

March 2023

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Banking & Finance

1. HDFC first private bank to tie up with IRCTC for co-branded credit card

- India's largest private sector bank HDFC announced a partnership with IRCTC to launch 'IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card' which provides exclusive benefits on bookings through IRCTC website & app, lounge access, besides others.
- Earlier, IRCTC has only partnered with SBI and Bank of Baroda for this travel segment of the card.
- Ms. Rajni Hasija- Chairman & Managing Director, IRCTC
- Sashidhar Jagdishan- CEO HDFC Bank

2. RBI Launches Two Surveys To Gather 'Useful Inputs' For Monetary Policy

- The Reserve Bank of India launched two key surveys, results of which provide "useful inputs" for the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy.
- One of the surveys is to know **inflation expectations of households** and the other is to gauge the **consumer confidence**. They are the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS).
- The March 2023 round of Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), RBI said, aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 19 cities.

- The cities are: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- The latest round of Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is aimed at gathering qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending.
- Consumer confidence study too is conducted in 19 cities.

3. Bajaj Finserv Gets SEBI Licence To Commence Mutual Fund Business

- Bajaj Finserv, one of India's leading and diversified financial services groups, has received the final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India to start its mutual fund operations as Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund.
- The Indian mutual fund industry has assets worth Rs 39.62 lakh crore and has **42** asset management companies working in the sector as on January 2023.
- **Sanjiv Bajaj**- Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv

4. Sebi imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on MCX in data entry norms case

- Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of **Rs 6 lakh** on Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) for flouting norms in a case pertaining to data entries of Sikkim-based clients.

- The matter relates to incorrect input of State code and City code as Sikkim by seven trading members of MCX in the UCC (Unique Client Code) database.

5. SBI announces completion of \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility

- State Bank of India has announced the completion of a **\$1 billion** Syndicated Social Loan Facility.
- This transaction is significant for SBI and the Indian ESG financing market since it is the largest ESG loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the second-largest social loan globally.
- This is the bank's inaugural social loan and the first syndicated loan in 5 years.

6. NSE get SEBI nod to launch WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India allowed the **National Stock Exchange**, the largest stock exchange in India, authorization to introduce futures contracts for **NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas (Henry Hub)** in its Commodity derivatives section.
- The approval would enable NSE to market rupee-denominated derivative contracts for Indian market players.
- NSE started trading in derivatives with the launch of index futures in **2000** and later set up index options trading. Commodity derivatives segment of the exchange provides trading in futures. The current instruments

that are available on bullion and energy futures.

- NSE is the **world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume** (contracts) as per Futures Industry Association (FIA) for **2022**.
- The exchange is ranked **third** in the world in the cash equities by number of trades for 2022, according to the World Federation of Exchanges

7. State Bank of India completes first commercial trade in Sri Lankan rupees

- Indian lender **State Bank of India** completed its first non-dollar transaction with Sri Lanka, by paying for exports in Sri Lankan rupees as India looks to bring countries that are short of U.S. dollars into the trade mechanism.
- The move comes as Sri Lanka grapples with its worst economic crisis since its independence, triggered by a shortage of dollars.

8. RBI imposes Rs 3.06 Crore penalty on Amazon Pay (India)

- Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of **three crore six lakh sixty six thousand rupees** on Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited for non-compliance of certain directions related to Prepaid Payment Instruments and Know Your Customer.
- Amazon Pay is the digital payment arm of e-commerce giant Amazon.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalty of Rs 3,06,66,000/- (Rupees three crore six lakh sixty six thousand

only) on Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited (the entity) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) dated August 27, 2021 (as updated from time to time) and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016 (as updated from time to time).

- This would encourage every person to become a digital payment user.
- The Reserve Bank of India will also initiate a '**75 Digital Villages**' programme in observance of 75 years of Independence. Under this programme, Payment System Operators (PSOs) will adopt 75 villages across the country and convert them into digital payment enabled villages.

9. RBI puts restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank; caps withdrawal

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a **Rs 5,000 cap** on withdrawals by individual customers from Tamil Nadu-based Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank as part of several restrictions slapped on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition.
- The restrictions on the lender will remain in force for six months from the close of business on March 3 and are subject to review.

10. Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023 'Launch of Mission "Har Payment Digital"'

- Reserve Bank of India Governor launched the Mission '**Har Payment Digital**' on the occasion of the Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023.
- DPAW 2023 will be observed from March 6 to 12, 2023.
- The campaign theme is "**Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhiSikhao**"(Adopt digital payments and Also teach others).

11. Yes Bank and Aadhar Housing Finance ink co-lending partnership

- Yes Bank said it has partnered with Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd to offer home loans at competitive interest rates to customers from lower and middle-income groups.
- With this partnership, both entities aim to provide, convenient home finance solutions such as home loan for salaried employees, loan for plot purchase and construction etc.
- **Rishi Anand**- CEO and MD, Aadhar Housing Finance

12. RBI initiates 75 digital villages programme

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a programme to adopt 75 villages and convert them into digital payment enabled villages.
- Under the initiative, payment system operators (PSOs) will adopt these villages across the country and conduct two camps in each of these villages with an aim to improve awareness and

onboard merchants for digital payments.

13. Tata Motors unit Tata Technologies files IPO papers with SEBI

- Tata Technologies Ltd., a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd., has filed a draft red herring prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an initial public offering.
- The company plans on selling up to 9.5 crore shares, representing approximately 23.6 percent of its paid-up share capital through the IPO.
- **Warren Harris** is the CEO and Managing Director (MD) at Tata Technologies Ltd.
- **DRHP is a document that consists of the company's financial details, future prospects, and other key aspects regarding the business, and is being filed to the regulator to raise money essentially via public offerings of its shares.**
- Founded in 1989, Tata Technologies is a global engineering and product development and it offers services to automotive, aerospace, industrial heavy machinery and other industries work.

14. Axis Bank partners with ITC to offer rural lending products to farmers

- Axis Bank joined hands with FMCG giant ITC to offer lending products and services to farmers who are a part of ITC's agriculture eco-system.
- Under the tie-up, the bank will leverage **ITCMAARS** (Meta Market

for Advanced Agricultural Rural Services), a full-stack Agri-tech application for reaching out to the farmers and addressing their financial requirements.

15. Bank of Baroda board approves 49 per cent stake divestment in BFSL

- The Bank of Baroda board has approved for divestment up to 49 per cent of Bank's shareholding in its 100 per cent owned subsidiary i.e. BOB Financial Solutions Ltd. (BFSL), and issuance of an advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest, from Suitable Investors/Strategic Partners to acquire shareholding of BOB in BFSL.
- **BOB currently holds 100 per cent of the total equity share capital of BFSL**

16. RBI releases data on ECB / FCCB / RDB for January 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 January 2023.

17. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Nuvama Wealth Finance Ltd. (formerly known as Edelweiss Finance & Investments Limited), Mumbai

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '9.60 lakh (Rupees Nine lakh sixty

thousand only) on Nuvama Wealth Finance Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Finance and Investments Limited) (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016.

- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58 G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of **section 58 B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**

18. RBI imposes monetary penalty on HDFC, IGH Holdings for non-compliance

- The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of **'5 lakh on Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC)** and **'11.25 lakh on IGH Holdings Private Limited** respectively.
- RBI imposed penalty on HDFC for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010 issued by the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- RBI has also imposed penalty of **'11.25 lakh** on IGH Holdings Private Limited, Mumbai for non-compliance.
- The inspection of the company revealed that the company failed to comply with the statutory requirement of transferring 20 per cent of the net profit as disclosed in its profit and loss account for the financial year 2020-21 to the Reserve Fund.

19. Canara Bank launches Rupay Credit Card through UPI

- Canara Bank, in collaboration with NPCI, has launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app.
- This will enable small merchants to increase sales turnover and business at a low cost.
- Presently, customers with Canara Bank Rupay credit card variants - Rupay Classic, Rupay Platinum and Rupay Select) can link their cards to UPI.

20. RBI imposes Rs 2.27-cr penalty on RBL Bank for non-compliance with rules on recovery agents

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by it on **'Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018'**, **'Fair Practices Code for Lenders'**, **'Credit Card Operations of Banks'**, **'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks'** and **'Recovery Agents engaged by Banks'**.
- Meanwhile, the RBI has also imposed penalties on several cooperative banks for contravention of its different norms.
- The cooperative banks on which penalties have been imposed include **Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, Solapur;** **JilaSahakariKendriya Bank Maryadit, Raisen;** **Smriti NagrikSahakari Bank Maryadit,**

Mandsaur; Raigad Sahakari Bank, Mumbai; Noble Co-operative Bank, Noida; and Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank, Jalandhar.

21. RBI's Data Centre And Cybersecurity Training Institute To Come Up In Bhubaneswar

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das laid the foundation stone of the central bank's data centre and an institute for computing and cybersecurity training in **Bhubaneswar**.
- The new greenfield data centre and the Enterprise Computing and Cybersecurity Training Institute will cater to the emerging requirements of the Reserve Bank of India and the financial sector.

22. CRIF Connect Private gets RBI license to operate as NBFC account aggregator

- CRIF Connect Private, a subsidiary of CRIF S.p.A, has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to commence operations as an NBFC Account Aggregator.
- It is an end-to-end encrypted platform that securely fetches and transfers a consumer's financial data based on their explicit consent between financial institutions, making data sharing extremely safe based on RBI guidelines

23. Axis Bank launches 'MicroPay' based on 'Pin on Mobile' technology for digital payments

- The first pocket-sized swipe reader in India based on "Pin on

Mobile" technology was introduced by Axis Bank. As the technological solution partner, the bank introduced 'MicroPay' along with Ezetap by Razorpay and MyPinpad.

- The bank describes the small, inexpensive card reader as a pocket-sized gadget that allows both "insert" and "tap" options for debit and credit cards.
- Customers can enter their PIN on the merchant's smartphone by using this safe card reader, which is Bluetooth-connected to the device.
- The security of the PIN is ensured by being compliant with PCI standards for Software-based PIN Entry on COTS (SPoC) phones, the bank said.

24. HDFC approved issuance of NCDs worth Rs 57,000 cr ahead of its merger with HDFC Bank

- The board of Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd approved the issue of redeemable non-convertible debentures worth **Rs 57,000 crore** in various tranches.
- The board also approved an increase of HDFC's borrowing capacity from Rs 6 lakh crore to Rs 6.5 lakh crore.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)**, HDFC and HDFC Bank shareholders, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, and the Competition Commission of India had previously granted HDFC the necessary approvals (CCI).

- The HDFC-HDFC Bank merger, announced on **April 4, 2022**, is regarded as one of the largest in Indian corporate history.
- In terms of market value, the merger is expected to produce the third largest firm in the country, with the combined entity expected to have a combined asset base of roughly Rs 18 lakh crore.
- Following the completion of the transaction and merger, existing HDFC shareholders will own 41% of the bank.

25. RBI imposes Rs 30 lakh penalty on Karur Vysya Bank for rule violations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Karur Vysya Bank for violating rules.
- A **Select Scope Inspection (SSI)** of the bank conducted by RBI revealed that the bank failed to report a few accounts as frauds to RBI within a week of the respective Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) decision to do so.
- Karur Vysya Bank headquarters: Karur in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Shri B Ramesh Babu- MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank.
- Karur Vysya Bank was set up in Karur in **1916** by the Late Shri M A VenkataramaChettiar and the Late Shri Athi Krishna Chettiar.

26. NPCI recommends up to 1.1% interchange fee on UPI transactions of over '2,000 via PPIs

- National Payments Corporation of India notified that an interchange fee of up to **1.1%** will be applicable

on merchant UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions done using prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)'wallets or cards with effect from **April 1**.

- Charge will be levied on UPI payments of over **Rs.2,000** made to online merchants, large merchants and small offline merchants.
- In the card payment industry, interchange fee is the charge that merchants pay to issuer banks for every credit and debit card transaction.
- The fee covers costs related to authentication, verification and processing systems at different levels of debit and credit cards transactions.

27. IDFC First Bank partners Crunchfish to demonstrate offline retail payments

- IDFC First Bank has partnered with Swedish company Crunchfish to pilot a project to demonstrate offline retail payments.
- Crunchfish designed this unique digital payment solution for merchants and customers under the RBI's Regulatory Sandbox Program.
- **Regulatory Sandbox was established in 2020 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- This project will provide support for offline retail payments based on a Digital Cash platform to the payment ecosystem of India.
- IDFC FIRST Bank will be one of the first few banks to be a part of this pilot project by HDFC Bank.

- IDFC First Bank was formed by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank and Capital First.

28. World Bank Okays \$363 Million Loan To Karnataka For Rural Water Supply Programme

- World Bank approved a **\$363 million**(Rs 2,988.14 crore) loan to **Karnataka** to provide clean drinking water supply to 2 million rural households in the state through a piped water connection in their homes.
- Almost 77% of Karnataka state is spread across arid or semi-arid region which is vulnerable to climate-change-related variable rainfall



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Economy

1. India's GDP registers growth of 4.4% in October-December third quarter of current fiscal

- India's Gross Domestic Production registered a growth of **4.4%** in the October-December third quarter of the current fiscal.
- "GDP in the third quarter of 2022-23 is estimated at **Rs40.19 lakh crore**, as against **Rs 38.51 lakh crore** in third quarter of 2021-22, showing a growth of 4.4 percent," the Union ministry of statistics said in a release.
- For the 2022-23 fiscal, the real GDP is estimated to grow at **7 percent** as compared to **9.1 percent** in 2021-22, the ministry statement said.
- While Nominal GDP for the year is estimated to grow at **15.9 percent**, the statement added.

