus and USA-based Boeing**. The purchase agreements were signed at the Paris Air show.
- The first A350s are likely to be delivered later this year. Air India has started taking delivery of 25 Airbus A320s and Boeing 777s to increase its fleet and network expansion.

- Tata Group's Air India has placed an order for 250 Airbus aircraft and 220 new Boeing jets worth \$70 billion at list prices. The deal is one of the largest aircraft orders in civil aviation history.

20. TCS expands partnership with British pension scheme Nest, signs \$1.1 billion contract for initial tenure of 10 years

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the UK's largest workplace pension scheme, Nest expanded their long-standing partnership to focus on digitally transforming Nest's scheme administration services, delivering enhanced member experiences and furthering the scheme's mission of delivering better retirement outcomes for people across the United Kingdom.
- Nest and TCS have been working closely since 2011 when the digital, auto-enrolment pension scheme was first launched.

21. BEL, HFCL sign MoU to leverage business opportunities across defence, telecom & railway sectors

- Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) announced it has signed an MoU with tech company HFCL Limited to **indigenously develop and deploy emerging technologies and technical solutions to address the requirements of defence, telecom and railway sectors**.
- This strategic MoU is envisaged to give a boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and go a long way in realising the Government's vision of a digital India.

22. UNDP partners with DAY-NULM towards empowering women entrepreneurs

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National**

Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) entered into a collaborative partnership aimed at empowering women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship.

- The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expanding their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging and more.
- Focused on fostering entrepreneurship development and accelerating enterprise growth, the three-year project, extendable beyond 2025, will cover eight cities in the initial phase.

23. Directorate General of Resettlement inks MoU with private sector to generate employment for Ex-servicemen

- Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **M/s Adecco India Private Limited in New Delhi**.
- Adecco is a staffing & recruitment solutions provider with specialization in outsourcing, consulting services etc.
- The objective is to bring the corporate companies and the Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for Ex-Servicemen in various sectors such as IT, E-Commerce, Logistics, Telecom, Aerospace & Defence, Facility Management, Security, Digital Assessment Services, Power & Energy, Manufacturing, Chemical & Agro Etc.

24. IOB inks MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)**, to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State and provide them with vital financial support.
- Under the terms of the MoU, TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with IOB.
- This strategic collaboration aims to streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the State.

25. DRDO and L&T join hands for realisation of Indigenous AIP System for submarines of Indian Navy

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and DRDO have signed a contract for realisation of two Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System Modules for **Kalvari Class** of Submarines of the Indian Navy.
- These modules constitute the core of the fuel cell-based AIP System, indigenously developed by NMRL of DRDO with L&T as prime industry partner, an association spanning more than a decade.

26. GE Aerospace inks pact with HAL for joint production of fighter jet engines in India

- GE Aerospace said that it has inked a pact with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to jointly produce fighter jet engines for Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk-II Tejas.
- The announcement came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first state visit to the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden.

27. IFFCO inks pact for export of nano liquid urea to US

- Leading fertiliser cooperative Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) said that it has signed an agreement with California-based Kapoor Enterprises Inc for the **export of nano liquid urea to the US**.
- In June 2021, IFFCO launched the world's first nano urea fertiliser, while nano DAP in April this year. A 500-millilitre bottle of IFFCO nano urea liquid will replace at least one bag of conventional urea.
- The bottle can significantly bring down the cost of logistics and warehousing, the cooperative said.
- IFFCO has already sold more than 5.7 crore bottles of nano liquid urea in India since its inception in the commercial market

28. India to sign Artemis Accords, work on joint mission with NASA

- India has decided to join the **Artemis Accords**, which brings **like-minded countries together on civil space exploration, and NASA and ISRO** have agreed to a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024.
- The Artemis Accords are a set of principles, guidelines, and best practices applicable for the safe exploration of the Moon and ultimately expand space exploration to Mars and beyond.
- It is a part of the US government's Artemis program, an American-led effort to return **humans to the Moon by 2025**.
- When India signs the Artemis Accord, it will join the signatory list, which includes the United Kingdom, United States, Italy, Japan, United Arab

Emirates, Luxembourg, France, Romania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Singapore, Ukraine and South Korea.

29. India, US sign MoU to establish collaboration in greener railways

- **Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Agency for International Development/India** on June 14 to establish collaboration in bringing greener railway technologies in India. The two countries will also collaboratively host events, conferences, and capacity-building programs in the identified areas including field visits and study tour
- Broad tenets of the agreement include long-term energy planning including clean energy for Indian Railways, developing an energy efficiency policy and action plan for railway buildings, planning for procurement of clean energy, technical support for addressing regulatory barriers, and bid design and management support for large scale renewable procurement.
- **The ministry aims to make railways the first mode of national transport to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as it looks to achieve this by 2030.**

30. India, UNWTO ink pact to enhance cooperation

- **Government of India and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** signed a MoU to enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest, in the backdrop of G20 Tourism Ministers meeting at Goa. The MoU will see both parties collaborate on key programmatic areas related to tourism market intelligence, tourism, and rural development.

31. IUCAA hands over SUIT instrument to ISRO for integration with Aditya-L1 spacecraft

- The Pune based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) has announced that it has handed over the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) instrument for integration with the **Aditya-L1 spacecraft**.
- Aditya-L1 is India's first dedicated heliophysics observatory, build for unlocking the secrets of the Sun

32. CRPF signs pact with Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat

- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) signed agreement with Gujarat based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** for a specialized education, research, training and innovation ecosystem for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- Under the MoU, CRPF personnel will be able to benefit from diploma and degree programs, get accreditation and recognition of training leading towards diploma and degree, exchange of resource persons, conduct research at RRU or CRPF facilities, among others.

33. BSNL partners L&T to offer private 5G network to businesses

- Global Engineering services company L&T Technology has announced its partnership with the state-owned telecom operator BSNL. This new partnership will drive and enable global enterprises in their private 5G network deployment. According to the agreement, the spectrum will be provided by BSNL using both
- PLMN and isolated allotment.

- According to a report by IDC, the global private 5G market is expected to exceed \$8 billion by 2026.
- India is seeing an increased need for enterprises seeing the need for deploying a Non-Public Network (NPN) due to faster connection speed and lower latency.

34. Tata AIA partners with WhatsApp, PayU to introduce industry's first premium payment feature

- Tata Group-backed life insurance arm, **Tata AIA introduced digital payments via WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces**. This newly added payment option is first-of-its-kind in the insurance industry and offers an instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options. India has close to 500 million WhatsApp users and more than 300 million UPI users.
- Tata AIA has adopted an Analytics-driven, Decile based approach to improve its renewal premium collections.
- The company has enabled renewal premium collections via multiple Digital modes and enhanced its language capability to 5 Languages –English, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, and Bengali.

35. State-owned firm KABIL to sign pact with Argentina to secure lithium blocks

- India's **KABIL**, a state-owned joint venture formed to scout for minerals overseas, will "shortly" sign an agreement with **Argentina** to secure a few **lithium blocks**.
- KABIL, short for Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, was formed in August 2019 to identify, acquire, develop and process strategic minerals overseas for use in India.

Schemes

1. Cabinet approves City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) from 2023 to 2027

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)**.
- CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**.
- The program will run for a period of **four years, i.e., from 2023 till 2027**. The program envisages to support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.

2. Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR) to be launched to leverage Emerging Technologies in Power Sector

- The **Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** are jointly launching a National Mission to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.
- The **National Mission, titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)”** aims to facilitate indigenous research, development and

demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.

- By identifying emerging technologies and taking them to implementation stage, the Mission seeks to leverage them as the main fuel for future economic growth and thus make India a manufacturing hub of the world.
- Planned for an initial period of **five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28**, the Mission will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

3. Union Cabinet approves continuation of Central Sector Scheme of 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme'

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme of '**Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme**' with an **estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26** co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.
- Under this scheme, exploration for Coal and Lignite is conducted in two broad stages: (i) Promotional (Regional) Exploration and (ii) Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks.
- Exploration for Coal and Lignite is required to prove and estimate coal resources available in the country which helps in preparing detailed project report to start coal mining.
- The Geological reports prepared through these exploration is used for auctioning new coal blocks and the cost is thereafter recovered from successful allocatee.

4. 'DAKSHTA For Young Professionals' now Live at iGOT Karmayogi

- A new curated collection, **DAKSHTA (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration)** For Young Professionals, is now Live on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.
- Tailored for Young Professionals & Consultants engaged in Government, this collection (consisting of 18 courses) seeks to build functional, domain and behavioural competencies by acquainting learners with subjects crucial for discharging their duties, and responsibilities effectively.
- Currently, 40 Young Professionals, and Consultants in NITI Aayog are undergoing phase-wise induction training through this curated collection of courses on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.

5. TCS bags contract for running, maintaining GeM procurement portal: Goyal

- India's largest software exporter TCS has won the contract for running and maintaining the government procurement portal GeM, Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

- The Government e-Market (GeM) portal was launched on August 9, 2016, by the commerce ministry for online purchases of goods and services by all the central government ministries and departments.

7. Cabinet approves '3.68 trillion for fertilizer subsidy schemes for 3 years

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved a bouquet of fertilizer schemes, including **PRANAM scheme and Urea Gold scheme**, to boost wellbeing of farmers, rejuvenate soil productivity, and ensure food security & environmental sustainability with a total allocation of '**3.70 trillion**.'
- Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana (PRANAM) aims to promote balanced use of fertilizers along with bio-fertilizers.
- The allocation is over and above the recently approved Nutrient Based Subsidy of '38,000 crore for 2023-24 Kharif season.'



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Appointments & Resignations

1. Govt appoints Ashwani Kumar as UCO Bank MD & CEO

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Ashwani Kumar**, Executive Director, Indian Bank as **Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank**.
- Ashwani Kumar will lead the public sector bank for period of three years from June 1.

2. Ajay Yadav takes charge as MD of SECI

- **Ajay Yadav**, a seasoned IAS officer from the 2005 batch of the Bihar cadre, has assumed the charge of **Managing Director at Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)**, effective immediately.
- SECI, a **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** established in 2011, serves as the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes and projects under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

3. Argentina's Celeste Saulo becomes first woman leader of World Meteorological Organization

- **Celeste Saulo** of Argentina has been appointed as the **first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- Saulo won a landslide vote at the UN Climate and weather agency's Congress in Geneva.
- Saulo has served as the director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014.

4. Missile specialist P. Upadhyay takes over as Director General of Naval Armament

- Shri P Upadhyay, INAS has taken over as Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at IHQ MoD (Navy) from Shri KSC Iyer, who superannuated.
- Shri P Upadhyay, belongs to 1987 batch of Indian Naval Armament Service.
- He joined Naval Armament Organization of Indian Navy on 12 Jul 1989.

5. IMD DG Dr. Mrutunjay Mohapatra Wins The Election To The Post Of Third Vice President of World Meteorological Organisation

- The Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), **Mrutyunjay Mohapatra** was elected as **one of the three vice-presidents of the World Meteorological Organisation**.
- Along with Mohapatra, the UN agency for climate change, weather and water elected two other vice-presidents as well.

6. UAE wins Presidency of World Meteorological Organization

- A meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Dr Abdulla Al Mandous** has been elected as the new **President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027.
- The WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental fields.

7. Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand takes over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration

- **Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand**, Vishisht Seva Medal took over as **Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)**.

- An alumnus of National Defence Academy, the Air Marshal was commissioned in Administrative Branch of the Indian Air Force as an Air Traffic Controller on 13 Jun 1987. For his distinguished service, he was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2022.

8. Janardan Prasad appointed new Director-General of the Geological Survey of India

- **Janardan Prasad** has been appointed as the new **Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)**.
- Mr. Prasad, who took charge of the 174-year-old institution on June 1, succeeds Dr. S. Raju, who has held the post since April 2022.
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) Established in 1851. GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

9. Dennis Francis assumes presidency of 78th UNGA Session, first from Trinidad and Tobago

- Trinidad and Tobago's nominee **Dennis Francis** was successfully elected as the **78th President of the United Nations General Assembly**. He is the first T&T nominee to be elected as UNGA President.
- Ambassador Francis, who is the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, was elected by acclamation and will preside over the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins in September 2023.
- The 78th session of the assembly will run from September 2023 to September 2024.

10. K. Prathapa Reddy is new chairperson of Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)

- **Prathapa Reddy**, Deputy General Manager of State Bank of India (SBI),

has been appointed as **Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)**.

- Reddy previously headed the Real Estate Housing Business Unit at SBI Bhopal Circle.
- APGVB, supported by SBI, is a beneficial Local Rustic Bank serving clients across 28 regions in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The bank reported a '1,046 crore net profit for the fiscal year that ended in March 2023, which is an increase of 28.6 per cent from the year before. The APGVB's goals are to encourage economic growth and financial inclusion in the region

11. PESB recommends Sanjay Swarup for CONCOR's CMD post

- **Sanjay Swarup** is set to be next **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- Swarup has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel.
- Presently, he is serving as Director (International Marketing & Operations) in the same organisation.

12. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers appointed as Chair-elect of IATA's Board of Governors

- IATA also announced that **Pieter Elbers**, CEO of IndiGo, will serve as **Chair of the IATA BoG from June 2024**, succeeding Yvonne Manzi Makolo, CEO of Rwandair.
- Tata Sons-owned Air India was elected to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors at the IATA.
- Air India also got elected to the Executive Committee of Star Alliance for the first time. At present, IATA's

board of Governors' comprises 31 airlines. IATA HQ- Montreal, Canada.

- Air India last year joined the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) and Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA).

13. Nitin Agarwal appointed as the new director general of BSF

- **Nitin Agarwal** has been appointed as the new director general of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**, more than five months after the post fell vacant.
- The post of BSF chief has been vacant for more than five months after Pankaj Kumar Singh retired on December 31, 2022.
- CRPF DG Sujoy Lal Thaisen has been handling the charge of BSF in an additional capacity since then.

14. Amit Agrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA

- Senior IAS officers **Amit Agrawal and Subodh Kumar Singh** have been appointed as **CEO Unique Identification Authority of India and director general of the National Testing Agency, respectively**, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
- Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre.

15. Amitava Mukherjee gets 3 months extension as CMD of NMDC

- NMDC Limited's Director (Finance) of **Amitava Mukherjee**, who is also holding the **additional charge of NMDC Limited's Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** post, has been given tenure extension on CMD role.
- Thus, he will be holding the additional charge as CMD of NMDC Limited for a further period of three months with

effect from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023.

16. Axis Bank appoints ex RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan as non-executive, part time chairman

- The Board of Directors of **Axis Bank** at its approved the appointment of **N. S. Vishwanathan, Independent Director as the Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of the Bank for a period of three years.**
- Other than Axis Bank, Vishwanathan, in April 2023 was appointed as head of the advisory board at Razorpay. Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank.

17. RBI approves P N Vasudevan's re-appointment as MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of **P Vasudevan** as Managing Director and **CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank.** Vasudevan has been reappointed for a period of three years, from July 23, 2023, to July 23, 2026.
- In December 2022, the bank announced that PN Vasudevan had decided to remain as MD and CEO of the bank in response to the Board's suggestions.

18. IPS officer Ravi Sinha appointed new Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief

- Senior IPS officer **Ravi Sinha** was appointed as the **chief of the country's external spy agency RAW**, succeeding Samant Kumar Goel who will complete his four-year tenure on June 30, an official order said.
- Sinha's predecessor Goel was appointed RAW chief for two years in June 2019. He was later given two

extensions of one year each in 2021 and June 2022.

19. Sumit Seth appointed India's next ambassador to Panama

- **Sumit Seth** has been appointed as **India's next ambassador to Panama**.
- Earlier, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Yangon, Myanmar. He was also posted at India's Missions in Madrid, Bogota and Geneva.

20. Hasmukh Adhia appointed Chairman, GIFT City

- Former Union Finance Secretary & Revenue Secretary, **Hasmukh Adhia**, has been appointed **Chairman of GIFT City Ltd**, the entity responsible for developing India's first smart city Gujarat International Finance-Tec City in Gandhinagar. As GIFT City Chairman, Adhia replaces Sudhir Mankad, former chief secretary of Gujarat.
- Besides GIFT City, Adhia has also been appointed Director and Chairman of the boards of State public sector undertakings Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) with immediate effect. The appointments are as non-executive chairman.
- At present Adhia is a non-executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda, and also the Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He also serves as Vice-President in Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) and Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar.

21. Petteri Orpo to be Finland's new prime minister

- **Finland's** newly elected parliament voted in favour of National Coalition Party leader **Petteri Orpo** to become prime minister, as widely expected, ushering in a right-wing government and ending Social Democrat Sanna Marin's rule.
- Orpo will lead a coalition of the conservative NCP, the nationalist Finns, the minority-language Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats.

22. Chinese tech giant Alibaba names Eddie Wu as next CEO

- Chinese tech giant **Alibaba** announced that it will replace chairman and CEO Daniel Zhang with current executive vice chairman Joseph Tsai as chairman and **Eddie Wu as CEO** in September.
- Hangzhou-based Alibaba is one of China's most prominent technology firms, with business operations spanning cloud computing, e-commerce, logistics, media and artificial intelligence.

23. Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach Joins USISPF Board Of Directors

- Mastercard CEO **Michael Miebach** joined the **board of directors of the U.S.-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)**.
- Dr. Mukesh Aghi is the President and Chief Executive Officer of USISPF.
- USISPF is a critical forum for business and government leaders to come together and drive the next phase of growth in the US-India partnership. USISPF: chairman, John Chambers.

24. Indian Economic Trade Organization appoints Nutan Roongta as Director of USA East Coast

- The Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) has recently

announced the appointment of **Nutan Roongta** as the **Director of the USA East Coast Chapter**.

- This significant development highlights IETO's commitment to expanding its presence and promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation between India and the United States.
- As the Director of the USA East Coast Chapter, Nutan Roongta will play a pivotal role in leading and coordinating the organization's activities across this vital region. With her extensive experience and expertise in international trade and business development, she is well-equipped to spearhead IETO's efforts to enhance commercial ties between the two nations.

25. Nusrat Jahan Choudhury confirmed as first Muslim woman to be federal judge

- The US Senate has confirmed the former American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorney **Nusrat Jahan Choudhury** as **the first Muslim woman to serve as a federal judge**.
- Choudhury, 46, is also the first Bangladeshi American to serve in this lifetime position. She will serve as a judge on the US court for the eastern district of New York.

26. DBS Bank names exHSBC executive Verma as unit MD

- **DBS Bank India** has appointed **Rajat Verma** as the **MD and Head of Institutional Banking for India**.
- Till recently, Mr. Verma was with the HSBC Bank where he was MD and Country Head of Commercial Banking, India.
- The current Head of Institutional Banking for India, Niraj Mittal, has

moved to a new role as Country Head of DBS Bank Australia.

27. Greece's centre-right leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis sworn in as Prime Minister for a second term

- Kmitsotak is **Greece's** centre-right leader **Kyriakos Mitsotakis** was sworn in as the **Prime Minister** for a second term.
- With 99.67 percent of the vote counted, Mr. Mitsotakis' New Democracy party had 40.55 percent of the vote, more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84 percent. It was the largest margin of victory in half a century.

28. Indian-origin satellite expert Aarti Holla-Maini appointed as UN Outer Space Affairs director

- Indian-origin satellite industry expert **Aarti Holla-Maini** was appointed as the **Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** in Vienna by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Aarti Holla-Maini will succeed Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy.
- Aarti Holla-Maini has worked as Secretary-General of the Global Satellite Operators Association.
- The primary objective of UNOOSA is to foster global collaboration in the peaceful utilization and exploration of outer space, as well as the effective application of space science and technology to achieve sustainable economic and social progress.

29. Federal Bank gets RBI approval on appointment of AP Hota as part time Chairman

- The **Federal Bank** announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval for the appointment of

Abhaya Prasad Hota as part time chairman of the Bank with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026.

- Mr. Hota was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and

Chief Executive Officer between 2009-2017.

- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva (Kerala). Federal Bank Managing Director and CEO: Shyam Srinivasan.



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Awards

1. EIL's Divya Dutta conferred with 'FIPI Oil and Gas Award 2022'

- **Engineers India Limited (EIL) Manager Divya Dutta has been conferred with the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) Award 2022- 'Special Commendation' in Young Achiever of the Year in Oil & Gas Industry category.**
- Dutta received the award from Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri at a function held in New Delhi.

2. Raj gir's documentary 'When Climate Change Turns Violent' wins WHO award

- A documentary titled '**When Climate Change Turns Violent**' has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the **4th Annual Health for All Film Festival held at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva.**
- The documentary has been directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners.

3. RBI chief Shaktikanta Das honoured with 'Governor of the Year' award at Central Banking Awards 2023, London

- **Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, who was conferred the Governor of the Year Award 2023 by Central Banking, has highlighted how monetary authorities went well beyond their traditional briefs in response to unprecedented challenges over the last few years.**
- Das received the award in London as part of the Central Banking Awards 2023.

4. 5 buildings and structures from Telangana selected for International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings

- Five of the landmark building structures in Telangana have been adjudged winners of the 'International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings' by a London-based non-profit. The awards are given by The Green Organisation under the Urban and Real Estate Sector 2023 category for promoting 'best environmental practices'.
- The **Nizam-era Moazzam Jahi market** won the award in the heritage category for excellent restoration and reuse
- The **cable-stayed hanging bridge over Durgam Cheruvu** won the award for its unique design.
- The recently-inaugurated **Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat** building won the award in the category of aesthetically designed office or workspace building.
- The new **Integrated Command and Control Centre** of the state police won the award in the unique office category.
- The revamped **Yadagirigutta Narasimha Swamy temple** won the award in the category of excellent religious structures category.
- The past winners of the award include buildings like the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) in London, the National Museum of Qatar, and Jalan Mahkota in Kuantan, Malaysia.

5. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presents National Water Awards in New Delhi

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar conferred the fourth National Water Awards in New Delhi today, June 17. The Jal Shakti Ministry had announced a total of **41 winners, covering 11 categories, including joint winners, for the National Water Awards, 2022.**
- **Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first prize in the best State category.**
- In the best district category, the award was given to the **Ganjam District of Odisha.**
- The best Village Panchayat award was presented to **Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana.**
- Each award winner was conferred with a citation and a trophy as well as cash prizes.

6. Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 to be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur

- The **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021** has been conferred on **Gita Press, Gorakhpur.**
- Gandhi Peace Prize is an **annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995**, on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed.
- The **award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore**, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.

7. Arundhati Roy wins the 2023 European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement

- **Writer Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the **45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement for the**

French translation of her compilation of essays titled Azadi: Libert, Fascisme, Fiction (Azadi: Freedom, Fascism, Fiction in English).

- Roy will receive a cash prize of CHF 20,000 (about Rs 18 lakh), at a ceremony on September 12, 2023 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

8. Historian Ramachandra Guha's book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023

- **Ramchandra Guha** collected 5,000 cheque for winning the highly regarded **Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023** in its 20th anniversary year for Rebels against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom (published by William Collins).
- Guha also received a bound copy of Longford's autobiography, The Pebbled Shore (1986).
- The annual prize “was established in 2003 in affectionate memory of Elizabeth Longford (1906-2002), an acclaimed historical biographer and family matriarch best known for Victoria RI (1964), her scholarly and readable life of Queen Victoria, for her magisterial Wellington: Years of the Sword (1969), and Wellington: Pillar of State (1972)”.

9. President Sh. Murmu confers Florence Nightingale Awards on 30 nurses and auxiliary midwives

- President Droupadi conferred the National Florence Nightingale Award on Major General Smita Devrani and Brigadier Amita Devrani of the Military Nursing Service for 2022 and 2023 respectively.
- **The Devrani sisters, hailing from Kotdwar district of Uttarakhand, were awarded in recognition of their**

remarkable contribution and service for almost four decades.

- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society

10. Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Yuva Puraskar

- The Sahitya Akademi has announced a list of 22 recipients of its Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 20 winners of its Yuva Puraskar for this year.

- Among the selected awardees of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar is renowned children's author Sudha Murty, who will be awarded for her collection of stories titled 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories'.
- In the Hindi language category of the same award, Suryanath Singh has been selected for his collection of short stories, 'Kotuk App'.
- Anirudh Kaniseti will be given the Yuva Puraskar for 'Lords Of The Deccan: Southern India From Chalukyas To Cholas', while Atul Kumar Rai will receive the same award in the Hindi language category for his novel 'Chandpur ki Chanda'.
- The other winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar are Rothindranath Goswami (Assamese), Shyamalkanti Das (Bengali), Pratima Nandi Narzaree (Bodo), Balwan Singh Jamoria (Dogri), Rakshabhen

Prahladrao Dave (Gujarati), Vijayashree Haladi (Kannada), Tukaram Rama Shet (Konkani), Akshay Anand 'Sunny' (Maithili), Priya AS (Malayalam), Eknath Avhad (Marathi).

- Madhusudan Bisht (Nepali), Jugal Kishore Sarangi (Odia), Gurmeet Karyalvi (Punjabi), Kiran Badal (Rajasthani), Radhavallabh Tripathi (Sanskrit), Mansing Majhi (Santali), Dholan Rahi (Sindhi), Udhayasankar (Tamil), DK Chaduvula Babu (Telugu), and Mateen Achalpuri are the remaining ten winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- The 18 other recipients of the Yuva Puraskar are Jintu Githartha (Assamese), Hamiruddin Middy (Bengali), Mainaosri Daimary (Bodo), Sagar Shah (Gujarati), Manjunayak Challur (Kannada), Nighat Nasreen (Kashmiri), Tanvi Kamat Bambolkar (Konkani), Ganesh Puthu (Malayalam), Vishakha Vishwanath (Marathi), Naina Adhikari (Nepali), Sandeep (Punjabi), Devilal Mahiya (Rajasthani), Bapi Tudu (Santali), Monika J Panjwani (Sindhi), Ram Thangam (Tamil), Johny Takkedasila (Telugu), Dheeraj Bismil (Dogri) and Tauseef Bareilvi who will receive it for Urdu..

11. NTPC gets recognized as Team Marksmen's "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24"

- **NTPC Ltd.**, the country's largest power generator, has been honoured with the prestigious title of "**Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24**" by **Team Marksmen**.
- The award recognizes NTPC's performance in various key areas, including Organizational Purpose, Employee Centricity, Growth etc. The award was conducted by Team Marksmen in association with India Today & Business Standard.

12. Salman Rushdie awarded the prestigious German Peace Prize 2023

- Noted author **Salman Rushdie** has been awarded the **prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023** for his contribution to the literary world.
- The author has also been honoured for his resolve in the face of "constant threat to his life." Last year, the award went to Ukrainian author Serhiy Zhadan.

13. PM Modi Conferred Egypt's Highest Honour 'Order Of The Nile'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been conferred with '**Order of the Nile**' award in Cairo by **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**.
- 'Order of the Nile' is Egypt's highest state honour. PM Modi arrived in Cairo of Egypt for a two-day State visit ' a first bilateral visit by any Indian prime minister in the past 26 years. Egypt's Prime Minister: Mostafa Madbouly.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during a meeting in Cairo elevated Indo-Egypt bilateral relationship to a 'Strategic

Partnership'. The two countries also signed pacts in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities and competition law during the first PM-level visit from India to Cairo since 1997.

- **Companion of the Order of Logohu: Papua New Guinea** conferred the highest civilian award for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South.
- **Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji** in recognition of PM Modi's global leadership in May 2023 **Ebaki Award** by the Republic of Palau: During his visit to Papua New Guinea, **PM Modi was conferred with Ebaki Award by the President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. of the Republic of Palau** in May 2023.
- **Order of the Druk Gyalpo: Bhutan** honoured PM Modi with the highest civilian decoration, Order of the Druk Gyalpo in December 2021.
- **Legion of Merit by the US Government: Award of the United States Armed Forces** that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements in 2020.
- **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance: Bahrain Order ' First Class** is a top honour by the Gulf country in 2019.
- **Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin: Highest honour of the Maldives** awarded to foreign dignitaries.
- **Order of St. Andrew Award: Highest civilian honor of Russia in 2019** **Order of Zayed Award: Highest civilian honor of the United Arab Emirates)**

- '2019Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award: Highest honor of Palestine awarded to foreign dignitaries in 2018State
- Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan: Highest civilian honor of Afghanistan in 2016
- Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud: Highest honor of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-muslim dignitaries in 2016.



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Ranks & Reports

1. RBI's All-India House Price Index (HPI) for Q4:2022-23

- The Reserve Bank of India released its quarterly house price index (HPI)1 (base: 2010-11=100) for Q4:2022-23, based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in ten major cities (*viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai*).
- All India HPI growth (y-o-y) inched up to 4.6 per cent in Q4:2022-23 from 2.8 per cent in the previous quarter and 1.8 per cent a year ago; the y-o-y movements in HPI varied widely across the cities - ranging from a growth of 16.3 per cent (Bengaluru) to a contraction of 8.5 per cent (Jaipur).
- On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all India HPI increased by 0.6 per cent in Q4:2022-23, showing sequential increase in seven of the cities.

2. TCS, Reliance Industries and Infosys have topped Interbrand's Best Indian Brands 2023 Rankings

- Interbrand has released the list of **India's top 50 most valuable brands**.
- According to the report, **TCS topped the list with a brand value of INR 1,095,766**.
- With a brand value of INR 653,208, Reliance Industries from the diversified sector came 2nd on the rankings for 2023.
- The top 3 brands alone account for a staggering 46 per cent of the total value of the top ten brands.
- According to the report, the FMCG sector demonstrated the highest growth with a CAGR of 25 per cent,

followed by home building and infrastructure at 17 per cent, and technology at 14 per cent are the fastest-growing sectors over the last ten years.

3. NIRF Ranking 2023: IIT Madras top educational institution, Miranda House best college

- The Ministry of Education announced the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking for the year 2023**.

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has been declared the best educational institute under the overall category.**
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore got second position and Indian Institute of Technology, IIT-Delhi, awarded third position in the same category.

All India Institute of Medical Science, AIIMS New Delhi was awarded the 5th position and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi got the 10th position in the overall category.

- In the category of top ten Universities in the country, IISc, Bangalore is in First position and JNU in second position. Jamia Millia Islamia got 3rd position, Banaras Hindu University 5th position and Aligarh Muslim University bagged 9th position in this category.

- The University of Hyderabad is also in 10th position in the same category. The Ministry announced ranking for several categories including Overall, Top ten Universities, Engineering, Pharmacy and Management.

4. India set to be third-largest construction market in 2024: CNH Industrial president

- **India** is set to become the **world's third-largest market** for construction equipment next year, surpassing Japan, as the country's significant infrastructure investments pave the way for increased demand, said a top executive at CNH Industrial, an European maker of loaders and excavators.

5. President Droupadi Murmu conferred with highest civilian honour of Suriname

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has been decorated with the highest civilian honour of **Suriname - The Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star**, in **Paramaribo**, the capital city of Suriname. She received the honor from the President of the Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi.
- **President Murmu is the first Indian to receive this award**

6. World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 6.3% in latest Global Economic Prospects report

- **World Bank expects growth in India to slowdown further to 6.3% in the financial year FY 2023/24 (April to March).**
- This is a 0.3 percentage point downward revision from the previous estimates of 6.6%. The international

financial institution attributes constrained private consumption due to high inflation as the main reason for slowdown.

- In its Global Economic Prospects report, World Bank explained that the slowdown is attributed to private consumption being constrained by high inflation and rising borrowing costs, while government consumption is impacted by fiscal consolidation.

7. UPI Scales New Peak In May 2023 With 941 Crore Monthly Transactions Worth Over Rs 14.3 Lakh Crores

- **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in May 2023 scaled a new milestone with 9.41 billion (941 crores) transactions and Rs 14.3 lakh crores in terms of value**, according to data made available by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- No. of transactions in May 2023 is a 58% year-on-year In May 2022 when 5.95 billion (595 crore) transactions were recorded.
- Given the number of UPI transactions in April 2023 was 8.9 billion (890 crore) and Rs 14.07 lakh crore in value terms, the May 2023 figures represents a 6 per cent rise in volume and 2 per cent in value on a month-on-month basis.
- FASTag transactions in May saw a 10 per cent rise in volume terms from 305 million(30.5 crores) in April to 335 million (35.5 crores) in May. In value terms, this increased by 6 per cent to Rs 5,437 crore in May compared to Rs 5,149 in April.

8. Manchester City becomes most valuable football club in Europe after replacing Real Madrid

- **Manchester City have been named as Europe's most valuable football club,**

oustering Real Madrid, in a report published before this weekend's Champions League.

- City, who play Inter Milan in Champions League final in Istanbul, came out on top with a valuation of 4.073 billion euros (\$4.39 billion).
- That figure saw them overtake Madrid, last year's European champions whose own value was just behind, at 4.006 billion euros

9. WHO report highlights significant impact of 'Har Ghar Jal' Program on Public Health and Economic Savings

- The report, '**Health impact of Jal Jeevan Mission**', estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country could avert nearly 4 lakh deaths caused by diarrheal diseases & prevent approximately 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) related to these diseases.
- This alone would result in estimated cost savings of up to \$101 billion.
- The '**Har Ghar Jal**' report focuses on diarrheal diseases as they contribute significantly to the overall disease burden related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) issues.
- Prior to 2019, the situation of water supply in rural areas was challenging, with a large percentage of the population lacking access to improved drinking-water sources on their premises. Unsafe drinking water, along with inadequate sanitation and hygiene, resulted in 1.4 million deaths and 74 million DALYs globally in 2019.
- The report emphasizes the tremendous time and effort saved for women and girls through the provision of tap water.

- **In 2018, women in India spent an average of 45.5 minutes daily collecting water to meet household needs.**
- Overall, households without on-premises water spent a staggering 66.6 million hours each day collecting water, with the majority (55.8 million hours) occurring in rural areas. Universal coverage through tap water provision will result in substantial savings by eliminating the need for daily water collection efforts.
- The Har Ghar Jal Programme, implemented by the Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019. The program aims to provide every rural household with affordable and regular access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water through taps. The program's components align with the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (JMP) to monitor progress on SDG 6.1 for safely managed drinking water services

10. India tops in digital payments, records 89.5 mn transactions, says MyGovInd

- **According to data from MyGovIndia, India has recorded with 89.5 million digital transactions in the year 2022.**
- India in the year 2022 accounting for 46% global real-time payments, adding that the digital payment transactions in India is more than the other four leading countries combined.
- Brazil which amounted to 29.2 million transactions was second on the list.
- China was 3rd with 17.6 million transactions.