2. GST collections rise 12 per cent to Rs 1.49 lakh-crore in February

- Over **1.49 lakh crore rupees** gross Goods and Service, Tax revenue was collected in February.
- GST revenue collection has registered 12 per cent growth in February in comparison to the same period of the previous financial year.
- In February 2022, over one lakh 33 thousand crore rupees were collected as GST revenue.

3. Manufacturing firms record lower sales growth in Q3: RBI data

- Listed manufacturing companies recorded lower sales growth of **10.6 per cent** in the December quarter of the current fiscal compared to **20.9 per cent** in the previous quarter, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The moderation in the manufacturing companies was broad-based across the industries, except for cement.
- Over all, sales growth of listed **private non-financial companies** moderated to **12.7 per cent** in third quarter of 2022-23 from **22.6 per cent** in the previous July-September period.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released data on the performance of the private corporate sector during the third quarter of 2022-23 drawn from abridged quarterly financial results of 2,779 listed non-government non-financial companies.
- However, **Information technology (IT) companies** remained on high growth trajectory and recorded **19.4 per cent** rise in sales.

4. India's unemployment rate rose to 7.45% from 7.14% in January

- India's unemployment rate rose to **7.45%** in February from 7.14% in the previous month, data from the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**.
- The urban unemployment rate declined to 7.93% in February from

8.55% in the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate rose to 7.23% from 6.48%, the data showed.

5. Daily UPI transactions jump 50% to 36 crore: RBI

- Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said payments through UPI have grown exponentially in the past 12 months with daily transactions crossing 36 crores, which is up 50 per cent from 24 crore in February 2022.
- In value terms, these transactions are worth '6.27 lakh crore, registering a growth of 17 per cent from '5.36 lakh crore in February 2022.

6. India's per capita income doubles since 2014-15: NSO

- India's per capita income has doubled to **Rs 1,72,000** in nominal terms since 2014-15, according to the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- As per the NSO, the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at **Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15**, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent.
- However, uneven income distribution remains a challenge, with most of the increase benefiting the top 10% of the population.
- According to **IMF** projections, India has overtaken the UK to become the **world's fifth-largest economy**

and is now behind only the US, China, Japan and Germany.

- A decade back, India was ranked 11th among the large economies while the UK was at the fifth position.

7. Govt releases Rs 1.4 trn monthly instalment tax devolution to states

- The Central Government has released the **14th instalment** of tax devolution to State governments amounting to **1,40,318 crore rupees**.
- The monthly instalment for March is much more than the normal monthly devolution of Rs 70,159 crore made for states.
- **Uttar Pradesh** received the highest instalment of Rs 24,783 crore among all states.
- **41%** of taxes collected by the Centre is devolved in 14 instalments among states in a FY.
- This is in line with the commitment of the Union government to strengthen the hands of States to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure, it added.
- Currently, 41 per cent of taxes collected by the Centre is devolved in 14 instalments among States in a financial year.
- As per data by the **Controller General of Accounts**, the Centre has devolved **6.68 lakh crore rupees** to States in the current financial year during April-January, up 22.4 per cent from last year.

8. India's industrial production growth recovers to 5.2% in January

- Growth in factory output, or index for industrial production, recovered to a 2-month high of 5.2% in Jan, from 4.7% in December, on the back of a lower base and double-digit growth in the electricity output, the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** on March 10 showed.
- 10 of 23 manufacturing sectors contracted in Jan.

9. India's net direct tax collections up 16.8% to Rs 13.73 lakh crore till March 10

- India's Net Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, increased by **16.78 per cent** to **Rs 13.73 lakh crore**, stated the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- The growth in direct tax mop-up, which comprises personal income tax and corporate taxes, was driven by PIT collections.
- The gross collection grew 22.58 per cent to Rs 16.68 lakh crore.

10. Retail inflation drops marginally to 6.44 per cent in February 2023

- India's retail inflation edged down slightly to **6.44 per cent** in **February** from January's 3-month high of 6.52 per cent, according to the data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** based retail inflation was 6.52 per cent in January, after declining to

a one-year low level of 5.72 per cent in December.

- Inflation in the food basket in Feb 2023 was at 5.95 per cent, up from 5.94 percent in January, as per the government data.
- The food basket has weightage of 39.06% in the overall Consumer Price Index.

11. FY23 exports to cross \$750 billion

- Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that India's goods and services exports will cross **\$750 billion** in the financial year 2022-23, and that country is expanding rupee trade with several countries, many of which are at an advanced stage of dialogue and finalisation.
- Earlier, exports used to hover at around USD 500 billion every year,
- India's merchandise exports during April-January this fiscal have increased to USD 369.25 billion as against USD 340.28 billion in the same period last year.
- Services exports during the 10-months period are estimated at USD 272 billion.

12. India is 3rd largest fish producing country, contributing 8 % to the global fish production

- India is the **third** largest fish producing country, contributing **8 percent** to the global fish production and ranks **second** in aquaculture production.
- The fish production in 2021-22 is **16.24 Million Tonnes** comprising of marine fish production of 4.12

Million Tonnes and 12.12 Million Tonnes from Aquaculture.

- Since the launch of the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** in the year 2020-21, the overall fish production in the country has shown an increasing trend, registering a fish production of 162.48 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20.

13. S&P keeps India's economic growth forecast unchanged at 6% for FY24

- According to **S&P Global Ratings**, India's economic growth is projected to be at **6%** in the fiscal year starting April, rising to 6.9% in the following fiscal year.
- In a quarterly update for the Asia-Pacific region, the agency saw inflation rate easing to 5% in 2023-24 fiscal, from 6.8% in the current financial year.
- The agency's projections for the country's GDP saw the indicator growing by 7% in the current financial year (ending March 31), later slowing down to 6% in 2023-24. S&P expected the Reserve Bank of India to raise its already high policy rate further following a recent upside surprise to inflation.

14. India unveils Foreign Trade Policy 2023 eyes USD 2 trillion exports by 2030

- The government released the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**, which aimed to increase the country's exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030.
- The policy proposes to shift from an incentives-based regime to a

remission and entitlement-based one to achieve this goal.

- The recently launched FTP 2023 highlights the identification of four new Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) - **Faridabad, Moradabad, Mirzapur, and Varanasi** - in addition to the existing 39 TEEs.
- One of the key features of the FTP 2023 is the extension of its benefits to e-commerce exports, which are predicted to reach USD 200-300 billion by 2030.
- The value limit for exports through courier service is being increased from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh** per consignment.
- The new FTP also seeks to make the Indian rupee a global currency and allow international trade settlement in the domestic currency.