- On number 4 is Thailand with 16.5 million digital transactions followed by South Korea with 8 million worth of transactions, the data from MyGovIndia has stated.

11. Mumbai continues to be most costly Indian city for expats, followed by New Delhi, Bengaluru: Survey

- The Mercer's Cost of Living survey was conducted across 227 cities from across five continents. In Mercer's 2023 Cost of Living survey, **Mumbai has been positioned at 147 in the global ranking, New Delhi at 169, Chennai (184), Bengaluru (189), Hyderabad (202), Kolkata (211), and Pune (213).**
- Globally, Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich are the most expensive cities.

12. NTPC climbs 52 positions to secure 433rd rank in Forbes 'The Global 2000'- List for 2023

- India's largest power generation company, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited - NTPC, has climbed 52 positions to secure the **433rd rank in Forbes' -The Global 2000- List for 2023.**
- 'The Global 2000' List recognizes the world's largest companies based on four key metrics- sales, profits, assets and market value.
- It was on 485th rank in the list last year.

13. Global Slavery Index 2023: G20 nations fuelling modern slavery

- The **Global Slavery Index (GSI)** provides national estimates of modern slavery for 160 countries.
- It is presented by Walk Free, a human rights organisation, and is based on data provided by the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, which, in turn, is

produced by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Walk Free, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

- This is the **fifth edition of the GSI and it is based on the 2022 estimates.**
- The previous four editions were published in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018.
- In its report, Walk Free reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million.
- According to the index, **“modern slavery” refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power. Modern slavery includes abuses such as forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.**
- **Three sets of findings**
- There are three sets of key findings. The first set consists of countries that top in terms of the prevalence of modern slavery. The prevalence refers to the incidence of modern slavery per 1,000 population. On this count, the following 10 countries are the worst offenders: **North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Tajikistan, the UAE, Russia, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.**
- The index states that “These countries share some political, social, and economic characteristics, including limited protections for civil liberties and human rights.”

- The second set consists of countries with the lowest prevalence. The list includes countries such as **Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Japan, and Finland.**
- The third set consists of countries hosting the maximum number of people living in modern slavery. The list is as follows: **India, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Turkey, Bangladesh, and the US.**
- The index states that "Collectively, these countries account for nearly two in every three people living in modern slavery and over half the world's population. Notably, six are G20 nations: India, China, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey, and the US."

14. Tata Power, Amazon, Tata Steel are India's most attractive employer brands: Randstad report

- **Tata Power Company has emerged as India's most 'attractive employer brand'**, followed by Amazon and Tata Steel, reveals the findings of Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023.
- Tata Power was at the ninth spot in 2022. Big Basket, the online megastore emerged as the most attractive start-up employer brand in the country. Viswanath P.S, MD & CEO, Randstad India.
- India's auto and auto components sector is the most sought-after industry for employees, followed by IT, ITes & Telecom, and FMCG, retail and e-commerce.

15. Hurun India list: Reliance most valuable private company in India; Adani firms' combined value falls by 52%

- With a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore, billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's**

Reliance Industries Ltd is the most valuable private company in India followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with Rs 11.8 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore, as per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.

- Reliance is also the highest taxpayer with a payout of Rs 16,297 crore and the most profitable company with a bottomline of Rs 67,845 crore in 2022-23. Adar Poonawalla's Serum Institute of India was ranked as the most valuable unlisted company in the country with Rs 1.92 lakh crore in value.

16. Austria's Vienna ranked world's most liveable city for 2nd year running

- According to **the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2023**, for the second year running, the **Austrian capital Vienna took the title of world's most liveable city**, based on a wide range of indicators, followed by Copenhagen. **From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.**
- Asia-Pacific cities were some of the most improved destinations, with eight of the 10 biggest upward movers coming from the region. New Zealand's Wellington rose 35 spots to take 23rd place, while Auckland rose 25 places to land at number 10. Hanoi, Vietnam moved up 20 places to 129.

- These are the **top 10** most liveable cities in 2023 (ranking numbers are the same where cities' scores were identical): 1. Vienna, Austria 2. Copenhagen, Denmark 3. Melbourne,

Australia4. Sydney,
 Australia5. Vancouver,
 Canada6. Zurich,
 Switzerland7. Calgary,
 Canada7. Geneva,
 Switzerland9. Toronto,
 Canada10. Osaka,
 Japan10. Auckland, New
 Zealand

- And these are the **bottom 10**:164 Douala, Cameroon165 Kyiv, Ukraine166 Harare, Zimbabwe166 Dhaka, Bangladesh168 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea169 Karachi, Pakistan170 Lagos, Nigeria171 Algiers, Algeria172 Tripoli, Libya173 Damascus, Syria

17. India becomes Asia's top source of international travellers, especially to US

- In 2022, India became for the first time Asia's highest source of international travelers, according to tourism consultancy IPK International.
- International travelers from India in 2022 exceeded those of China, South Korea, and Japan, the company said.

18. Bengaluru startup ecosystem ranked 20th on global list

- Bengaluru has clinched the 20th spot, moving up two places, in Startup Genome's The Global Startup Ecosystems Report 2023.
- While Silicon Valley remained on top, New York City and London were tied at No 2.
- With this, the top three ecosystems have held their positions from 2020.

Among the emerging ecosystems, Pune has moved into the 31-40 range in 2023, from 51-60 in 2022.

19. E-Commerce may cross modern retail by 2030: Deloitte

- Online retailing in the country may cross the levels of organized retail by 2030 as more Indians make their shopping decisions online.
- According to Deloitte's Future of Retail report, modern retail, comprising malls and supermarkets, may more than double to \$230 billion by 2030, while online retail grows 2.5 times to reach \$325 billion. In 2022, online retail was \$70 billion.
- Currently, India is among the world's top five retail markets and is expected to be the third-biggest by 2030, trailing behind only China and the US.

20. S&P retains India's growth projection at 6% for FY24

- S&P Global Ratings retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6 percent saying it will be the fastest-growing economy among Asia Pacific nations.
- The Asian emerging market economies remain among the fastest-growing ones in our global growth outlook through 2026. In India, under the assumption of normal monsoons, we expect headline consumer inflation to soften to 5 per cent in fiscal 2024 from 6.7 per cent.
- S&P has lowered the growth forecast for China to 5.2 per cent from 5.5 per cent for 2023.

21. IIT Bombay among top 150 varsities in QS Rankings 2024

- IIT Bombay has broken into the top 150 league of the QS World University Rankings 2024, climbing 23 places to 149, up from 172 last year.

- With 45 universities in the latest rankings - up from 41 last year - India is the seventh most represented country globally and the third in Asia.

22. India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top: WEF

- The **World Economic Forum on June 28 ranked India at the 67th place globally on its Energy Transition Index. Sweden topped the list and was followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.**
- The report said, **India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across the Energy Transition Index's equitable, secure and sustainable dimensions. France (7) was the only G20 country in the top 10, followed closely by Germany (11), the U.S. (12), and the U.K. (13).**
- Out of 120 countries, 113 have made progress over the last decade but only 55, including India, have improved their scores by more than 10 percentage points.

23. Internet shutdowns cost \$1.9 billion to India in Jan-Jun 2023: Report

- Internet shutdowns by law enforcement agencies like the one in

Manipur and Punjab cost \$1.9 billion to the Indian economy in the first half of 2023.

- The shutdowns also led to a loss of nearly \$118 million in foreign investment and triggered over 21,000 job losses, the global non-profit Internet Society said in its report 'Netloss'.

24. India climbs to 100th spot in latest FIFA Men's Football rankings

- **Indian senior men's football team has climbed to the 100th spot in the latest FIFA Men's Football Rankings.**
- Notably, FIFA World Cup 2022 winners **Argentina are the top-ranked team with 1843.73 points followed by France and Brazil.** England rose by one place to reach the fourth place while Belgium slipped down by one place to reach the fifth spot.
- The 2023 UEFA Nations League runners-up Croatia rose by one place to reach the sixth spot while the Netherlands slipped to seventh.
- **Italy (eighth spot), Portugal (ninth spot) and 2023 UEFA Nations League winners Spain (10th spot) have retained their respective positions.**

Important Days

1. World Clubfoot Day | 3 June

- Every year on **June 3rd, World Clubfoot Day** seeks to unite those affected by clubfoot so that they can inspire and encourage one another. It's also a day to spread awareness for this common congenital disability.
- Each year, up to 200,000 babies across the globe are born with clubfoot. This statistic makes clubfoot one of the most common congenital disabilities in the world. This defect occurs when a baby's foot twists inward and downward.
- Clubfoot develops during the formation of the baby's bones, ligaments, and muscles in the womb.
- The Ponseti International Association (PIA) established World Clubfoot Day in 2013. They chose June 3rd in honor of Dr. Ignacio Ponseti's birthday. He is the orthopedist who developed the Ponseti method.

2. World Food Safety Day | 7 JUNE

- The day is observed on **7 june** every year to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, and sustainable development.
- **This year the theme of World Food Safety Day is - Food standards save lives.**
- The day also provides an opportunity to strengthen efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe, mainstream food safety in the public agenda, and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases globally.

3. World Ocean Day | 8 JUNE

- Every year, June 8 is marked as an opportunity to remember the crucial role played by the oceans in maintaining life on Earth.
- The need for addressing the challenges that our oceans are facing and acting collectively to protect them is underlined by **the World Ocean Day 2023 theme, 'The Planet Ocean's Changing Tide.'**
- According to the United Nations, the oceans cover about 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and are the lifeblood of our planet. They regulate the climate, provide food and oxygen, and are home to an incredible variety of marine life. However, our seas face strong threats from human activities, habitat destruction. The theme of this year's World Ocean Day emphasises the necessity of a global effort to reverse these trends and protect the invaluable resource that is our planet's oceans.

4. World Day Against Child Labour | 12 JUNE

- **The World Day against Child Labour has been observed annually on 12 June since 2002.**
- This significant day was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and all United Nations member countries have since been commemorating it.
- World Day against Child Labour serves as a call to action, urging individuals, organizations, and governments to take decisive steps in combating child labour and promoting awareness about its detrimental effects. It is a reminder for collective efforts to be made towards eradicating child labour and creating a better future for children worldwide.

5. International Albinism Awareness Day | 13 June

- The world is observing **International Albinism Awareness Day on June 13** (Tuesday) in an United Nations effort to stop the brutalities against people with albinism.
- Albinism is a rare and genetically inherited condition resulting in little or no pigmentation (melanin) in the skin, hair, and eyes, causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light.
- **The theme of this year's celebration of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Inclusion is strength."**
- It focuses on the importance of inclusion of not only people of all races and ethnicities affected by albinism, but also young people, women, children and elderly persons.
- It also stresses on the need to seek cooperation of various groups, including human rights groups that are not directly involved with the albinism movement.

6. World Blood Donor Day | 14 JUNE

- **World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on June 14.**
- This day aim to raise awareness around the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank the blood donors for taking efforts to donate blood and save lives.
- **The theme for this year's World Blood Donor Day is 'Give blood, give plasma, share life'**
- The important day was first recognised in 2004 by four international organizations including World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Blood Donor

Organizations (IFBDO) and the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

7. Global Wind Day 2023 | 15 JUNE

- **World Wind Day or Global Wind Day is a worldwide event which falls on June 15 every year.**
- It is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems, decarbonise our economies and boost jobs and growth.
- **The first Wind Day was organized in 2007 by European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).** In 2009, the European Wind Energy Association (WindEurope) and Global Wind Energy Council collaborated to make Wind Day a global event.
 - The day acknowledges the power of the wind and raises awareness about its potential as a sustainable resource.

8. International Day of Family Remittances | 16 June

- **The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on 16 June.**
- The Day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.
- **Theme for 2023- "Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction."**
- In 2022, international remittances to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) amounted to US\$626 billion.

9. MEA celebrates SCO Day under India's SCO chairmanship

- **The Ministry of External Affairs celebrated Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Day under India's SCO chairmanship in Delhi on June 15th.**
- An event was organized to mark the Day in which Ambassadors of SCO Member States, observers and dialogue partners took part. A postage stamp was also released to commemorate the occasion.
- The *Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)* is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.
- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six "Dialogue Partners" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey). In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member, and Egypt, Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia became dialogue partners.
- The Secretariat of the SCO, headquartered in *Beijing, China*, is the primary executive body of the organisation.
- The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.

10. WORLD SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY DAY | 18 JUNE

- **World Sustainable Gastronomy Day on June 18** recognizes the practices and principals associated with sustainable

food consumption combined with the art of collecting, preparing, and consuming the food we eat.

- **World Sustainable Gastronomy Day first celebrated in 2017.**
- As part of the observance, the day acknowledges the social, cultural, and artistic expression related to gastronomy and defines three dimensions of sustainable development – people, planet, and profit.

11. National Reading Day | 19 JUNE

- **To remind people about the value of reading books even in an era dominated by the internet, National Reading Day is observed on 19 June.**
- The day marks the **death anniversary of PN Panicker**, who is famously known as the '**Father of the Library Movement**' in Kerala.

12. World Refugee Day | 20 JUNE

- World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe.
- It falls each year on **20 June** and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.
- **World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on 20 June 2001**, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day, before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000.

13. World Music Day | 21 May

- **World Music Day** celebrates the power of music in our daily lives and its ability

to unite people across cultures. It originated in France in 1982 and is celebrated annually on **June 21**.

- World Music Day is an opportunity for people around the world to come together and celebrate the power of music

14. International Olympic Day 2023 | June 23

- **Olympic Day is celebrated on 23 June every year** and this day commemorates the **founding of the International Olympic Committee in the year 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin**.
- In the 1978 edition of the Olympic Charter, the IOC recommended for the first time that all NOCs organize an Olympic Day to promote the Olympic Movement. Sigfrid Edström, IOC President.
- International Olympic Committee was founded at the Sorbonne in Paris, where Pierre de Coubertin rallied the revival of the Ancient Olympic Games on 23 June 1894.

15. International Day of Women in Diplomacy | 24 June

- **IDWID was created just last year, at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which began on September 14, 2021 and concluded on September 13, 2022.** The resolution was adopted by the UNGA on June 20, 2022. It recognised that as part of the 2030 SDG target, highlighting women's contributions in diplomacy.
- **The theme for 2023 is , “Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for Sustainable Development”**

16. Day of the Seafarer [IMO] | 25 June

- **Day of the Seafarer is celebrated annually on 25 June** to express thanks to the world's 1,5 million seafarers serving on internationally trading merchant ships thereby contributing to the world economy and economic and social well-being.
- The first Day of the Seafarer was observed on June 25, 2011.

17. World Drug Day | June 26

- World Drug Day or '**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed on June 26 every year** to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.
- **This year, the theme is 'People first: Stop stigma and discrimination'**.
- At the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna on June 26, 1987, it was recommended that a day be observed annually to commemorate the struggle against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The United Nations General Assembly on December 7, 1987, decided to observe June 26 as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

18. United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2023

- **International Day in Support of Victims and Torture is celebrated annually on June 26** to raise awareness about torture and garner support. It demonstrates that torture constitutes a crime against humanity.
- In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 26 as International Day in Support of Torture Victims. This day aims to halt the barbaric acceptance and use of torture.

19. World MSME Day | 27 JUNE

- "Micro-, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day" was established on June 27 by the United Nations General Assembly on April 6, 2017, to highlight the significant contributions made by MSMEs to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.
- In India, "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100" will serve as the theme for World MSME Day 2023.
- On June 27, 2023, the Ministry of MSME will hold "Udyami Bharat-MSME Day" as part of World MSME Day at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal and Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects and Technology Centers will be launched by the Ministry of MSME to promote MSMEs' expansion and

development. The results of "MSME Idea Hackathon 2.0" and "MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0" for Women Entrepreneurs will be announced during the programme.

20. National Insurance Awareness Day | 28 June

- **National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on June 28.** The day aims to highlight the importance of insurance and raise awareness about the vital role it plays in our lives.
- IRDA celebrated its formation day as Insurance Awareness Day on 19th April 2014 involving all stakeholders of the insurance sector. This special day serves as a reminder to review our insurance policies, understand their benefits, and ensure that we have the coverage we need to safeguard ourselves .



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Summit & Conferences

1. 3rd Employment Working Group Meet, ILO, Geneva

- The Indian G20 Presidency is organizing the **third Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting from 31st ' 2nd June 2023 at ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- It is a G20 tradition since the inception of the EWG, to organize an Employment Working Group at the side-lines of the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s annual International Labour Conference at Geneva.

2. AIIA and Vijnana Bharati Organizes Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats Forum Meet at New Delhi

- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Vijnana Bharati** is jointly organising a groundbreaking event, **GI-YMRI Conference (Global Indian Young Scientists Research & Innovation)** and it will continue till June 2nd at National Agricultural Science Complex, N. Delhi.
- The primary objective of the Conference is to introduce GIST to heads of agencies, showcase ongoing collaborations and partnerships, identify new opportunities for collaborations, and emphasize diversity, equity, and inclusion in promoting science and technology.