National

1. UIDAI rolls out new security mechanism for robust fingerprint-based Aadhaar authentication

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under the **Ministry of Electronics and IT** has successfully rolled out a new security mechanism for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication, and faster detection of spoofing attempts.
- The artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML)-based security mechanism has been developed in-house.
- The new two-factor/layer authentication is adding add-on checks to validate the genuineness (liveness) of the fingerprint so as to further cut down the chances of spoofing attempts.
- **About UIDAI:** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** ('Aadhaar Act 2016') on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The Aadhaar Act 2016 has been amended by the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 (14 of 2019) w.e.f. 25.07.2019.

2. World's longest river cruise Ganga Vilas successfully completes its maiden journey in Dibrugarh, Assam

- World's longest river cruise MV Ganga Vilas successfully completed its maiden journey at **Bogibeelin Dibrugarh**.
- PM Modi had virtually flagged off the cruise on 13th January this year from Varanasi.
- 26 Swiss and 2 German tourists travelled in the cruise.
- During the 50 days journey, the river cruise travelled 3200 km through 27 river systems in 5 states & Bangladesh.

3. Cabinet Approves Procurement of 70 Trainer Aircraft From Hindustan Aeronautics For Rs 6,828 Crore

- The Union Cabinet has approved procurement of **70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft** from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a cost of **Rs 6,828.36 crore**.
- The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years. HTT-40 is a turboprop aircraft designed to have good low-speed handling qualities and provide better training effectiveness.
- The Cabinet has also approved to sign a contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for the acquisition of three cadet training ships at an overall cost of Rs 3,108 crore. The delivery of ships is scheduled to commence in 2026.

4. Spices Board celebrates 36th Anniversary

- Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India), the flagship organization for the development

and worldwide promotion of Indian spices, was constituted on **26th February 1987** with the merger of erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council.

- The Board functions an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad.
- On 36 Foundation Day, Spices Board organised a nation-wide campaign - '**Clean & Safe Spice**'

5. In a first in the country, a short-haul coastal container feeder service is launched between Chennai and Puducherry

- In a move aimed at reducing road congestion and to infuse industrial development in the Union Territory, a container feeder service between Chennai and Pondicherry Ports was launched.
- The service is part of the Union Government's Sagarmala scheme.
- For this, the government decided to develop the Pondicherry Port as the satellite port of Chennai Port for container cargo.

6. UNDP & NITI Aayog hold LIFEathon to create pro-planet network

- A virtual hackathon aimed at promoting sustainable living and climate-positive behavior jointly organized by **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **NITI Aayog** brought together over 400 young people.
- The hybrid event, called '**LIFEathon**,' brought together young people from 60+ countries to share ideas and innovations for

individual action towards climate change.

- The hackathon was part of the Indian government's Mission LiFE campaign, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Gujarat last year.
- This campaign aims to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles by encouraging small individual actions, such as using less plastic and waste less food, and taking public transport.
- UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery inaugurated the event, where hundreds of ideas were brainstormed and submitted.
- The best ideas received during the hackathon will be tested or piloted in India and presented at the LiFE Global Conference in June 2023.

7. World's First 200-Meter-Long Bamboo Crash Barrier, Bahu Balli, Installed On The Vani-Warora Highway

- A **200-meter-long-bamboo crash barrier**, named Bahu Balli, has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha, **Maharashtra** by NHAI.
- The recycling value of the bamboo barrier is 50-70% whereas that of steel barriers is 30-50%.
- The bamboo species used in the making of this barrier is Bambusa Balco, which is treated with creosote oil and coated with recycled HDPE.

- **High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE)** is a thermoplastic polymer made from petroleum.
- The crash barriers are a necessity along the highways to keep off cattle and other animals to prevent accidents due to cattle stray.
- The Bamboo Crash Barrier, which has been christened '*Bahu Balli*', underwent rigorous testing at various government-run institutions such as the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore and was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee.
- Additionally, it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress.

8. The unique flagship initiative 'Dhara: An Ode to Indian Knowledge Systems' of Ministry of Culture completes one year

- The unique and flagship initiative '**Dhara: Ode to Indian Knowledge Systems**', taken up under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has completed one year in February 2023.
- Through activities, it has been successful in creating public awareness, stakeholder participation and helped to devise a framework for the promotion and revival of multiple domains of knowledge system.
- Dhara embodies that idea of 'continuous flow' of knowledge and wisdom from one age to another, being adopted, questioned and

modified over time so that we not only move ahead to the next level of insights across various fields but do so on the back of the work that is already available to us from our past.

- The **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** Division of the Ministry of Education located at AICTE, New Delhi is the key execution partner for Dhara events.

9. Sale of gold jewellery hallmarked without six-digit code to be banned from next month

- Government has decided to ban the sale of gold jewellery and gold artefacts hallmarked without a six-digit code from next month.
- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** in a statement said that the decision has been taken to ensure quality culture in micro sale units.
- The decision was taken after a review meeting of the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- The Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has prohibited the sale of hallmarked gold jewellery or gold artefacts without **6-digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID)** after **31st March 2023**.
- **Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID)** number is a six-digit alphanumeric code consisting of numbers and letters.
- The Ministry informed that in an effort to promote quality culture in micro scale units, BIS is providing an 80 per cent concession on the certification/minimum marking fee

across various product certification schemes of BIS.

- It said additionally, units located in the North-East will continue to receive an extra 10 per cent concession.

10. President DroupadiMurmu today launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain 2023 campaign

- President DroupadiMurmu launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain 2023** campaign in New Delhi.
- The theme of the campaign is source sustainability for drinking water.
- Recognising the roles of the women in water conservation and sanitation, the President conferred the '**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**'.
- The award is presented under various categories of the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission.
- The awards were given to acknowledge the leadership and contribution of women of grassroot level in the journey towards making of a SwachSujal Bharat.
- On the occasion, she also launched a video on 'Jal Shakti se Nari Shakti' and a commemorative stamp.
- The President released 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhivyakti', which is a compendium of case stories from Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission.

11. LS Speaker Om Birla & MSME Minister Narayan Rane inaugurate MSME's Industrial Exhibition and Fair at Kota in Rajasthan

- LS Speaker Om Birla and Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane inaugurated the MSME's Industrial Exhibition and Fair at Kota in Rajasthan.
- More than 300 MSME's entrepreneurs from across the country are participating in the fair.
- These include MSME's working in the engineering sector, startups, Khadi and village industries, agriculture and food processing, foreign exports.

12. Sterlite Power commissions its largest green energy corridor Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Project

- Sterlite Power said that it has successfully commissioned its largest green energy corridor in Gujarat called **Lakadia-Vadodara Transmission Project**.
- The project aims to deliver more than 5,000 MW of power from renewable-rich regions of Bhuj and Kutch to the national grid, a step towards accelerating India's transition towards a greener economy.

13. PM Modi inaugurates third session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

programme at Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan.

- The theme of this year's programme is **"Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate"**.
- Chaired by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, NPDRR is a multi-stakeholders National Platform.
- Government of India constituted a multi-stakeholder National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) on **26th February 2013**.

14. Central Railway achieves 100 % electrification of broad gauge network; to reduce over 5 lakh tonnes of carbon footprints annually

- The **Central Railway** has achieved 100 per cent electrification of its broad-gauge network of 3,825 kilometers, which was resulting in an annual reduction of 5.204 lakh tonnes of carbon footprints.
- 52-kilometre Ausa Road-Latur Road stretch in Solapur division was the last non-electrified section and its electrification was completed on the 23rd of February this year.
- Central railway zonal headquarters: **CSMT, Mumbai**
- In a release, the CSMT-headquartered zonal railway said the 52-kilometre Ausa Road-Latur Road stretch in Solapur division was the last non-electrified section and its electrification was completed on the 23rd of February this year.
- This move helps in reducing carbon footprints of 5.204 lakh

tonnes every year as well as savings of 1670 crore rupees. It will reduce fuel bills and help earn carbon credit.

15. Government Amends Anti-Money Laundering Rules, 2005 - brings 'Politically Exposed Persons' under PMLA

- Govt has amended rules under the **anti-money law**, making it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to record financial transactions of politically exposed persons (PEP).
- Also, financial institutions or reporting agencies will be required to collect information about the financial transactions of non-profit organisations or NGOs under the provisions of PMLA.
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was enacted in 2002.**
- The Finance Ministry has amended the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, for widening the scope of Know your Customer (KYC) norms to include Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), non-profit organisations (NPOs) and those dealing in virtual digital assets (VDA) as reporting entities.
- The financial institutions will also have to register details of their NGO clients on the Darpan portal of the Niti Aayog and maintain the record for five years after the business relationship between a client and a reporting entity has ended or the account has been closed, whichever is later, the amendment said.

- Following this amendment, banks and financial institutions will now have to not only maintain records of financial transactions of PEPs and NGOs but also share them with the Enforcement Directorate, as and when sought.
- The amendments to PMLA rules also include tightening of the definition of beneficial owners under the anti-money laundering law and mandating reporting entities like banks and crypto platforms to collect information from their clients.
- As per the amendments, any individual or group holding 10 per cent ownership in the client of a 'reporting entity' will now be considered a beneficial owner against the ownership threshold of **25 per cent** applicable earlier.
- Under the anti-money laundering law, 'reporting entities' are banks and financial institutions, firms engaged in real estate and jewellery sectors. They also include intermediaries in casinos and crypto or virtual digital assets.
- So far, these entities were required to maintain KYC details or records of documents evidencing the identity of their clients as well as account files and business correspondence relating to clients. They are required to maintain a record of all transactions, including the record of all cash transactions of more than Rs 10 lakh.
- They will now have to also collect the details of the registered office address and principal place of business of their clients.

16. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Mandya to inaugurate the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, which has been developed at a cost of '8,480 crore.
- The **118 km** long project will reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from around 3 hours to about 75 minutes.

17. Govt notified that entities dealing in virtual digital assets will now be considered 'reporting entities' under PMLA

- Crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets will now be required to perform KYC of their clients and users of the platform.
- Currently, apart from banks and financial institutions, entities engaged in real estate and jewellery sectors and casinos are considered '**reporting entities**' under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- The Finance Ministry on March 7 notified that entities dealing in virtual digital assets will now be considered 'reporting entity' under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- Under the anti-money laundering law, reporting entities are required to maintain KYC details or records of documents evidencing the identity of its clients and beneficial owners as well as account files and business

correspondence relating to its clients.

- Currently, apart from banks and financial institutions, entities engaged in real estate and jewellery sectors and casinos are considered 'reporting entities' under the PMLA.
- Every reporting entity is required to maintain a record of all transactions, including the record of all cash transactions of over Rs 10 lakh.

18. Welspun One Logistics launches '2000 cr warehousing AIF

- Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP), integrated fund and development management platform focused on warehousing and industrial real estate, announced the launch of its second fund of '2,000 crore, including a green shoe option of '1,000 crore.
- This is the largest alternative investment fund (AIF) being raised for the warehousing and logistics sector in India.
- Welspun One is the only warehousing platform to permit domestic capital to be invested in the Indian warehousing growth story.

19. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency gets 'Infrastructure Finance Company' status from RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian

Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

- It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'.
- With the IFC status, IREDA can now take higher exposure in RE financing. Pradip Kumar Das, chairman and managing director of IREDA.
- The IFC status will also help the company access a wider investor base for fund mobilisation, resulting in competitive rates for fundraising.
- The grant of IFC status is a recognition of IREDA's 36 years of infrastructure financing and development with focused development of Renewable Energy, the release stated further, adding that with the IFC status, IREDA will keep contributing towards the government's target of 500 GW installed capacity of non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- IREDA has been promoting, developing and financing new and renewable sources of energy with the motto 'Energy for Ever' since 1987.

20. Food Processing Industries Ministry allocates over Rs 4,439 crore under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana during 2017-18 to 2022-23

- Over 4,439 crore rupees have been allocated under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana during 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- The scheme is a comprehensive package for creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply

chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

- It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.
- The scheme is implemented by **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**.

21. Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030

- Indian Railway has set a target of becoming Net Zero Carbon Emitter by **2030**.
- IR has taken a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon emissions which include use of energy efficient technologies like completely switching over to production of three phase electric locomotives with regenerative features, use of head on generation (HOG) technology etc
- The projected energy demand of Indian Railways in 2029-30 is expected to be about 8,200 Mega Watt (MW).
- To achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission, expected requirement of renewable capacity by 2029-30 would be about 30,000 MW.
- As of February 2023, about 147 MW of solar plants (both on Rooftops

and on land) and about 103 MW of Wind power plants have been commissioned.

- Further, about 2150 MW of renewable capacity has also been tied up.

22. CRISIL forecasts India's GDP growth at 6% for next FY against NSO's projection of 7%

- CRISIL expects India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth to touch **6% in fiscal 2024**, compared with 7% estimated by the National Statistical Organization for fiscal 2023, the rating agency said.
- The agency also sees the economy averaging a growth rate of 6.8% over the next five fiscals.
- Consumer inflation is expected to moderate to 5.0% on average in fiscal 2024 from 6.8% in fiscal 2023, owing to high-base effect and some softening of crude a good rabi harvest would help cool food inflation, while the slowing economy should moderate core inflation.

23. HAL bags orders for Advanced Light Helicopters from Defence Ministry

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by **Defence Minister** Rajnath Singh approved the capital acquisition of indigenously-developed military hardware worth '70,584 crore as part of a mega procurement plan that is expected to significantly boost domestic defence manufacturing.
- It also accorded AoN for procurement of Advance Light Helicopters (ALH) MK-III from

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Coast Guard.

- Earlier this month, Cabinet approved the acquisition of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) for a whopping ₹6,828.36 crore.