3. 27th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs held in New Delhi

- The **27th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC)** was held in person in New Delhi.

- The two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in Western Sector of India-China border areas and discussed proposals for disengagement in remaining areas in a frank and open manner.

4. Suriname to host Indian energy majors in June

- **The South American nation of Suriname is hosting an oil and gas conference from June 19 to 23 in hopes of attracting energy companies, particularly from India.**
- According to some estimates, Suriname is thought to have at least 3-4 billion barrels of oil reserves which were discovered in recent years.

5. UAE to Host World's Largest Conservation Conference in 2025

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE) has won the bid to host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**
- The WCC is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries.
- The 2025 WCC will be held in Abu Dhabi from October 10-21, 2025. The event will be an opportunity for conservationists from around the world to come together and discuss the most pressing environmental challenges facing our planet. The WCC is also expected to produce a number of important resolutions and recommendations that will help to guide future conservation efforts.

6. Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry Concludes Successful Five Day Trade Mission to India

- The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry has wrapped up its productive trade mission to India after a series of fruitful meetings and discussions with Indian business and industrial associations in New Delhi and Mumbai.
- Organized by the Sharjah Exports Development Centre, the trade mission aimed to explore potential investment advantages and lucrative opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties.

7. StartUp20 engagement group meet ends, asks G20 to invest \$1 trillion by 2030

- The **StartUp20 engagement group meeting culminated recently in Goa with a call of action for G20 nations to invest USD one trillion for start-up ecosystems by 2030.**
- In this meeting, the five actions the participants agreed to were to create and adopt definition framework for start ups, to create a network institution to support start ups and start up ecosystem across G20 nations, to increase and diversify access to capital, to ease market access and to emphasise the inclusion of underrepresented communities, and to create ability to scale start ups of global interest.

8. Jaishankar to chair G20 development ministers' meeting in Varanasi

- **External Affairs minister S Jaishankar is to chair the G20 development ministers' meeting, taking place from 11-13 June in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The development ministers' meeting was preceded by the fourth and final

Development Working Group (DWG) meeting, held from June 6 to 9 in Delhi.

9. PM Modi inaugurates the first-ever National Training Conclave

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**
- The National Training Conclave is being hosted by Capacity Building Commission with an objective to foster collaboration among civil services training institutes and strengthen the training infrastructure.

10. Second summit of Supreme Audit Institutions of G20 countries to begin in Goa

- **The second summit of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries will begin in Panaji, the Capital of Goa.**
- The three-day summit will see the participation of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Trkiye, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain, the UAE, Morocco, and Poland.
- The CAG of India is expected to highlight the crucial role the SAIs can play in the audit of the Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure good governance, transparency, and accountability, and to optimise their positive impact on humankind.

11. G20 Development Ministers' conclave in Varanasi adopts India-backed action plan on Sustainable Development Goals

- **The G20 Development Ministers conclave in Varanasi** has adopted an ambitious seven-year action plan put forward by India to accelerate progress

on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the G20 countries.

- It also adopted another document that aimed to enhance cooperation and partnerships for sustainable lifestyles to complement climate mitigation.
- The outcome documents adopted by the development ministers will be submitted for consideration by the G20 leaders at the grouping's summit to be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10.

12. India to host IIAS Annual Conference 2025 at Kochi

- **India expressed its willingness to host the 2025 IIAS (International Institute of Administrative Sciences) Annual Conference at Kochi, Kerala, in February, 2025.**
- The 2025 Annual Conference of IIAS would be attended by 30 Member Countries, 18 National Sections and over 50 IIAS Universities/ Institutes of Public Administration in Member Countries.
- The theme for 2025 IIAS Annual Conference at Kochi is proposed as ***“Next Generation Administrative Reforms - Empowering the Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile”***.
- The IIAS established in 1930, is a federation of member States, national sections and academic research centres jointly elaborating public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

13. Women 20 Summit begins in Mamallapuram

- **Women 20, the official engagement group of G20, held its Jan Bhagidari (Citizens' Connect) event in Mahabalipuram.**

- The summit will take place on the theme **'Women-Led Development-Transform, Thrive and Transcend'**.
- During the event, stories of women from across the country were shared with the delegates.
- Supreme Court Advocate Bansuri Swaraj reiterated India's commitment towards women-led development and emphasised policies focussing on women's financial literacy, digital literacy, healthcare and sanitation and empowering women at the grassroots level.

14. India to participate at AIAF for first time in France

- **India is participating at the Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF) for the first time this year in France.** An Indian delegation led by the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Apurva Chandra with eminent personalities of the animation industry have been showcasing India's prowess in creating animation and VFX content for global audiences at the AIAF.
- The animation and VFX market in India was pegged to be valued at 109 billion rupees in 2021, with the VFX business alone amounting to 50 billion rupees. This figure is expected to grow to 180 billion rupees by 2024.
- India's participation at Annecy, therefore, assumes greater importance as the country showcases its abilities in the sector to international buyers.

15. 25th SEACEN-FSI Conference of the Directors of Supervision of Asia Pacific Economies in Mumbai

- **The Reserve Bank of India hosted this Conference of Directors of Supervision.**

- SEACEN Research and Training Centre and FSI curated an excellent line-up of topics that are both timely and pertinent, covering key banking risks in the Asia-Pacific region, lessons learnt from recent bank failures in the US and Europe, and strategies for building resilience in banks. Reserve Bank deputy governor Mukesh Jain attended it.

16. IREDA participates in 'Intersolar Europe 2023' Exhibition in Munich

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) participated in the three-day "Intersolar Europe 2023" exhibition held in Munich, Germany.**
- IREDA, a Mini Ratna (Category ' I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, had set up a pavilion at the exhibition to educate visitors about the organization.

17. NHPC participates in Annual Meeting of International Commission on Large Dams, Gothenburg, Sweden

- NHPC Limited, India's largest hydropower development organization, participated in 91st Annual Meeting of International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD 2023), held in Gothenburg, Sweden.**
- The NHPC delegation presented several papers and posters on critical issues faced by hydropower developers, which were highly appreciated by the participants.
- The topics on which NHPC presented papers included issues pertaining to management and safety of dams, seepage control measures, seismic

aspects and repair and rehabilitation of dams.

18. Third G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency to begin in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

- The three-day meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group under the G20 Summit in Uttarakhand will begin at Narendranagar -Rishikesh.**
- The G20 Infrastructure Working Group will deliberate on various aspects of infrastructure investment, including developing infrastructure as an asset class, promoting quality infrastructure investment, and mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure investment. The key priority to be discussed in this meeting is "Financing Tomorrow's Cities: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable", among other priorities.

19. Exhibition of currency from G-20 countries to begin from June 30

- India to host an exhibition on currency notes of G 20 countries showcasing the UNESCO world heritage sites featured on them. The exhibition would be held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts from June 30 to July 9.
- The IGNSA is an autonomous body under the Culture Ministry.**
- A \$100 note that features the Independence Hall of Philadelphia, a five-pound note from the United Kingdom with a part of Westminster's Abbey, and currency notes from Brazil and Argentina, both featuring the Iguazu National Park that lies on the border between the two countries. These are among the many banknotes of G-20 member countries which would be showcased in a unique exhibition focusing on the UNESCO

world heritage sites from their respective countries.

- The exhibition “Banking on World Heritage” would feature five Indian currency notes – the '20, which carries

the image of the Sun Temple at Konark, the '10, with Ellora caves, the '500, with Red Fort and two separate notes of '100, with Kanchanjunga mountains and Gujarat’s “Rani Ki Vav” stepwell.



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Science & Technology

1. Successful training launch of Agni-1 ballistic missile

- A successful training launch of a **Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-1** was carried out by the **Strategic Forces Command from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.
- The missile is a proven system, capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile

2. Meta introduces text-to-speech generative AI model Voicebox

- **Meta has announced the 'state of the art' generative AI model Voicebox** which converts text to speech and includes features to edit audio and work across languages. The multilingual model can also produce speech in English, French, German, Spanish, Polish, or Portuguese. Meta builds technologies that help people connect and businesses grow.

3. Remains of new species of duck-billed dinosaur found in Chile

- Remains of a species of herbivorous dinosaur previously unknown in the southern hemisphere have been discovered in Chile, challenging long-held beliefs about the range of duck-billed dinosaurs.
- The discovery showed that Chilean Patagonia served as a refuge for very ancient species of hadrosaurs.
- 'onkoken nanoi' is the name of this new dinosaur species.

4. Google Launches Languages Programme To Support Indian News Publishers

- **Called the Indian Languages Program**, the project is the brainchild of Google News Initiative (GNI) and will support local news publishers in nine languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Marathi. The initiative will also support news platforms in languages such as Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and English.

5. DCGI grants Emergency Use Authorization to Gennova biopharma's Omicron-specific covid booster

- The Drug Control General of India has **granted Emergency Use Authorization to an Omicron-specific booster vaccine**, the Department of Biotechnology.
- The mRNA-based vaccine, **GEMCOVAC-OM**, was developed by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals using the indigenous platform technology, and supported under the Mission COVID Suraksha. It is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- GEMCOVAC-OM is a thermostable vaccine, which does not require ultra-cold chain infrastructure used for other approved mRNA-based vaccines, making it easy for deployment pan India.

6. Dr Jitendra Singh launches the GEMCOVAC-OM, an Omicron-specific mRNA-based Booster vaccine

- **GEMCOVAC-OM is an Omicron-specific mRNA-based Booster vaccine.**
- India's first mRNA vaccine has been developed using the indigenous platform technology by Gennova, with funding support from **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** and

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

- GEMCOVAC® -OM is the fifth vaccine developed with support from Mission COVID Suraksha implemented by DBT and BIRAC under Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package of Govt. of India for accelerated development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines.
- A number of key initiatives are currently being implemented to promote basic and translational vaccine research, including the
 - (i) Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme,
 - (ii) (ii) National Biopharma Mission,
 - (iii) (iii) Ind-CEPI Mission, and

- (iv) (iv) Mission COVID Suraksha, which was launched as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0, with the goal of bringing safe, efficacious, affordable and accessible indigenous COVID 19 vaccines to the citizens of the country at the earliest.

7. IIT-Kharagpur to develop tamper-proof signalling system for railways

- The **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**, is developing a tamper-proof signalling system based on blockchain technology for the Indian Railways. Embedded with enhanced safety measures, the new system would complement the existing Data Logger which is considered the 'Black Box' of rolling stock.



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Defence

1. The first edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise takes off

- The first edition of India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise commenced in the Gulf of Oman.
- INS Tarkash and French Ship Surcouf both with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating in the exercise.
- The maiden exercise aims to enhance trilateral cooperation between the three navies and pave way for adopting measures towards addressing traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment.
- The exercise will also enhance collaboration in ensuring safety of mercantile trade and freedom of navigation at high seas in the region.

2. Agni Prime' ballistic missile successfully flight-tested by DRDO off Odisha coast

- New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated.
- This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system. Range Instrumentation like Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking Systems were deployed at different locations, including two down-range ships, at the terminal point to capture flight data

covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle.

3. Army signs pact for procurement of 'tactical LAN radio' through Innovations for Defence Excellence(iDEX)

- The Indian Army said it has sealed a deal with a Bengaluru-based M/s Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd, to procure the indigenously-developed 'tactical LAN radio'.
- The 'tactical LAN radio' is a state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for the provisioning of reliable communication.
- It is the second contract that the Army has firmed up under iDEX. iDEX was launched on 12 April 2018 during Defence Expo India 2018.

4. Twin CBG operation: INS Vikramaditya, Vikrant lead Navy's mega ops in Arabian Sea

- The Navy carried out a massive Carrier Battle Group (CBG) operation involving more than 35 aircraft in the Arabian Sea, one of the biggest demonstrations of its operational capabilities in recent years.
- This was a twin CBG operation involving both of India's aircraft carriers - INS Vikramaditya & INS Vikrant, along with a diverse fleet of escort ships, submarines & aircraft. A CBG is a naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier and its multiple escort vessels.

5. INDO-MALDIVES JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'EKUVERIN' COMMENCED AT CHAUBATIA, UTTARAKHAND

- The 12th edition of joint military exercise 'Ex Ekuverin' between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at

Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from 11 to 24 June 2023.

- **Ekuverin meaning 'Friends'** is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives. The 11th edition of the exercise was held in Maldives in December 2021.
- A platoon strength contingent from Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force will be participating in 14 days long exercise. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism Operations under the UN mandate and carry out joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.
- The focus is to share best practices, enhance coordination and cooperation between both the forces at tactical level.

6. Indian Navy conducts 'Julley Ladakh', an outreach programme to engage with youth and civil society

- **Indian Navy is conducting 'Julley Ladakh'**, an outreach programme to Ladakh to increase awareness about the service in Ladakh and to engage with youth and civil society there.
- A five thousand kilometre Motorcycle Expedition was flagged off by Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Sanjay Jasjit Singh, from the National War Memorial
- The main objective of the current initiative in the Northern Territory includes celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and conducting awareness drives at Schools and Colleges in the Ladakh region about the career opportunities Indian Navy offers including the Agnipath Scheme.

7. Defence ministry approves to acquire 31 MQ-9B armed drones from US

- India's defence ministry approved the acquisition of **31 MQ-9B armed drones from the US**. The clearance for procuring the drones made by General Atomics was given by a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh.
- India is expected to buy the drones, which have an endurance of more than 27 hours and can operate at up to 50,000 feet, in a deal worth a little more than \$3 billion.

8. MoD to hold two-day 'Chintan Shivir' to discuss challenges faced by its departments & evolve new ideas for better governance

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) is organising brainstorming sessions 'Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi on June 19 & 20, 2023 to discuss various issues & challenges faced by its departments, with the aim to come out with new ideas for better governance & functioning.
- The Chintan Shivir will conclude with an open-house session for inviting ideas & suggestions for enhancing organisational efficiency in various departments. The event is being organised in line with the Government's directions to have a real time audit of the objectives achieved till date and carve a way forward towards achieving the desired goals in realistic timelines.

9. INS 'Vagir' set to embark on operational visit to Colombo

- **Indian Navy's state-of-the-art submarine, INS 'Vagir', is all set to embark on an operational visit to Colombo from June 19 to June 22.**
- This visit is in commemoration of the 9th edition of the International Day of

Yoga and aligns with the theme of **'Global Ocean Ring'**.

- In addition, INS 'Vagir' will also open its doors to visitors and school children, allowing them a rare opportunity to explore the submarine firsthand.
- In conjunction with this visit, the Indian High Commission, in collaboration with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, has planned a grand event on the occasion of International Day of Yoga at Colombo Port on June 21. Senior defence officials and personnel from both the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies will participate in this celebration.

10. Indian Army contingent participates in Multinational Joint Exercise Ex Khaan Quest 2023' in Mongolia

- **Multinational Peacekeeping Joint Exercise 'Ex Khaan Quest 2023'** featuring participation from military contingents and observers from over 20 countries has commenced in Mongolia.
- The exercise is co-sponsored by Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC).
- **The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the GARHWAL RIFLES.**
- The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability of the participating nations, for sharing experience and to train uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).

11. BEL receives orders worth Rs 5900 crore for Akash Missiles

- **Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has received a work order for 2 regiments of Improved **Akash Weapon System (AWS) with upgrades from Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), another defence PSU, for a value of Rs 3,914 crores.**
- Akash is an all-weather, point/area air-defence weapon system intended for defending vulnerable points/areas against threats emanating from low, medium and high altitudes.
- The system uses high mobility vehicles for mobile applications.
- The improvements incorporated include high altitude operation, simultaneous engagement of multiple threats over 360 degrees, missiles fitted with RF Seeker and reduced foot print.

12. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates Integrated Simulator Complex 'Dhruv' in Kochi

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

Books & Authors

1. Author Shantanu Gupta launches his new graphic novel 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' on UP CM's 51st birthday

- Noted Author, **Shantanu Gupta**, who has written two bestseller titles on Yogi Adityanath, launched his new graphic novel- **Ajay to Yogi Adityanath**, on the Uttar Pradesh CM's 51st birthday.
- The launch created an Asia Book of Records
- More than 5000 children launched the book in more than 51 schools across various districts of Uttar Pradesh. This was the first time that a book was launched in multiple locations

simultaneously with so many participants.

2. 'India's Finance Ministers' by AK Bhattacharya: Steering Indian economy from Independence to '77

- **From Independence to Emergency: India's Finance Ministers 1947-1977** is the story of India's unforgettable finance ministers who shaped India's economy in the first thirty years after Independence. The book highlights the significant difference that these finance ministers made to the management of the Indian economy and to the policy evolution of the government.

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Miscellaneous

1. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society

- In a special meeting of the **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society**, it was resolved to change its name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.
- The Special Meeting was presided over by Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh who is the Vice-President of the Society.
- **Balram Nanda was the founder-director of the Nehru memorial museum and Library.**
- Prime Minister Shri Modi had mooted the idea of setting up of a museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of India on Teen Murti Premises, New Delhi in 2016.
- The Executive Council, NMML had in its 162nd meeting held on 25-11-2016 approved the construction of the Museum of all Prime Ministers in the Teen Murti Estate.
- The project was completed and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya was opened to the public on 21st April 2022.