24. Cabinet approves listing of IREDA on Stock Exchanges

- Union Government approved for listing of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency on the Stock Exchanges.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** decided to approve an Initial Public Offer by part sale of Government's stake in the CPSE to raise funds through issue of fresh equity shares. Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management will drive the listing process

25. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates APMC Kishan Bhawan, laid foundation stone for headquarters of Junagadh district

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the District Bank Headquarters and inaugurated the APMC Kisan Bhawan at Krishi Shivir in **Junagadh, Gujarat**.
- Shri Shah said that it has also been decided that a Cooperative Society will be formed in every Panchayat of the country.

26. PM Modi to inaugurate new ITU Area office & Innovation Centre in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre in India in New Delhi.
- **About ITU:** ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies and its Headquarters is in **Geneva**.
- India had signed a Host Country Agreement in March last year with ITU for the establishment of Area Office.
- The ITU Area Office will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region.
- During the programme, the Prime Minister will also unveil Bharat 6G Vision Document and launch the 6G Research and Development Test Bed.
- The Bharat 6G Vision Document and 6G Test bed will provide an enabling environment for innovation, capacity building and faster technology adoption in the country.

27. Atal Innovation Mission launches ATL Sarthi

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) 'NITI Aayog launched **ATL Sarthi**, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ever-growing ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

- ATL Sarthi is one such initiative in this direction.
- As the name suggests, Sarthi is a charioteer and ATL Sarthi will enable the ATLs to be efficient and effective.
- Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)- **Dr. Chintan Vaishnav**.
- The initiative has four pillars ensuring the performance enhancement of ATLs through regular process improvements like a self-reporting dashboard known as '**MyATL Dashboard**' and **Compliance SOPs** for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliances, on-ground enablement of ATLs in collaboration with relevant local authorities through **Cluster-based Approach** and providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through **Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix**.

28. Union Cabinet extends subsidy of 200 rupees per cylinder for 12 refills annually for Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for one year

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has extended the subsidy of **two hundred rupees** per LPG cylinder for a period of one year.
- As on 1st March this year, there are nine crore 59 lakh Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries.
- The average LPG consumption of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana consumers has increased by 20

percent from 3.01 refills in 2019-20 to 3.68 in 2021-22.

- Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies Namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have already been providing this subsidy since the 22nd of May last year.
- The subsidy is credited directly to the bank accounts of the eligible beneficiaries.
- To make Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) available to rural and deprived poor households, Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in **May 2016**, to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women of poor households.

29. Govt approves setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Hubli-Dharwad in Karnataka

- Government has announced in Bengaluru the approval for setting of the **Rs 180 crore** worth Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Dharwad which is expected to create over 18,000 jobs.
- The project, which is being set up at Kotur-Balur Industrial Area in Dharwad District of Karnataka under EMC 2.0 scheme, is expected to catalyse investments to the tune of over Rs 1,500 cr.
- The Centre has already approved a Common Facility Centre (CFC) for development of an advanced testing facility in Mysore, Karnataka that will meet the

various testing requirement of the industry.

- The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) scheme was introduced on 1st April 2020 with an objective to create world class infrastructure along with common testing facilities, including Ready Built Factory sheds/Plug & Play infrastructure for attracting Anchor unit along with their supply chain to set up their manufacturing/production facility in the country.
- Under the Scheme, three Electronics Manufacturing Clusters over an area of 1,337 acres with project cost of Rs 1,903 crore, including Central financial assistance of Rs 889 crore have been approved which projected investment target of Rs 20,910 crore.

30. Shri Bhupender Yadav launches Aravalli Green Wall Project

- Shri Bhupendra Yadav launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project, a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states.
- This Green Wall scheme, the work of planting saplings will be done in about 26,000 acres of five districts ' Gurugram, Rewari, Nuh, Mahendergarh and Faridabad of Haryana.
- **About Aravalli Green Wall Project:** The Aravalli Green Wall Project is part of the Union Environment Ministry's vision to create green corridors across the country to combat land degradation and desertification.
- The project covers states of **Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi** - where the Aravalli hills landscape span over 6 million hectares of land.
- The project will involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.
- The project will also focus on agroforestry and pasture development to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Project has the following **objectives**:
 - Improving the ecological health of the Aravalli range
 - To prevent eastward expansion of Thar Desert and to reduce land degradation by creating green barriers that will prevent soil erosion, desertification and dust storms
 - This green wall will help in carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Aravalli range by planting native tree species in the Aravalli region, providing habitat for wildlife, improving water quality and quantity.
 - Promote sustainable development and livelihood opportunities by involving local communities in afforestation, agro-forestry and water conservation activities that

will generate income, employment, food security and social benefits.

- The project will be executed by various stakeholders such as central and state governments, forest departments, research institutes, civil society organisations, private sector entities and local communities. Adequate funding, technical skills, policy coordination and public awareness will be called upon to ensure the success of the project.
- Contribute to India's commitments under various international conventions such as UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- Enhancing India's image as a global leader in environmental protection and green development.

31. NIUA organises first Urban Climate Film Festival

- The first **Urban Climate Film Festival** under U20 engagement events is being organised by the **National Institute of Urban Affairs**.
- A curated selection of 11 films from nine countries will be showcased in the festival to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities.
- The festival is being organised with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency and the European Union.

32. India's highways infra to match US by 2024

- India's Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the country's highway infrastructure will match that of the US by **2024**.
- The government is working on the Bharatmala 2 project to meet this goal, which will include constructing green expressways and rail-over-bridges
- Gadkari said that Rs. 16,000 crore (\$2.14bn) is being spent on building railways over b

33. G20: 2nd Environment and Climate Sustainability meeting to start in Gandhinagar

- The second G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting will start in Gandhinagar on Monday with focus on arresting land degradation, accelerating ecosystem restoration, circular economy and climate resilient blue economy.
- The first meeting of the ECSWG was held in Bengaluru from February 9-11. The third meeting will be held in Mumbai (May 21-23) and the fourth in Chennai (May 26-27). The ministerial meeting is expected to be held on July 28 in Chennai.

34. 'Swachhotsav 2023- 1000 Cities are targeted to become 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024'

- 1000 Cities targeted to become 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024' said Sh. Hardeep S. Puri, The

Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs on the occasion of **International Zero Waste Day 2023** in New Delhi.

- Highlighting the progress in the GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to encourage a competitive, mission-mode spirit among ULBs.
- Speaking about the achievements of the Mission, the Minister informed that urban India has become Open Defecation Free (ODF), with all 4,715 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) completely ODF, 3,547 ULBs are ODF+ with functional and hygienic community and public toilets and 1,191 ULBs are ODF++ with complete faecal sludge management. Further, waste processing in India has gone up by over four times from 17% in 2014 to 75% today.
- This has been aided through 100% door-to-door waste collection in 97% wards and source segregation of waste being practiced by citizens across almost 90% wards in all ULBs in the country.