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Obituary

1. Veteran Actress Sulochana Latkar passes away at 94

- **Sulochana Latkar**, known by her screen name Sulochana, was a well-known **actress** who had a vast career in both Marathi and Hindi films. She was most known for her performances in Marathi films such as Sasurvas (1946), Vahinichya Bangdya (1953), Meeth Bhakar, Sangte Aika (1959) and Dhakti Jau (1958) in the lead roles.
- The actress was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999.
- In 2009 she was also honoured with the Maharashtra Bhushan Award by the Government Of Maharashtra.

2. Commander Of Indian Navy's First Submarine, Commodore K S Subramanian, Passes Away At 94

- **Commodore KS Subramanian**, a revered figure in the Indian Navy, has passed away at the age of 94.
- Having been commissioned on 1 September 1951, Commodore Subramanian's career spanned over three decades and left an indelible mark on the Indian Navy.
- One of his notable achievements was his command of the Indian Navy's first submarine, INS Kalvari, a Foxtrot-class boat.

3. Award-winning Doordarshan news anchor Gitanjali Aiyar passes away

- **Gitanjali Aiyar**, one of India's first English female news presenters on national **broadcaster Doordarshan**, passed away.
- She joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four

times. She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989.

4. Alby D'Cruz, Kerala's first Ashoka Chakra recipient, passes away at 87

- **Alby D'Cruz, Kerala's first Ashoka Chakra** recipient, passed away.
- The country honoured him with the Ashoka Chakra for his extraordinary bravery during the civil strife with the Naga rebels in the 1960s. In a ceremony held in New Delhi on April 30, 1962, President Dr Rajendra Prasad, presented the Ashoka Chakra to Lance Naik Alby. Ashok Chakra is India's highest peacetime military decoration.

5. 'Amul Girl' creator Sylvester daCunha is no more

- Iconic ad man and creator of the **'Utterly Butterly' Amul Girl, Sylvester daCunha**, passed away in Mumbai. Since 1966, the irreverent Amul moppet - a mascot created by him and his then art director Eustace Fernandes at advertising agency ASP (Advertising Sales and Promotions) - has been weighing in on topical issues with her acerbic wit.

6. Former Urdu newsreader of Akashvani Kausar Rizvi passes away in Dubai.

- The former **Urdu newsreader of Akashvani, Kausar Rizvi** passed away in Dubai today. He was 79.
- Kausar Rizvi was associated with the Urdu unit of the News Services Division of Akashvani in New Delhi for about 30 years from 1975 to 2004.

Person in news

1. Shalini singh becomes 1st girl NCC cadet to complete advance mountaineering course in the Himalayan region

- Achieving another feat for the National Cadet Corps, under-officer **Shalini Singh scripted history by becoming the first female NCC cadet in India to complete the advanced mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.**
- The Senior Wing NCC cadet, Shalini Singh, was enrolled in the 67 UP Battalion. She began the month-long mountaineering course.
- Before that, she had to complete her mandatory basic mountaineering course in 2022 at Pahalgam, Jammu, and Kashmir, reported HT. Shalini is pursuing her graduation from Bappa Shri Narayan Vocational PG College.

2. Ayushmann Khurrana Appointed As A Goodwill Ambassador For Special Olympics Bharat

- **Ayushmann Khurrana, who is the National Ambassador of UNICEF,** has now been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for Special Olympics Bharat.
- Special Olympics World Summer Games, is set to take place in Berlin, Germany, between June 17 and 25.
- India is sending a 280 strong contingent comprising 198 athletes and partners along with 57 coaches who will be competing across 16 sports disciplines at the prestigious event.

3. Karim Benzema signs 3-year deal with Saudi champions Al Ittihad

- Former Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema has signed a deal to join

Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad football club on a three-year deal.

- He joins his former Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo in the Saudi Pro League after the five-time world player of the year moved to Al Nassr from Manchester United following last year's World Cup.

4. Nobel-winning lithium battery inventor John Goodenough dies

- **John Goodenough, who shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing the lithium ion battery that revolutionized modern life has died at the age of 100,** the University of Texas announced.
- His contributions to the development of lithium ion batteries paved the way for smartphones and a fossil fuel free society.

5. World Bank President Ajay Banga Named In 2023 List Of Great Immigrants

- **Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been named by a prestigious philanthropic organization to its annual "Great Immigrants" list** of honourees who have enriched and strengthened America and its democracy through their contributions and actions.
- He is the only honouree from India in this year's list of 'Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- What is the Great Immigrant list? Every Fourth of July, which is celebrated as America's Independence Day, the Carnegie Corporation of New York honours a group of "remarkable" Americans — all naturalised citizens — "who have enriched and strengthened

our nation and our democracy through their contributions and actions".

- This year's honourees include Vietnamese-born Academy Award-winning actor Ke Huy Quan, Chilian-born actor Pedro Pascal, Director-General of World Trade Organization Nigerian-born Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, US Congressman Ted Lieu who was born in Taiwan, Grammy Award-Winning

Singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angélique Kidjo who was born in Benin, Polish-born Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Cornell University and Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann and Guido Imbens, born in the Netherlands and Professor of Economics, Stanford University, and Nobel Laureate.

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Insurance

1. SBI Life To Take Over Policy Liabilities, Assets Of Sahara India Life Insurance: IRDAI

- Insurance regulator said that it has identified SBI Life Insurance as acquirer insurer of the life insurance business of Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd (SILIC).
- SBI Life has been asked to take over the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies of SILIC, backed by the policyholders' assets, with immediate effect.

2. Go Digit Life Insurance gets Irdai nod to carry life insurance business in India

- The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India has granted certificate of registration to Go Digit Life Insurance to start business in India.
- With this, the number of insurers operating in life insurance segment has gone up to 26.
- Go Digit General Insurance, backed by Canadian Prem Watsa's Fairfax and Kamesh Goyal, is already in the general insurance business.

3. LIC to hold roadshows in Hong Kong, UK in June

- A year after the listing of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, the insurance behemoth will hold international roadshows, beginning in Hong Kong later this month.
- The non-deal roadshows of LIC are scheduled between June 25 and June 29.
- These roadshows are aimed at creating awareness among global investors post-listing of LIC shares. It has been a little over one year since LIC was listed on the stock exchanges.

4. CBIC slaps Rs 942 crore demand notice on HDFC Life Insurance Company

- The investigative wing of the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC) has slapped a show cause-cum-demand notice on HDFC Life Insurance Company for an amount of Rs 942.18 crore.
- This notice pertains to charges of wrongly availing the input tax credit without the underlying supply of services.

5. Tata Technologies IPO gets approval from Sebi

- Tata Technologies Ltd, a subsidiary of automobile major Tata Motors, has received approval from capital market regulator Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).
- Tata Technologies IPO is purely an offer for sale(OFS), where the company will sell up to 9.57 crore equity shares representing approximately 23.60% of its paid-up share capital, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

6. Risk based supervision pilot to start July: IRDAI

- Insurance regulator IRDAI will be rolling out the first phase of pilot projects associated with a Risk-Based Supervision (RBS) framework from July. The move to RBS is a shift towards adopting global best practices for supervision with a focus on proportionality and materiality and relies on holistic analysis of the activities of regulated entity from a risk perspective.

- It has collaborated with Toronto Centre (TC) for the framework. A not for profit organization, TC has been working to promote strong supervision in order to

enhance financial stability, crisis preparedness and consumer protection.



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India & World

1. India, Vietnam hold 3rd Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi

- The **3rd India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi.**
- The two sides discussed ways to sustain a secure maritime environment conducive for inclusive growth.
- They also reviewed maritime cooperation initiatives and avenues of reinforcing international and regional mechanisms for comprehensive maritime security.

2. NHPC and VUCL, Nepal sign MoU for development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal

- NHPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise) and Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) in New Delhi for development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal.
- The project will use the flow from the Karnali River for power generation and the generated power will be fed into integrated power system of Nepal.
- The installed capacity of the project shall be 480 MW with average annual generation of about 2448 GWh. The key features of the project are a 109 metre high RCC dam and an underground power house where the 06 turbines of 79 MW each shall be housed.
- Additionally, to utilize minimum environmental release one Surface Power House of 6 MW capacity i.e. two machines of 3 MW each is also planned. This project is conceived as a Peaking Run-of-River (PRoR) type scheme.

3. Sri Lanka to achieve regional energy integration with grid connectivity with India by 2030

- **Sri Lanka is set to achieve regional energy integration with grid connectivity with India by 2030.**
- The plan aligns with the vision articulated by the External Affairs Minister earlier this year, highlighting Sri Lanka's vast renewable energy potential and the capability of Trincomalee to become an energy hub.
- Both countries had also agreed in principle on a renewable energy framework to foster further cooperation. This integration is expected to pave the way for enhanced energy security, sustainability, and economic development in the region.

4. UAE emerges as fourth largest investor in India in FY23

- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE), with which India implemented a comprehensive free trade agreement in May last year, has emerged as the fourth largest investor in India during 2022-23,** according to government data. Singapore was the largest investor in India with USD 17.2 billion investment in FY23.
- In the last fiscal, foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UAE to India jumped over three-fold to USD 3.35 billion from USD 1.03 billion in 2021-22, the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed.

5. India, UAE target USD 100 bn non-oil trade by 2030

- **India and the UAE set a target to increase the non-oil trade from USD 48 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030.**
- The goal to achieve USD 100 billion non-oil trade was set in the first meeting of the Joint Committee of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The agreement was implemented on May 1 last year

6. India & ADB ink USD 130 mn loan agreement to promote horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

- **The Ministry of Finance stated that the central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have joined forces in a significant endeavour to enhance agricultural productivity, improve irrigation accessibility, and promote horticulture agribusinesses in the state of Himachal Pradesh.**
- **A loan agreement of USD 130 million was signed between the two entities.**
- The project aims to enhance the income and resilience to climate change effects for approximately 15,000 farming households across seven districts of Himachal Pradesh, namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.

7. UNGA adopts resolution introduced by India to establish memorial wall to honour fallen peacekeepers

- **UN General Assembly has adopted a Resolution to establish a new Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers, piloted by India.**
- India piloted the adoption of the Resolution in the UN General Assembly to establish a Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers. The Resolution received

a record 190 co-sponsorships, which is a testimony to faith in India's contributions and intent.

- **About UNGA:** The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is the main policy-making organ of the Organization. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote. The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including:

- appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council
- electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
- approving the UN budget

8. RITES Ltd signs contract with National Railways of Zimbabwe to supply diesel locomotives & open wagons

- **RITES Limited has signed a contract worth USD 81,175,500 with National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) for the supply of rolling stock (3000 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives and High Sided Open Wagons).**
- RITES Ltd, formerly known as Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited, is a Miniratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways.

9. India, Sri Lanka to accelerate implementation of digital education project in Galle District

- **India and Sri Lanka look to accelerate implementation of a digital education project in the Galle District.**
- The project, supported by a grant from the Government of India, aims to

enhance digital literacy among students in underprivileged areas.

- It is one of several grant projects in the education sector undertaken by the Indian government in Sri Lanka.
- India's development assistance to Sri Lanka currently amounts to approximately USD 5 billion, with nearly USD 600 million provided as grants.
- Over 65 grant projects have already been implemented across the country's 25 districts, and more than 20 projects are in various stages of implementation

10. India's IndiGo places record order for 500 A320 Family aircraft

- **IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, has placed a firm order for 500 A320 Family aircraft**, setting the record for the biggest single purchase agreement in the history of commercial aviation. The latest agreement takes the total number of Airbus aircraft on order by IndiGo to 1,330, establishing its position as the world's biggest A320 Family customer. Dr. Venkataramani Sumantran, Chairman and Non-Executive Independent Director of IndiGo.
- Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo.
- Guillaume Faury, Airbus CEO.

11. Oman Creates History as First Foreign Government to Promote Country through Yoga

- In a pioneering initiative, the **Indian Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman has introduced an innovative video called 'Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman'** on the eve of the International Day of Yoga 2023.
- The Indian Embassy partnered with 'Visit Oman,' a subsidiary of Oman's

Ministry of Tourism, to produce the video.

- **This marks the first instance of a foreign government using yoga to promote its own country.**

12. India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) launched in Washington DC, U.S.

- **India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA.**
- The INDUS X event was **co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Ministry of Defence, and US Department of Defence (DoD)** and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- The event also saw a first-of-its-kind joint showcasing of innovative technologies by Indian and US start-ups. 15 Indian start-ups and 10 US start-ups, from multiple domains of maritime, AI, autonomous systems, and space, showcased their technologies to Indian and US stakeholders

13. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) joins WIPO Green to promote sustainable tech

- National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology has joined World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Green as a partner in its green technology database globally.
- NRDC, headed by Chairman and Managing Director Commodore Amit Rastogi (retd).
- WIPO Green is the marketplace for sustainable technology administered by the premier body of the United

Nation in order to promote environmentally-friendly innovation and the diffusion of green technologies. It is an online platform for technology exchange.

14. India gifts missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam

- **India will gift Vietnam an in-service warship as a gesture of friendship and expanding military ties between the nations. Missile Corvette INS Kirpan - a Khukri class warship commissioned in 1991 - will soon be handed over to the Vietnam People's Navy.**
- The announcement was made during a meeting between defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart.

15. India-US defence ties take a quantum leap as nations ink twin pacts for armed drones, jet engines

- The already expansive defence relationship between India and the US is set to register a quantum leap during the Modi-Biden summit with the twin pacts on the joint manufacture of GE-F414 fighter jet engines and the sale of armed MQ-9B Predator drones, both a first for a non-military ally of the US.
- India's proposed \$3.5 billion acquisition of the 31 drones — 15 Sea Guardians for Navy and eight Sky Guardians each for Army and IAF — will hugely boost its capabilities for long-range ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and strike missions both in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as well as its land borders with China and Pakistan.

16. India, Philippines to upgrade defence partnership; boost maritime security

- **India and Philippines decided to expand their defence partnership**

through upgraded official level interaction among defense agencies, opening of the resident Defense Attach office in Manila, and consideration of India's offer for concessional Line of Credit to buy defence equipment.

- They will look forward to the signing of the MoU on enhanced maritime cooperation.
- This was decided at the fifth meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Philippines counterpart Enrique A. Manalo.

17. India dropped from UNSG report on impact of armed conflict on children after 12 years

- In his **2023 report on Children and Armed Conflict**, the UN chief said, **"In view of the measures taken by the government to better protect children, India has been removed from the report in 2023."**
- In his latest report, he also called upon India to implement the remaining measures identified in consultation with his special representative and the United Nations.
- UN Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres.
- India was mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on Children and armed conflict since 2010 along with other countries of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Lake Chad basin, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines for alleged recruitment and use of boys by armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir; detainment of boys by Indian security forces in J&K for their alleged association with armed groups, or on national security grounds.

18. BRICS countries likely to induct five new members in August summit

- The BRICS nations may agree to induct around five new members into the grouping during its August leadership summit, to be hosted by South Africa.
- Out of the 25 countries that are keen to join the grouping, while Saudi Arabia's entry is almost certain, other

frontrunners include Indonesia, the UAE, Egypt, and Argentina.

- BRICS headquarter: Shanghai, China
- The BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – currently represent over 42 per cent of the global population, 30 per cent of the world's GDP.

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Environment

1. Cyclone Biparjoy makes landfall; strong winds, rains in Kutch, Saurashtra

- **Cyclone Biparjoy** made its much awaited **landfall near Jakhau Port in Gujarat's Kutch** district on 15th June evening after churning across the Arabian Sea for over 10 days as multi-agency response teams remained alert for relief and rescue efforts, while one lakh people were moved to safer places. Landfall indicates a cyclonic storm moving over land after being over water.
- **Biparjoy, the first cyclone in the Arabian Sea this year**, rapidly underwent rapid intensification on June 6 and June 7, escalating from just a cyclonic circulation to a very severe cyclonic storm in just 48 hours, defying earlier predictions.
- It has also sustained its strength for a longer-than-normal duration, which meteorologists attribute to due to an unusually warm Arabian Sea.
- **The IMD data shows Biparjoy has become the cyclone with the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea.**
- The extremely severe **Cyclone Kyarr of 2019** over the Arabian Sea had a life of 9 days and 15 hours.

2. National Working Plan Code-2023 released for scientific management of forests and evolving new approaches

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change has released the 'National Working Plan Code-2023' for**

scientific management of forests and evolving new approaches.

- The National Working Plan Code-2023 was released by Shri. Chandra Prakash Goyal, IFS, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change during the occasion of the '**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**' organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023.

3. World Day To Combat Desertification and Drought 2023

- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2023 is celebrated every year on June 17** to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- Extreme weather occurrences are becoming more prominent with each passing day. Therefore, it's important to spread awareness of problems like drought and desertification.
- So, every year on June 17, the United Nations recognises it as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The day focuses on restoring the land that has been damaged, preventing desertification.
- The aim is to find workable methods to stop further destruction of the ecosystem. This will increase income, foster economic resilience, and guarantee food security for the community.