35. Lok Sabha passes Competition Amendment Bill with higher penalty provisions

- Lok Sabha has passed the Competition Amendment Bill, bringing in a major update to the over two-decade old law, that fosters competition in the market, closer to reality.
- The Bill passed in Lok Sabha defines 'turnover' for the purpose of penalty as global turnover derived from all the products and

services by a person or an enterprise.

- The goal is to levy penalty as a percentage of global turnover or income of the offending company, moving away from the current practice of levying a part of the local or relevant market turnover as penalty.
- In the case of anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance, Competition Act prescribes penalty which is not more than **10%** of the average turnover for the preceding three financial years, on each of the guilty entities.
- Defining turnover as the global turnover is likely to step up deterrence at a time several global tech companies are facing strong action by the anti-trust regulator.

36. New India Literacy Programme launched to cover target of 5 crore non-literates in age group of 15 years and above

- The Government has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, New India Literacy Programme with financial outlay of over one thousand crore rupees for implementation during the financial year **2022-23 to 2026-27**.
- The scheme aims to cover a target of five crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.

37. Kerala: Second Sherpa Meet under India's G20 Presidency begins in Kumarakom

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan has observed that India's G20 presidency based on the theme of VasudhaivaKutumbakam has found resonance across the world with its all-encompassing message of universal brotherhood.
- The Minister was delivering his special remarks at the opening of the Plenary session of the 2nd Sherpa Meet at the KTDC's Waterscapes Resort at Kumarakom this morning.
- He said the G20 priorities of Green Development, Digital infrastructure, accelerated inclusive and resilient growth, women-led development etc have found broad acceptance amongst the G20 member countries.

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1. UAE announces world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies

- The government of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), one of the seven emirates of the **United Arab Emirates**, has announced plans to establish RAK Digital Assets Oasis, the world's first free zone dedicated to digital and virtual asset companies.
- The announcement was made at the Blockchain Life 2023 conference.
- RAK Digital Assets Oasis will be a purpose-built, true innovation-enabling free zone for non-regulated activities in the virtual assets sector.
- It is intended to be the only free zone in the world solely dedicated to digital and virtual assets service providers innovating in new and emerging sectors of the future including metaverse, blockchain, utility tokens, virtual asset wallets, NFTs, DAOs, DApp, and other Web3-related businesses.

2. Bola Ahmed Tinubu won the Presidential elections in Nigeria

- PM Narendra Modi congratulated Bola Ahmed Tinubu for winning the Presidential elections of Nigeria.
- Ruling party candidate Bola Tinubu was declared the winner of Nigeria's presidential election against Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi.

- He received 36% of more than 24 million votes cast, according to results announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission(INEC).
- Nigeria Capital: Abuja;
- Currency: Nigerian Naira.

3. Belarus Jails Nobel Peace Prize Winner Ales Bialiatski For 10 Years

- A court in Belarus has sentenced Nobel Peace Prize winner Ales Bialiatski to 10 years in prison.
- He was convicted of smuggling and financing "actions grossly violating public order".
- Bialiatski was one of three winners of the **2022 Nobel Peace Prize**.
- Belarus: Capital: Minsk;
- Currency: Ruble.

4. UN inks first 'High Seas Treaty' in a bid to protect ocean bodies of the world

- The United Nations inked the first 'High Seas Treaty' in a bid to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of the world's oceans.
- The last international agreement on ocean protection was signed 40 years ago in 1982 - the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**.
- The UN High Seas Treaty now brings 30 percent of the world's oceans into the protected domain, puts more money into marine conservation and sets new rules for mining at sea
- Previously these water bodies were open for fishing, shipping and to conduct research and only

about 1 percent of these waters also known as high seas were under protection which left the marine lives in these waters at high risk of exploitation from threats including climate change, overfishing and shipping traffic.

- High Seas Treaty now places 30 percent of the world's international waters into protected areas (MPAs) by 2030.
- The treaty aims to protect against potential impacts like deep sea mining.

5. Arun Subramanian becomes first Indian-American to be Judge of Manhattan Federal District Court in New York

- Indian-American Arun Subramaniam has been confirmed as first South Asian District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
- South District New York notably has one of the largest South Asian-American populations in the country.

7. Nepal elects Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress as new President

- Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress was elected as the new president of Nepal.
- This is the third presidential election in Nepal since the country became a republic in 2008.
- The tenure of the current president, Bidya Devi Bhandari, ends on March 12.
- Nepal Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

8. Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano erupts, covering villages in ash

- Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted spewing out smoke and ash that blanketed villages near the crater.
- The volcano is located on Java Island, near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.
- The volcano's last major eruption in 2010 had claimed more than 300 lives and forced the evacuation of some 280,000 people.
- Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes and sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire".
- Indonesia, which has nearly 130 active volcanoes, sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

9. US FDIC establishes bridge bank to facilitate closure of Signature Bank

- The U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation announced that it had established a bridge bank to handle customer accounts at recently closed Signature Bank.
- The FDIC said the new, government-run institution will ensure accounts operate uninterrupted while the regulator looks to find a buyer for the shuttered bank's assets.
- **Signature Bank** was closed earlier in the day as part of the fallout of bank turmoil spurred by Silicon Valley Bank's abrupt closure.

10. Bhutan graduates from the UN list of Least Developed Countries

- Bhutan successfully met the least development countries (LDCs) graduation criteria in two United Nations triennial reviews of 2015 and 2018 and is set to graduate from the group of LDCs in 2023.
- The transition involves loss of certain trade preferences and other international support measures. Bhutan is scheduled to graduate on 13 December 2023.
- The UN in the 1960s began to recognise some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged countries in the international community, considering factors such as development capacity, socio-economic parameters, lack of domestic financing, and geographical location.
- In 1971, the UN officially established the category of LDCs to attract particular support for them.

11. New Zealand to ban TikTok on devices linked to parliament, cites security concerns

- New Zealand would ban TikTok on devices with access to the country's parliamentary network due to cybersecurity concerns, becoming the latest nation to limit the use of the video-sharing app on government-related devices.
- Government agencies in the U.S. have until the end of March to delete the app from official devices. Britain recently banned

the app on government phones with immediate effect.

12. Egypt Officially Becomes Member Of BRICS New Development Bank

- Egypt officially became a member of BRICS' New Development Bank which includes India, Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.
- In 2020, the NDB board of Governors were authorized to hold a dialogue with potential member states of BRICS. Egypt's accession was later approved by NBD in Dec 2021.
- In September, the NDB board also approved UAE, Bangladesh & Uruguay as its members.
- **About NDB:** BRICS' New Development bank was established in July 2014, after an intergovernmental agreement was signed by the partner nations at the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza.
- "The membership shall be open to members of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Agreement of the New Development Bank.
- It shall be open to borrowing and non-borrowing members," article 2 of the agreement read.
- Uruguay became NDB's prospective member and has been admitted to the bank's Board of Governors, The country will officially become a member once it deposits the instrument of accession.
- Since its establishment, the bank has approved numerous projects. More than 90 of them totalled \$32

billion and covered critical areas such as transportation, urban construction, water, clean energy, and digital and social infrastructure.