Apps & Portals

1. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' to bring transparency & efficiency

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched '**SAGAR SAMRIDDHI**' - the online dredging monitoring system - in order to accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the Ministry.
- This system has been developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) the technological arm of MoPSW.
- The new technology brings in marked improvement against the old system of Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system. Capabilities of 'Sagar Samriddhi' include:
 - *Real time dredging progress report*
 - *Daily and monthly progress Visualisation*
 - *Dredger performance and downtime monitoring*
 - *Easy location track data with snapshot of loading, unloading and idle time*
 - The NTCPWC was established under the Sagarmala Programme of MoPSW with the total investment of ' 77 Crores at IIT Madras which was inaugurated by the Minister on 24th April 2023. The aim of the centre is to enable research & development for the marine sector, enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.



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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. CCI approves acquisition of additional stake in ACKO Tech by General Atlantic

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of additional stake in Acko Tech by General Atlantic.
- The proposed combination envisages acquisition of an additional 4.04 per cent shareholding of Acko Technology and Services (Acko Tech) by General Atlantic Singapore ACK Pte. Ltd. (GASACK).
- GASACK, an investment holding company, is held by funds or vehicles controlled by General Atlantic. Acko Tech is engaged in the business of providing general (non-life) insurance through its subsidiary, Acko General Insurance Limited (Acko GI).

2. CCI approves acquisition of certain shareholding in Ambit Private Limited by Daiwa International Holdings Inc.

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition of certain shareholding in Ambit Private Limited by Daiwa International Holdings Inc.
- The proposed combination relates to acquisition of certain shareholding through a combination of primary subscription of shares and secondary share purchases from existing shareholders.

3. Adani Group To Acquire Railway Ticketing Startup Trainman

- **Adani Digital Labs, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has signed an agreement to acquire 100% stake in railway ticketing platform Trainman.**

- Trainman was reportedly pegged at INR 80 Cr last. The startup counts names such as Goodwater Capital and Ivy Growth Associates among its investors.
- The move is likely a part of the strategy of the Adani Group, which launched flight ticket and cab booking platform Adani One last year, to shore up its ticketing play.. Adani Enterprises on Friday said that its wholly-owned subsidiary Adani Digital Labs Private Ltd has signed an agreement to acquire railway ticketing startup Trainman.

4. BPEA EQT And ChrysCapital to acquire 90% stake in HDFC Credila

- **HDFC, HDFC Bank, and HDFC Credila Financial Services have announced that they have entered into definitive agreements to sell a 90 per cent stake in HDFC Credila to a private equity investor consortium of BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital at a pre'money valuation of '10,350 crore.**
- This transaction will infuse primary proceeds of about '2,000 crore into the company.

5. CCI approves acquisition by HDFC Limited of certain additional shareholding of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited (HDFC)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the proposed combination involving acquisition by Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC Limited) of certain additional shareholding of HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited (HDFC ERGO).
- The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition by HDFC Limited of certain additional shareholding of

HDFC ERGO on a spot delivery basis (the **Proposed Transaction**) such that HDFC Limited (after the Proposed Transaction) and the surviving amalgamated entity i.e. HDFC Bank Limited (HDFC Bank) (after the effective date of the proposed amalgamation of, *inter alia*, HDFC Limited into HDFC Bank) will hold over 50% of the shareholding of HDFC ERGO in compliance with Indian banking laws. (**Proposed Combination**) HDFC Limited is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and its shares are listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited.

6. Infosys signs \$454-million deal with Danske Bank

- Infosys has signed a strategic collaboration deal with Danske Bank, a Nordic bank, to accelerate the bank's digital transformation initiatives.

- The \$454 million deal will be in force for a period of 5 years with an option to renew for one additional year for a maximum of three times. Salil Parekh is the CEO and MD of Infosys

7. CCI approves acquisition of TCNS Clothing by Aditya Birla Fashion

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of **TCNS Clothing Co Limited by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited**. The proposed combination involves acquisition of 51% of the expanded share capital of TCNS Clothing Co Limited by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited.
- Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited is a listed company and is part of the Aditya Birla conglomerate. TCNS Clothing is also a listed company engaged in the business of manufacturing, distribution and sale of women's apparel, etc.



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Agri-Business

1. G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting adopts Outcome Document and Chair's Summary focussing on food security and Nutrition for all

- The **G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting has adopted Outcome Document and Chair's Summary focusing on food security and Nutrition for all.**
- The three-day meeting concluded in Hyderabad. The Outcome document also includes the Deccan High-Level Principles and International Millets and Other Ancient Grains Research Initiative.

2. Cabinet approves increase in sugarcane FRP to '315/quintal for 2023-24 season

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a **10-rupee increase in fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane to '315 per quintal**

for the **2023-24 marketing season, starting October.**

- The FRP of sugarcane, which stood at **'210 per quintal in 2014-15 season, has now been increased to '315 per quintal for 2023-24 season.**
- In the 2022-23 marketing year, about 3,353 lakh tonne of sugarcane has been purchased.

3. ICAR-SBI Signs MoU with Indian Sugar Mills Association to Identify Climate-Resilient Sugarcane Varieties

- The **Sugarcane Breeding Institute in Coimbatore**, in partnership with the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) based in New Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a pioneering project aimed at developing location-specific and climate-resilient sugarcane varieties.
- President of ISMA, Aditya Jhunjhunwala.



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FinTech

1. PhonePe launches Account Aggregator services

- **PhonePe has introduced Account Aggregator (AA) services** following the receipt of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) licence.
- The move aims at providing secure and easy sharing of financial data between customers and financial bodies.
- Account Aggregator service will help customers to share their financial data such as bank statements, insurance policies, and others, for services like loans, new insurance, and other banking services.
- Customers can request, pause or cancel any ongoing financial services directly from the PhonePe app.
- **PhonePe Group has partnered with financial institutions like Yes Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, ICICI Bank, and, Axis Bank.**
- The micro-app for account aggregator services within PhonePe will let users create a new AA handle.

2. Google Pay launches Aadhaar-based authentication for UPI activation

- **Google Pay has introduced UPI verification via Aadhaar card.**
- The new feature will allow customers to register for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) without the need of debit card.

- The move is supported by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Customers who want to activate UPI through Aadhaar should have a valid phone number linked to their bank and registered with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

3. Acemoney launches all-in-one payment device

- Leading fintech company **Acemoney has launched an all-in-one payment device.** It incorporates **micro ATM, Aadhaar ATM, and POS in a single device.**
- The device will not only act as a POS device but enable merchants to offer other services.
- Customers will be able to withdraw cash using biometric system that facilitates card-based or Aadhaar-based financial transactions.

4. Fino Payments Bank joins Hubble to introduce spending account

- **Fino Payments Bank said it has entered into a tie-up with Sequoia Capital-backed fintech Hubble to introduce India's first spending account.**
- The bank said customers can park their funds, spend (on categories such as food ordering, shopping, travel, entertainment etc.) and save up to 10 per cent on all purchases made from the account.

PSUs

1. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited commissions 1 MW Rooftop Solar Power Project at IIT Jodhpur.

- **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has commissioned its first Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Project at IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan** to meet 15% of IIT's electricity requirements. NVVN is trading in gypsum and is now diversifying into renewables, e-mobility, etc.
- The project is set up on the roofs of 14 buildings inside the campus of the IIT. The rooftop project will generate around 14.9 Lakhs units per annum and will meet 15% of the electricity requirement of IIT Jodhpur. The project will result in reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of 1,060 tonnes per year.

2. LIC announces relaxations for victims of Biparjoy Cyclone

- Following insurance regulator Irdai directive, LIC announced concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of policies and also of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana affected by the Cyclone Biparjoy.
- LIC in a statement said it is reaching out to the affected people to provide assistance although the loss of lives has been minimal. It also created a portal link for the online submission of claims arising due to Biparjoy

Bihar

1. \$295 Million ADB Loan to Support Road Improvement in Bihar, India

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a \$295 million loan to

widen and upgrade around 265 kilometers of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of Bihar in India.

- The highways will be upgraded with climate- and disaster-resilient design, road safety elements, and other features that will respond to the needs of the elderly, women.

Chhattisgarh

1. Chhattisgarh government launches an AI-based app to track elephants and alert villagers.

- In a move to reduce rising man-animal conflicts, the **Chhattisgarh government launched an app to track the movements of elephants and alert villagers.**
- Chhattisgarh Elephant Tracking and Alert App works on Artificial Intelligence-based (AI-based) inputs received from Elephant Trackers (Hathi Mitra Dal).

2. World Bank Approves \$300 Million to Improve Quality of School Education in Chhattisgarh

- **The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a \$300 million loan to help expand and improve the quality of education in government-run schools in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.**
- The project aims to benefit about 4 million students, mostly from poor and vulnerable communities in the state.

Goa

1. Goa CM Pramod Sawant launches mascot for upcoming 37th National Games

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant officially unveiled the eagerly-awaited **mascot for the 37th National Games, aptly**

named 'Moga,' during a ceremony held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Taleigao.

- The unveiling marked a significant milestone in the build-up to the upcoming National Games, highlighting the strong connection between the Games and the rich heritage of Goa.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat, US chipmaker Micron to sign MoU on June 28 for semiconductor unit

- The Gujarat government has signed an MoU with American computer storage chipmaker Micron Technology for a semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand in the Ahmedabad district.
- Micron had announced to set up a semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat entailing a **total investment of \$2.75 billion (around Rs 22,540 crore)**.
- Micron's plant has been approved under the central government's "**Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) Scheme**".
- Under the scheme, the US-based firm will receive 50 per cent fiscal support for the total project cost from the Centre and incentives representing 20 per cent of the total cost from the Gujarat government.

Haryana

1. Haryana CM launches biennial Integrated Water Resources Action Plan (2023-25)

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the biennial Integrated Water Resources Action Plan (2023-25) which aims to meet the twin challenges of water depletion and waterlogging.
- Khattar said that the **total water availability of the state is 20,93,598**

crore litres whereas the total water demand is 34,96,276 crore litres.

2. Cabinet approves Metro Connectivity from HUDA City Centre to Cyber City, Gurugram with Spur to Dwarka Expressway

- The Union cabinet has approved the elevated Gurugram metro project to connect Cyber City with Huda City Centre with spur to Dwarka Expressway covering a total of 28.5 km and 27 stations. The cost of the project has been pegged at '5,452 crore and expected to be completed in four years.
- It will be implemented by Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Limited (HMRTC), which will be established as a 50:50 Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the Governments of India and Haryana after the sanction order is issued.

Himachal Pradesh

1. World Bank approves loan of \$200 million to Himachal for power reforms

- The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors have approved a loan of \$200 million to the Himachal Pradesh government to facilitate power sector reforms and increase the share of renewable energy (RE) in the state's electricity generation.
- The state currently meets more than 80 per cent of its energy demands from hydropower.
- Himachal Pradesh aims to become a 'Green State' by meeting 100 per cent of its energy needs through renewable and green energy by 2030.

Kerala

1. Kerala CM to inaugurate KSUM's first Infinity Centre in Dubai today

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the first Infinity Centre

of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in Dubai, rolling out his government's ambitious programme.

- Vijayan, who is on a tour to US and Cuba, will arrive in Dubai to take part in the event.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the first Infinity Centre of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in Dubai on Sunday, rolling out his government's ambitious programme of setting up one-stop destinations across the world to strengthen the state's ecosystem for nascent companies.
- Chief Secretary V P Joy will chair the ceremony at Taj, Burj Khalifa, a KSUM release said, adding that the event will mark the start of a series of such launch pads for Kerala's startups to explore foreign markets by enabling non-resident Indians to help become entrepreneurs in association with KSUM.

2. Kerala: Sabarimala International Airport Gets Green Signal From Union Environment Ministry Panel

- The Union Environment Ministry panel has recommended the grant of standard terms of reference (TOR) for the Kerala government's proposal for a greenfield Sabarimala international airport.
- The **project's anticipated cost is Rs 3,900 crore, which includes Rs 260 crore for land and Rs 3,400 crore for capital expenditure.**
- According to officials, this will allow the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) Limited, the project proponent, to plan and design an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and provide a format and structure for the project.

- Sabarimala International Airport is a proposed greenfield airport to be built in Erumeli (also known as Erumely) near Sabarimala temple, in the Kottayam district of Kerala.
- The proposed airport's location is Cheruvally Estate in Erumeli, Kottayam District, which covers around 2,570 acres of land.
- The proposed Sabarimala airport would have the longest runway of Kerala's four international airports (Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Cochin, and Kannur).
- The runway at the proposed Sabarimala airport will be 3,500 metres long, and 45 metres wide, and will have 7.5-metre off-shoulders on both sides.

3. World Bank approves \$150 mn loan to support Resilient Kerala Program

- **The World Bank's Board of Directors has approved a \$150 million loan to support the Resilient Kerala Program to continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks.**
- This financing complements the World Bank's earlier investment of \$125 million.

4. Kerala to roll out State-supported insurance scheme for MSMEs

- In a major boost to MSME's in Kerala, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir P Rajeev has announced that an insurance scheme for MSME units will be rolled out soon, with the State government bearing 50 per cent of the premium with a monetary cap.
- It has also been announced that the government will provide '1 lakh each to 1,000 MSME ventures of more than

three years of existence for scaling-up projects.

- As a part of this, up to '2 crore will also be given as capital investment for approved projects. The insurance scheme and other projects in the offing will substantially help the MSME sector.

Madhya Pradesh

1. MP Govt to launch CM Learn and Earn scheme

- In Madhya Pradesh, **Chief Minister's Learn and Earn scheme** - will be launched to teach employable skills to the youth. In the scheme, 703 work areas have been identified for training.
- **The most important aspect of this learn-and-earn scheme is that along with learning skills, the youth will also be given an allowance of Rs 8,000 to 10,000.**

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar in Maharashtra to be renamed as Ahilyanagar

- The **Maharashtra government has decided to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilyadevi Nagar after Maratha ruler Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar.**
- Chief minister Eknath Shinde made the announcement during the 298th birth anniversary celebrations of the hereditary noble queen of the Maratha Empire in Malwa.
- The renaming of Ahmednagar was the latest name-changing move taken by the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government, which had renamed Maharashtra's **Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and Dharashiv respectively in February.**

2. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde launches Asia's largest cluster development scheme in Thane

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has launched Asia's largest, ambitious and historic cluster.**
- This scheme was conceptualized for the collective redevelopment of unauthorized and official dangerous buildings after the collapse of the Sairaj Building in Thane which had claimed 18 lives development scheme in Thane.
- The redeveloped township plan includes well-equipped health, educational, sports, recreational, parking, mandi, and civic facilities.
- The CIDCO will execute the project. Under the project, the integrated redevelopment project will be done on the lines of townships.

3. SJVN, Mahagenco Sign Pact To Develop 5,000 MW Green Energy Projects In Maharashtra

- **SJVN signed an agreement with Mahagenco to develop renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 5,000 megawatts in Maharashtra.**
- Under the pact, the companies will explore the feasibility of setting up various renewable projects in Maharashtra, including hydro, pumped storage projects, wind, solar, hybrid and green hydrogen projects.
- Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN.

Nagaland

1. Reserve Bank of India opens Sub-office in Kohima, Nagaland

- **Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inaugurated the Sub-office of the RBI, in Kohima, Nagaland.**

- With this, the Reserve Bank has further expanded its presence in the north-eastern region (NER).
- Its presence in this region now includes Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland.

Tamil Nadu

1. Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest

- Tamil Nadu Minister for Sports Development and Youth Welfare Udhayanidhi Stalin felicitated **N Muthamizh Selvi, the first woman from Tamil Nadu to scale Mount Everest.**
- The 34-year-old woman from Johilpatti, Virudhunagar, reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 23, after 56 days of strenuous journey.

Telangana

1. India's Largest Private Rail Coach Factory Inaugurated In Telengana

- **Medha Servo Drives Private Limited, a Telangana-based company that designs and manufactures complex electrical and electronic railway products, inaugurated India's largest private rail coach factory in Kondakal village, Rangareddy district near Hyderabad.**
- The facility was opened by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.
- In 2017, Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and Medha Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a private rail coach factory.
- The factory, spread over 100 acres, will develop all types of railway rolling stock, including coaches, train sets, locomotives, Metro trains and Monorails.

- **Medha serves railway customers across the world through its subsidiary companies in Spain, Italy, USA, Brazil and Poland.**
- In a move to expand its rail coach manufacturing capabilities, Medha Servo Drives has signed a joint venture (JV) agreement with Swiss railway rolling stock manufacturer Stadler Rail. The JV will establish a new factory in Telangana.
- Stadler Rail, with its headquarters in Bussnang, Switzerland, has been a prominent player in the railway market for over 80 years. It has a dominant market share in the global railway rolling stock manufacturing industry.
- Medha is the largest manufacturer of traction motors for Railways and the largest Indian company supplying advanced signaling and safety systems.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Vijay Kumar appointed acting DGP of Uttar Pradesh, replacing R K Vishwakarma

- **Senior IPS officer Vijay Kumar will be the new acting DGP of Uttar Pradesh.**
- Vishwakarma had assumed charge as officiating DGP of the state on April 1 after the then-officiating DGP DS Chauhan had retired.
- Kumar, a 1988 batch officer, will continue to work as DG Vigilance and CB-CID.

2. UP govt signs MoU with Khan Academy to improve Maths skill of students

- **The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Khan Academy India to enhance Maths learning skills of over 500K students in the 48,000 state-run schools.**

- Khan Academy India is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in India to provide free, world-class education for millions of learners in India. It was founded in 2006.

3. Stamp duty relief for women-led MSMEs; UP to facilitate loans of Rs 20k cr

- To promote small businesses and start-ups, especially helmed by women entrepreneurs, the Uttar Pradesh government has announced a slew of incentives, which include a waiver of stamp duty.
- The business ventures set up by women in the comparatively backward regions of Purvanchal and Bundelkhand would get a 100 per cent stamp duty waiver, whereas the subsidy would be 75 per cent in other pockets. Such units would also be exempt from mandatory inspections for three years from inception, to allow these businesses to establish and proliferate without worrying about procedural complexities.
- The state government is gearing up to facilitate bank loans totalling Rs. 20,000 crore to the micro, small, and medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on easy terms. The state government has launched a slew of schemes to promote the MSME sector and make them globally competitive," UP MSME and khadi minister Rakesh Sachan said.

Chandigarh

1. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates 2 CGHS centres in Panchkula, Chandigarh

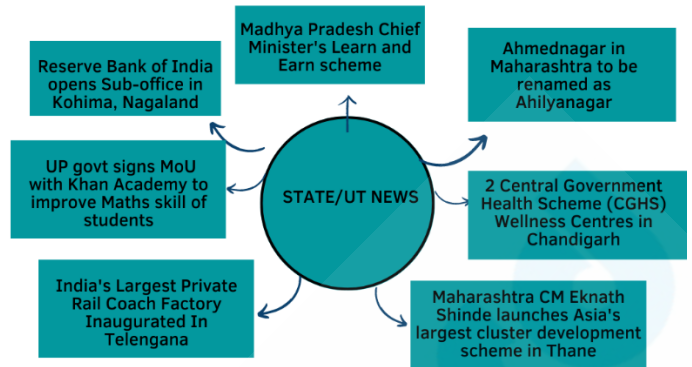
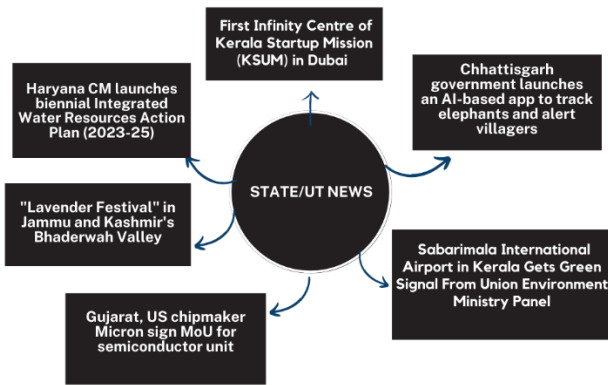
- **Union minister of health and family welfare Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated two Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Centres at Sector 29-C, Chandigarh, and Sector 16, Panchkula.**

- With this launch, the coverage of CGHS cities has expanded from 25 cities in 2014 to 80 in 2023.
- **CGHS is a health insurance scheme launched by the Indian government in 1954.**
- The central government health insurance scheme was introduced in 1954 for current as well as former employees of the central government. The Indian government has especially designed the scheme for the betterment of beneficiaries and to provide them medical advantages. CGHS provides health care through following systems of Medicine
 - Allopathic
 - Homoeopathic
 - Indian system of medicine
 - Ayurveda
 - Unani
 - Siddha and
 - Yoga

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'Lavender Festival' in J&K's Baderwah

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh on June 4 inaugurated the two-day "**Lavender Festival**" in **Jammu and Kashmir's Baderwah Valley** and said the Union Territory has emerged as the lavender capital of India and a prominent agri-startup destination.
- The festival has been organised by the CSIR-IIIM and is part of the institution's 'One Week One Lab Campaign'. It showcases the remarkable progress made in lavender cultivation and its impact on the local community



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Important CA

1. World Milk Day | 1st of June

- **World Milk Day is celebrated annually on June 1.** This day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and has been celebrated since 2001.
- According to worldmilkday.org, the theme of World Milk Day 2023 is **"Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods."**

Possible Question: The World Milk Day is celebrated annually on June 1. This day was established by the _____.

2. World Environment Day | 5th of June

- **World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5** to create awareness and encourage efforts to protect the environment.
- **This year the theme pertains to 'solutions to plastic pollution'** with celebrations being hosted by Cte D'Ivoire - or the Ivory Coast in west Africa. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day.
- Led by the United Nations Environment Programme, it was first established by the UN in 1972 during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Possible Question: World Environment is observed every year on June 5th, the theme for 2023 is

3. RBI Committee Reviewing Customer Service At Lenders Submits Report

- The **'Committee for Review of Customer Service Standards in RBI**

Regulated Entities' was constituted in May 2022 and was helmed by **BP Kanungo**, a former deputy governor of the RBI.

- A Reserve Bank of India committee for the review of customer service standards at Indian lenders has submitted its report.
- The committee was made up of a total of six members and its primary mandate was to evaluate and review the quality of the customer service, identify best practices, and suggest measures for making improvements. The committee observed that Indian regulations and standards on customer protection are largely aligned with international best practices.

- **Major recommendations made by the committee include:**
- RBI may consider making the charter of customer rights enforceable after reviewing and updating it.
- Customer service regulation should be consolidated under the principle of 'same activity, same regulation'.
- Regulated entities should keep a database of KYC documents of all customers, linked by a unique customer identifier to eliminate need for repeated KYC at the same entity.
- RBI should assess the quality of customer service through periodic and thematic studies at regulated entities.

- Sale of third-party products by a regulated entity's sales team should be subject to audit.
- There is a need to standardise ATM interfaces and ensure minimum functionalities at all ATMs.
- Customer-facing employees should get mandatory training in soft skills to reduce misbehaviour.
- RBI may consider stipulating a time limit for the regulated entities to return property documents to borrower from the date of closure of the loan.
- Regulated entities may provide alerts to customers during teachable moments, such as warning against sharing of credentials.
- RBI should lay down a definition of what constitutes a complaint against a regulated entity.
- RBI may develop and publish a "customer service and protection index" for regulated entities.

RBI may examine whether Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation cover may be extended to bank prepaid instruments and non-bank PPIs later.

Possible Question: The 'BP Kanungo Committee', constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2022 is related to _____.

4. Centre aims at covering refractories in PLI 2.0 to support 300 MT steel capacity target by 2030

- The Centre is looking to include **refractories in the upcoming Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for steel** as it aims at doubling the country's production capacity for the metal to 300 million tonne by 2030.
- Refractories are a critical input for steel production, and India depends on the import of the raw material.
- Refractories are materials used by the steel industry to line the internal furnaces for iron and steel making. While the cost of refractory amounts to only 2-3 per cent of steel production, it is an essential component without which not a single tonne of steel can be produced. Currently, India heavily depends on China for steel imports.

Possible Question: The Government of India has recently planned to include refractories in the the upcoming Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 to support 300 MT steel capacity target by _____.

5. G20 International Conference on "Cyber Security Exercise for Banking Sector" held at Mumbai

- An International Conference on "**Cyber Security Exercise for Banking Sector**" under India's G20 Presidency was jointly conducted by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India (GOI) in Mumbai.

Possible Question: An International Conference on "Cyber Security

Exercise for Banking Sector" under India's G20 Presidency was jointly conducted by _____ and _____.

6. Indian Navy's Varunastra Torpedo Hits Underwater Target With Precision

- **Indigenously designed and developed heavy weight torpedo (HWT) Varunastra was successfully test-fired with a live warhead against an undersea target, by the Indian Navy.**
- Varunastra was designed and developed by **Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited.**
- Varunastra is a ship-launched **anti-submarine torpedo** having low drift navigational systems, acoustic homing, advanced acoustic counter measure features, autonomous guidance algorithms, insensitive munitions warhead and a GPS-based recovery aid for practice torpedo, according to the Defence Ministry.

Possible Question: Which of the following statements is/are correct about "Varunastra"?

I) It is an indigenously build anti-submarine torpedo.
 II) It can be launched from a ship.
 III) It is enabled with the Global Positioning System.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

7. Monetary Policy Statement, 2023-24 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) June 6-8, 2023

- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- Kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50 per cent.
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains unchanged at 6.25 per cent.
- The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during August 8-10, 2023. Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been kept at 6.75 per cent.
- Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
- Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
- Bank Rate: 6.75%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- CRR: 4.50%
- SLR: 18.00%

Possible Question: On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on June 2023 kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at _____

8. RBI releases the results of Forward Looking Surveys

- The Reserve Bank of India released on its website the results of the following Surveys:
- Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) ' May 2023
- Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) ' May 2023
- Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators' Round¹ 82nd.

Possible Question: Which of the following survey reports are published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- I) Consumer Confidence Survey
- II) Inflation Expectations Survey of Households
- III) Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

9. Australia Crowned ICC World Test Champions With A 209-Run Win Over India

- **Australia are World Test Champions after completing a 209-run win over India** in the WTC Final at **The Oval**.
- **With this Australia became the first team to bag all world titles 'the ODI World Cup, T20 World Cup & the World Test Championship.**
- Australia, The champions of the ICC World Test Championship 2023 Final will receive an impressive prize of \$1.6 million.
- **Nathan Lyon** ended this Test Championship campaign as the world's highest wicket-taker.

Possible Question: Australia are World Test Champions after completing a _____ run win over India in the WTC Final at The Oval.

10. Novak Djokovic Wins Roland Garros For Historic 23rd Major Title

- **Novak Djokovic forged a new frontier in men's tennis at Roland Garros, where the Serbian great defeated Casper Ruud 7-6(1), 6-3, 7-5 to claim a record 23rd major title.**

- He eclipsed Rafael Nadal as the oldest Roland Garros champion at the age of 36 years and 20 days and became the first man to win all four Grand Slam events at least three times.
- With his win, the three-time Roland Garros titlist Djokovic also reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the Pepperstone ATP Rankings from Carlos Alcaraz.
- **Most Grand Slam Men's Singles Titles (All-Time)**
- Novak Djokovic- 23
- Rafael Nadal- 22
- Roger Federer- 20

Possible Question: Novak Djokovic forged a new frontier in men's tennis at Roland Garros, where the Serbian great defeated Casper Ruud 7-6(1), 6-3, 7-5 to claim a record 23rd major title. Casper Ruud is from which country?

11. Ireland's Harry Tector, Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong Clinch ICC Player of the Month Awards for May 2023

- While **Tector became the first Irish player to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award, Thipatcha's win means it is the second consecutive time Thailand won the Women's Player of the Month award** after skipper Naruemol Chaiwai's win in April.
- The left-arm spinner Thipatcha took 11 wickets in four T20Is at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Possible Question: Who among the following cricketers has received the ICC (International Cricket Council) Player of the Month Awards for May 2023?

12. RBI Not Planning To Regulate Social Media Influencers

- According to Governor Shaktikanta Das, the **Reserve Bank of India is not planning to issue any separate norms to regulate social media influencers pedalling their personal views on the financial markets since sector watchdog SEBI is already on it.**
- Social media influencers peddle personal views or those of those paying them on financial markets or stocks.
- Since January 2022, SEBI has been saying it would come out with regulations to tame the so-called financial influencers; it has not yet issued anything but has been acting selectively on such manipulators.
- Abusive market practices are prohibited under the provisions of the Sebi Act of 1993 and the SEBI (prohibition of fraudulent and unfair trade practises relating to the securities market) regulations of 2003.
- **Section 12 A of the SEBI Act prohibits any action of commission or omission relating to securities or issues via any scheme or device amounting to deceptive practises, fraudulent trade practises, unfair trade practises, or manipulative trade practises (collectively referred to as abusive market practises).**

Possible Question: Which section of the SEBI Act prohibits any action of commission or omission relating to securities or issues via any scheme or device amounting to deceptive practises, fraudulent trade practises, unfair trade practises, or manipulative trade practises (collectively referred to as abusive market practises).

13. Centre reduces 5% basic import duty on edible oils to ensure affordable prices for consumers

- **The Government has reduced the basic import duty on edible oils to ensure their availability to consumers at affordable prices.**
- The basic import duty on refined soyabean oil and refined sunflower oil was reduced **from 17.5 percent to 12.5 percent.**
- This came into effect on 16th April 2023 and will remain in force till the 31st of March next year.
- The import duties were last revised in October 2021 when they were brought down to 17.5 per cent from 32.5 per cent.

Possible Question: The Government has reduced the basic import duty on edible oils to ensure their availability to consumers at affordable prices. The basic import duty on refined soyabean oil and refined sunflower oil was reduced from _____ to _____.

14. NITI Aayog, UN sign the GoI-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

- **The Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 between the Government of India and the United Nations was signed today by NITI Aayog and the UN office.**
- According to the release, the GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on four strategic pillars derived from the 2030 Agenda ' People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation.
- The formulation of the GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 was led by NITI Aayog, on

behalf of the Government of India, with robust participation of line Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories.

- GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.

Possible Question: The Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework of _____ to _____ between the Government of India and the United Nations was signed today by NITI Aayog and the UN office.

15. Bhavani Devi becomes first Indian fencer to win medal in Asian Championships

- Olympian C.A. Bhavani Devi created history by securing India's first-ever medal 'a bronze' at the Asian fencing championships in Wuxi, China
- Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in a hard-fought semifinal 14-15 of the women's sabre event, but ensured India its maiden medal in the event.

Possible Question: Who among the following becomes the first Indian fencer to win a bronze medal in Asian Fencing Championship 2023?

16. SBI MD Swaminathan Janakiraman appointed as Reserve Bank of India deputy governor

- Swaminathan Janakiraman, Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), has been appointed as the deputy

governor of the Reserve Bank of India for the next three years.

- Janakiraman will succeed MK Jain who retires on June 21, 2023.
- The three other deputy governors of the bank are, M Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Debabrata Patra and T Rabi Sankar.

Possible Question: Who among the following has recently been appointed as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

17. 9th International Day of Yoga | 21 June, 2023

- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental, and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. The theme for International Yoga Day 2023 is 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,'.
- The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.
- The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly.

Possible Question: The theme for International Yoga Day 2023 is _____.

18. India climbs eight places to 127 in global gender index, says WEF report

- India has ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity --

an improvement of eight places from last year -- according to the World Economic Forum's annual Gender Gap Report, 2023.

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked **India at 135 out of 146 countries** in the Global Gender Gap Index in the report's 2022 edition.
- The report found that the overall gender gap has closed by 0.3 % point from last year.
- While India excels in enrollment across all education levels, economic participation and opportunity fall short at only 36.7% parity. Although wage and income parity have improved, the representation of women in senior and technical roles has slightly declined. In terms of political empowerment, India has made strides with a parity rate of 25.3%. Women now hold 15.1% of parliamentary seats, reflecting a positive trend in gender inclusivity.
- Health and survival indicators show notable improvement, with India's sex ratio at birth reaching 92.7%, a 1.9% increase from the previous year. This progress contributes to a 95% parity in health and survival, marking positive strides after a decade of slow advancement.
- The index ranked India's neighbours **Pakistan at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103.**
- **Iceland** is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year and the only one to have closed more than 90 per cent of its gender gap, according to the report.
- Out of the 117 countries with available data since 2017, 18 countries --

including Bolivia (50.4 per cent), India (44.4 per cent) and France (42.3 per cent) -- have achieved women's representation of over 40 per cent in local governance.

- The Global Gender Gap Report, now in its **17th edition**, benchmarks the evolution of gender-based gaps in four areas: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival; and political empowerment. It is the **longest-standing index** which tracks progress on closing these gaps since its inception in 2006. It also explores the impact of recent global shocks on the gender gap crisis in the labour market.

Possible Question: Which of the following statements is/are correct about the "Global Gender Gap Report 2023"?

I) It is published by the World Economic Forum.

II) India ranked 127th in terms of gender parity.

III) As per the report, the representation of women in senior and technical roles has slightly declined.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

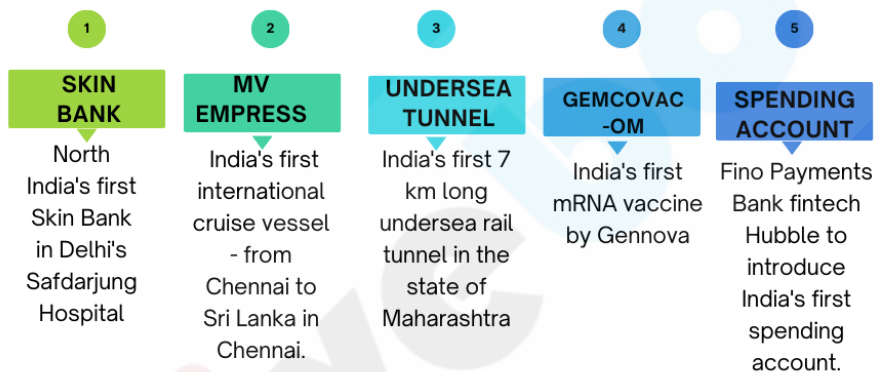
19. "National Statistics Day" celebrated on 29th June, 2023

- In recognition of the notable contributions made by (late) Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the field of statistics and economic planning, the Government of India has been celebrating his birth Anniversary, on 29th June, as 'Statistics Day', every year since 2007.

- Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Chairman, National Statistical Commission. Dr. G. P. Samanta, Chief Statistician of India & Secretary, MoSPI.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2023 is **“Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals”**.

Possible Question: The National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on 29th June in recognition of the notable contributions made by _____ in the field of statics and economic planning.

SOME FIRSTS



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BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Ashwani Kumar	Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank
Ajay Yadav	Managing Director at Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
Celeste Saulo	Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
P Upadhyay	Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)
Mrutyunjay Mohapatra	Vice-presidents of the World Meteorological Organisation
Dr Abdulla Al Mandous	President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar Anand	Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)
Janardan Prasad	Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)
Dennis Francis	President of the United Nations General Assembly
Prathapa Reddy	Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
Sanjay Swarup	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)
Pieter Elbers	Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo
Nitin Agarwal	Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)
Amit Agrawal	CEO Unique Identification Authority of India
Subodh Kumar Singh	Director General of The National Testing Agency
Amitava Mukherjee	Chairman & Managing Director of NMDC
N. S. Vishwanathan	Non-Executive (Part-time) Chairman of Axis Bank
P Vasudevan	Managing Director and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank
Ravi Sinha	Chief of Research and Analysis Wing
Sumit Seth	India's next ambassador to Panama
Hasmukh Adhia	Chairman of GIFT City Ltd
Petteri Orpo	Prime Minister of Finland
Eddie Wu	Chief Executive Officer of Alibaba
Michael Miebach	Board of directors of the U.S.-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)

Nutan Roongta	Director of the USA East Coast Chapter
Nusrat Jahan Choudhury	First Muslim woman to serve as a Federal judge
Rajat Verma	MD and Head of DBS Institutional Banking for India
Kyriakos Mitsotakis	Prime Minister of Greece
Aarti Holla-Maini	Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
Abhaya Prasad Hota	Part time chairman of the Federal Bank
Swaminathan Janakiraman	Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
1st June	World Milk Day	Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods
3rd June	World Clubfoot Day	
5th June	World Environment Day	Solutions to plastic pollution
7th June	World Food Safety Day	Food standards save lives
8th June	World Ocean Day	The Planet Ocean's Changing Tide.
12th June	World Day against Child Labour	
13th June	International Albinism Awareness Day	Inclusion is strength
14th June	World Blood Donor Day	Give blood, give plasma, share life
15th June	Global Wind Day	
15th June	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Day	
16th June	International Day of Family Remittances	Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction
18th June	World Sustainable Gastronomy Day	
19th June	National Reading Day	
20th June	World Refugee Day	
21st June	International Day of Yoga	Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

21st June	World Music Day	
23rd June	Olympic Day	
24th June	International Day for Women in Diplomacy	Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for Sustainable Development
25th June	Day of the Seafarer	
26th June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	People first: Stop stigma and discrimination
26th June	International Day in Support of Victims and Torture	
27th June	Micro-, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day	
28th June	National Insurance Awareness Day	
29th June	National Statistics Day	Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Esow Alben	Cycling
Manjeet	Wrestling
Manisha	Wrestling
Reetika	Wrestling
Sarita Mor	Wrestling
Abhinav Shaw	Shooting
Gautami Bhanot	Shooting
Rezoana Mallick Heena	Running
Bharatpreet Singh	Running
Amlan Borgohain	Sprinter
Sapna Kumari	Sprinter
Siddharth Choudhary	Shot Put
Dhanush Srikanth	Shooting
Harmehar Lally	Shooting
Sanjana Sood	Shooting
Iga Swiatek	Tennis
Naomi Osaka	Tennis
Rodrigo Hernandez Cascante	Football
Saurav Ghosal	Squash

Abhay Singh	Squash
Tanvi Khanna	Squash
Joshna Chinappa	Squash
PV Sindhu	Badminton
HS Prannoy	Badminton
Ankush	Wrestling
Anjali Devi	Running
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
Lallianzuala Chhangte	Football
Sunil Chhetri	Football
Cristiano Ronaldo	Football
Unai Simn	Football
Tajinderpal Singh Toor s	Shot put
Sutirtha Mukherjee	Table Tennis
Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis
Novak Djokovic	Tennis
Casper Ruud	Tennis
Nathan Lyon	Cricket
Harry Tector	Cricket
Thipatcha Putthawong	Cricket
Bhavani Devi	Fencing

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)	Infrastructure Development
Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)	Facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector
Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme	Exploration of Lignite
PM-PRANAM	Incentivise states to promote alternative fertilizers
Chief Minister's Learn and Earn scheme	Teach employable skills to the youth of Madhya Pradesh
Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)	Health Insurance Scheme

AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MOU THEME
NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)	Develop renewable energy parks in Uttar Pradesh
Tata group and Gujarat government	Build lithium-ion cell factory
Air India SATS and Uttar Pradesh Government	Develop a multi-modal cargo hub (MMCH) at the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar
NHPC Limited and Department of Energy, Government of Maharashtra	Development of Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects
National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) and Afcons Infrastructure Limited	Build India's first 7 km long undersea rail tunnel
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Amazon Kisan	Empower Farmers
SIDBI and NITI Aayog	Launched mission EVOLVE (Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem)
Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	Launched NBFC Growth Acceleration Program (NGAP)
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)	Synergise the professional capabilities of IICA and RRU
Tata Steel and SMS Group	Cut carbon emission and achieve net zero carbon emission by 2045
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Automin Car Services	Open co-branded HP-Petromin Express vehicle service centres
Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Kongsberg Maritime (KM)	Co-production of indigenous Water Jets (WJs)
Air India with Airbus and Boeing	Purchase agreements to buy 470 aircraft
Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and HFCL Limited	Indigenously develop and deploy emerging technologies and technical solutions to address the requirements of defence, telecom and railway sectors.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)	Collaborative partnership for empowering women
Ministry of Defence and M/s Adecco India Private Limited	Generate Employment for Ex- Servicemen
Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM)	Foster the growth of Self Help Groups

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and DRDO	Realisation of two Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System Modules for Kalvari Class of Submarines of the Indian Navy
GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)	Produce fighter jet engines for Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk-II Tejas
Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) and Kapoor Enterprises Inc	Export of nano liquid urea to the US
KABIL and Argentina	Secure Lithium Blocks
Tata AIA and WhatsApp	Instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options
L&T Technology and BSNL	5G network deployment
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)	Specialized education, research, training and innovation ecosystem for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
Government of India and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest in Tourism
Indian Railways and United States Agency for International Development/India	Develop Green Technology in Railways
Government of India and the United Nations	Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Sulochana Latkar	Actor
Commodore KS Subramanian	Defence
Gitanjali Aiyar	News Presenter
Alby D'Cruz	Kerala's first Ashoka Chakra recipient
Kausar Rizvi	News Presenter

BOOKS and AUTHORS

BOOK	AUTHOR
Ajay to Yogi Adityanath	Shantanu Gupta
From Independence to Emergency: India's Finance Ministers 1947-1977	AK Bhattacharya

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
1st India, France and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise	India, France and UAE
Carrier Battle Group(CBG) operation	Indian Navy
12th Ekuverin	India and Maldives
Julley Ladakh	Indian Navy

Ex Khaan Quest 2023	Multinational participation co-sponsored by Mongolia and USA
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INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and Vietnam	3rd Maritime Security Dialogue
India and Nepal	NHPC, India and VUCL, Nepal MoU for Karnali HEP
India and Sri Lanka	Energy integration with Grid Connectivity with India by 2030
India and UAE	UAE is India's 4th largest investor in FY23
India and Singapore	Largest investor in India in FY23
India and UAE	Target to increase non-oil trade to 100 bn USD by 2030
India and Sri Lanka	Digital Education in Galle District
India and Zimbabwe	RITES Ltd MoU with National Railways of Zimbabwe
India and Oman	Yoga
India and US	India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X)
India and Vietnam	Gifts INS Kirpan to Vietnam
India and US	Defence pacts on armed drones and jet engines
India and Philippines	Defence partnership

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY
ACKO Tech	General Atlantic
Ambit Private Ltd	Daiwa International Holdings
Trainman	Adani Group
HDFC Credila	BPEA EQT and ChrysCapital

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Divya Dutta	FIFI Award 2022 - Special Commendation in Young Achiever	Oil & Gas Industry
'When Climate Change Turns Violent' documentary	WHO special prize in 'Health for All' category	Health
Shaktikanta Das	Governor of the Year	Banking
5 buildings from Telangana	International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings	Environment
Madhya Pradesh won in Best state, Ganjam in Odisha in Best district	National Water Awards	
Gita Press, Gorakhpur	Gandhi Peace Prize 2021	
Arundhati Roy for her essay 'Azadi'	2023 European Essay prize for lifetime achievement	Literature

Ramachandra Guha's Rebels Against Raj	Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023	Literature
30 nurses	Florence Nightingale Awards for 2022 and 2023	Nursing service
22 Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 20 Yuva Puraskar for 2023 (Please find the winners list in the images after the table)	Sahitya Akademi	
NTPC	Team Marksmen's Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24	
Salman Rushdie	German Peace Prize 2023	Literature
Narendra Modi	Order of the Nile	Egypt's Highest Honour
Droupadi Murmu	Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star	Suriname's highest civilian honour

SAHITYA AKADEMI BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR 2023

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Powalmoni Aru Chichingar Duhxahaxik Abhijan (Novel)	Rothindranath Goswami
Bengali	Eroplaner Khata (Novel)	Shyamalkanti Das
Bodo	Gosaini Gwjwn Nwjwr (Short Stories)	Pratima Nandi Narzaree
Dogri	Kanjkan (Poetry)	Balwan Singh Jamoria
English	Grandparents' Bag of Stories (Stories)	Sudha Murty
Gujarati	Hun Myaun, Tun Choon Choon (Poetry & Stories)	Rakshababen Prahladrao Dave
Hindi	Kotuk App (Short Stories)	Suryanath Singh
Kannada	Surakki Gate (Novel)	Vijayashree Haladi
Konkani	Jaann (Novel)	Tukaram Rama Shet
Maithili	Oi Katra, Jhol Katra (Poetry)	Akshay Anand 'Sunny'
Malayalam	Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal (Novel)	Priya A.S.
Marathi	Chhand Dei Aanand (Poetry)	Eknath Avhad
Nepali	Bal Ekanki Natakharu (Play)	Madhusudan Bisht
Odia	Jejenka Gapa Ganthili (Short Stories)	Jugal Kishore Sarangi
Punjabi	Sachi Di Kahani (Short Stories)	Gurmeet Karyalvi
Rajasthani	Tabran Ri Duniyan (Memoir)	Kiran Badal
Sanskrit	Manavi (Novel)	Radhavallabh Tripathy
Santali	Nene-Pete (Short Stories)	Mansing Majhi
Sindhi	Vanganmal Ji Shaadi (Poetry)	Dholan Rahi
Tamil	Aadhanin Bommai (Novel)	Udhayasankar
Telugu	Vajrala Vaana (Short Stories)	D.K. Chaduvula Babu
Urdu	Mamta Ki Dor (Short Stories)	Late Mateen Achalpuri (Posthumous)

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2023

S.No	Language	Name of the Book (Genre)	Awardee's Name
1.	Assamese	Mon Mora Tora (Short Stories)	Jintu Gitartha
2.	Bengali	Mathrakha (Short Stories)	Hamiruddin Middya
3.	Bodo	Som, Jiu, Arw... (Poetry)	Mainaosri Daimary
4.	Dogri	Ahlada (Plays)	Dheeraj Bismil
5.	English	Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas (Historical)	Anirudh Kaniseti
6.	Gujarati	Get Together (Short Stories)	Sagar Shah
7.	Hindi	Chandpur Ki Chanda (Novel)	Atul Kumar Rai
8.	Kannada	Phoo Mattu Ithara Kathegalu (Short Stories)	Manjunayak Challur
9.	Kashmiri	Lalli Nilvath Tchali Na Zanh (Poetry)	Nighat Nasreen
10.	Konkani	Shots (Short Stories)	Tanvi Kamat Bambolkar
11.	Malayalam	Achante Alamara (Poetry)	Ganesh Puthur
12.	Marathi	Swatahala Swataviruddh Ubhe Kartana (Poetry)	Vishakha Vishwanath
13.	Nepali	Ghat-Pratighatka Udgarharu (Poetry)	Naina Adhikari
14.	Punjabi	Chitt Da Jugraphia (Poetry)	Sandeep
15.	Rajasthani	Antas Ro Olmo (Poetry)	Devilal Mahiya
16.	Santali	Dusi (Short Stories)	Bapi Tudu
17.	Sindhi	Glamour (Short Stories)	Monika J. Panjwani
18.	Tamil	Thirukarthiyal (Short Stories)	Ram Thangam
19.	Telugu	Vivechani (Criticism)	Johny Takkedasila
20.	Urdu	Zahan Zaad (Short Stories)	Tauseef Bareilvi

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
G20 conference on Cyber Security Exercise for Banking Sector		Mumbai
G20 3rd Employment Working Group		Geneva
Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats Forum Meet		New Delhi
27th Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs meet		New Delhi
Oil and Gas Conference		Suriname
2025 World Conservation Conference		UAE
StartUp20 Engagement Group Meeting		Goa
G20 Development Ministers' Conclave		Varanasi
2025 IAS Annual Conference		Kochi
Women 20 Summit		Mamallapuram

Annecy International Animation Festival (AIAF)		France
25th SEACEN-FSI Conference		Mumbai
Intersolar Europe 2023		Munich
International Commission on Large Dams annual meeting		Gothenburg, Sweden
3rd G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting		Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
Banking on World Heritage exhibition		New Delhi

COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
Committee for Review of Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities	RBI	BP Kanungo

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Gender Gap Report 2023	World Economic Forum (WEF)	127/146	Iceland
All-India House Prize Index	RBI		
Best Indian Brands 2023	Interbrand	TCS, Reliance and Infosys - Top 3	
NIRF Ranking 2023	Ministry of Education	IIT Madras	
Global Economic Prospects	World Bank	India growth - 6.3 for FY24	
UPI transactions in May 2023	NPCI	9.41 billion transactions(941 crores)	
Most valuable football club of Europe	Football Benchmark Report	Manchester City	
Report on 'Health impact of Jal Jeevan Mission	WHO		
Digital transactions for 2022	MyGovIndia data	India topped with 89.5 million transactions	
2023 Cost of Living Survey	Mercer	Mumbai - 147, New Delhi - 169, Chennai - 184,	Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich - top 3

		Bengaluru - 189.	
The Global 2000 list for 2023	Forbes	Reliance Industries- 45, SBI - 77, HDFC - 128, ICICI - 163, NTPC - 433rd	JPMorgan Chase, Saudi Aramco and ICBC (China) - Top 3
Global Slavery Index 2023	Walk Free	India prevalence rate - 8 (prevalence rate is estimated people in modern slavery per 1000 population)	North Korea prevalence - 104.6
Attractive Employer Brand	Randstad Employer Brand Research 2023		Tata Power Company, Amazon and Tata Steel - top 3
Most valuable private company in India	Hurun India	Top 3 - Reliance, TCS and HDFC	
Global Liveability Index 2023	Economist Intelligence Unit	New Delhi and Mumbai at 141, Chennai - 144	Top 2 - Vienna and Copenhagen
Asia's highest source of international travellers in 2022	IPK International		India
The Global Startup Ecosystems Report 2023	Startup Genome	Bengaluru - 20th	Silicon Valley topped, New York City and London were tied at No 2
GDP growth	S&P Global Ratings	India's at 6% for FY24	
World University Rankings 2024	QS	IIT Bombay - 149	India is 7th globally and 3rd in Asia
Energy Transition Index	WEF	67th	Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland - Top 5
Men's Football Rankings	FIFA	100th	Argentina, France and Brazil - Top 3
Children and Armed Conflict 2023	UNSG	India dropped from the report after 12 years.	

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	SEBI in news	IRDAI in news	SIDBI in news
RBI allows remittances under LRS for paying fees to foreign institutions in IFSCs	Tata Technologies IPO gets approval from Sebi	Go Digit Life Insurance gets Irdai nod to carry life insurance business in India	Sidbi ties up with the Niti Aayog to finance 50,000 EVs for MSMEs
RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, June 2023	SEBI comes out with framework for execution-only platforms for investing in direct MF schemes		GAME and SIDBI launch 'NBFC Growth Accelerator Program' to ease funding woes of MSMEs
Reserve Bank of India opens Sub-office in Kohima, Nagaland	SEBI slashes IPO listing time to 3 days		
RBI Committee Reviewing Customer Service At Lenders Submits Report			
RBI releases the results of Forward Looking Surveys			
RBI Not Planning To Regulate Social Media Influencers			

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
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance

	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
SarbanandaSonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Earth Sciences
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
ParshottamRupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Arjun Meghwal	Ministry of Law and Justice

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