13. First Citizens acquires bankrupt Silicon Valley Bank

- The US-based **First Citizens BancShares** Inc. has reached an agreement to acquire Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), which was taken over by regulators after a wave of withdrawals from the lender.
- The acquisition will expand First Citizens' presence in the technology and innovation hub of Silicon Valley, and will make it one of the largest banks in the US.
- Earlier this month, Silicon Valley Bank, the largest US lender to fail in over a decade, experienced a sudden and rapid decline after announcing a plan to strengthen its capital position.
- The bank suffered significant losses on the sale of its securities due to the increasing interest rates, which caused alarm among depositors and investors who quickly began withdrawing their funds.

14. Meeting of National Security Advisers of member countries of SCO begins in New Delhi

- The meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) began in New Delhi today.

- The meeting is being chaired by **NSA Ajit Kumar Doval**.
- It is being attended in person by several high-level delegates from Central Asian Countries. Pakistan and China are also likely to attend the SCO-NSA meeting virtually.
- Currently, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation comprises China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

15. Saudi Arabia joins Shanghai Co-operation Organisation

- Saudi Arabia has approved a decision to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a political and security union of countries.
- **About SCO:** SCO was formed in 2001 by Russia, China, and former Soviet states in Central Asia, and has since expanded to include India and Pakistan.
- The organisation's goal is to promote regional stability and counter western influence in the region.
- SCO: HQ: Beijing, China
- Secretary-General: Zhang Ming.
- Iran signed documents for full membership in 2022, and Saudi Arabia has been granted the status of a dialogue partner, which is a first step towards full membership.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was proclaimed on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the

People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

- Prior to that, all of the above countries, except for Uzbekistan, were members of the Shanghai Five, a political association based on the Agreement on Confidence-Building in the Military Field in the Border Area (Shanghai, 1996) and the Agreement on the Mutual Reduction of Armed Forces in the Border Area (Moscow, 1997).
- These two documents laid down a mechanism of mutual trust in the military sphere in the border area and contributed to the establishment of true partnerships. Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- Currently, eight countries enjoy the status of the **SCO full members**: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- four countries — Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia — have an **observer status** with the SCO, and
- six countries — Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka — have a **dialogue partner status**.

Sports

1. Senior National Badminton Championship: Anupama Upadhyaya, Mithun Manjunath crowned singles champions

- Former world junior no. 1 **Anupama Upadhyaya and Mithun Manjunath** registered contrasting victories to clinch the women's and men's singles titles at the 84th Senior National Badminton Championship at the Balewadi Stadium in Pune.
- Top seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly were crowned the new women's doubles champions.
- T Hemanagendra Babu and Kanika Kanwal clinched the mixed doubles crown.
- S Kushal Raj and S Prakash Raj wrapped up the proceedings by clinching the men's doubles title.

2. National record holder Aishwarya Babu banned by NADA for four years

- India's top triple-jumper Aishwarya Babu has been banned by the National Anti-Doping Agency's disciplinary panel for four years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid. She had won the triple jump gold in the championships with a national record-breaking lunge of 14.14 metres.
- NADA said the substance Aishwarya used was an "anabolic steroid" listed under WADA's 2022 banned.

- **About NADA:** National Anti-Doping Agency is mandated for Dope free sports in India.
- **The primary functions of NADA are as under:**
- To implement the Anti Doping Code to achieve compliance by all sports organizations in the Country.
- To coordinate dope testing program through all participating stakeholders.
- To promote anti doping research and education to inculcate the value of dope free sports.
- To adopt best practice standards and quality systems to enable effective implementation and continual improvement of the program.

3. Indian Open Jumps Competition 2023: Long jumper Jeswin Aldrin breaks national record to make Asian Games cut

- Jeswin Aldrin made an 8.42 jump to break the previous record held by M Sreeshankar.
- Four athletes made the cut for the Asian Games.
- He set a new national record to win the gold medal in the men's long jump event at the Indian Open Jumps Competition 2023 in Bellary, Karnataka.
- The women's long jump event was topped by Sruthilekshmi with a 6.11m effort.
- Muhammed Anees Yahiya, who won silver with an 8.15m effort at the last edition, won a silver medal at this edition as well courtesy of a 7.85m effort. Rishabh Rishishwar

won bronze with a 7.77m leap among 12 competitors.

- The women's long jump event was topped by Sruthilekshmi with a 6.11m effort. Manisha Merel (5.96m) and R Punitha (5.85m) claimed silver and bronze, respectively.

4. Karnataka beats Meghalaya 3-2 to clinch Santosh Trophy football after 54 years

- Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy National Football Championship, beating Meghalaya 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital, Riyadh.
- Earlier, Services won the third place beating Punjab 2-0 in the play-off match held before the final.

5. Hockey India appoints South African Craig Fulton as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team

- Hockey India has appointed **South African Craig Fulton** as new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team.
- Craig Fulton will succeed Graham Reid who resigned after India's poor outing at the World Cup in January 2023.
- Craig Fulton has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and earned 195 caps over a span of 10 years for South Africa.

6. Max Verstappen wins 2023 Bahrain GP, Alonso stars

- Max Verstappen won the Bahrain Grand Prix, the opening round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, leading a Red Bull 1-2 ahead of a sensational Fernando Alonso.
- **Race Leaderboard:**
 1. Max Verstappen
 2. Sergio Perez
 3. Fernando Alonso

7. Rohit Sharma completes 17000 international runs during India vs Australia 4th Test

- Team India skipper Rohit Sharma completed 17000 runs in international cricket and became the **sixth Indian** to achieve the feat after Sachin Tendulkar (34357), Virat Kohli (25047), Rahul Dravid (24208), Sourav Ganguly (18575), and MS Dhoni (17266).
- He completed this feat on Day 3 of the fourth Test against Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

8. Royal Challengers Bangalore ropes in Equitas SFB as banking partner for IPL 2023

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has announced partnership with Royal Challengers Bangalore as their 'Proud Banking Partner' for the 2023 season of T20 League.
- This partnership campaign will be aimed to communicate that Equitas has been playing a progressive role in transforming the lives of individuals through

their lending and social responsibilities of 'Beyond Banking'

9. India's Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden of Australia win Men's Doubles title at Indian Wells Masters in California, US

- In Tennis, **Indian Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden of Australia** have won the Indian Wells doubles title in California, United States.
- The unseeded champions upset top seeds Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski 6-3, 2-6, 10-8 in Indian Wells final, with the 43-year-old Bopanna becoming the oldest ATP Masters 1000 trophy-winner.
- Bopanna was competing in his 10th ATP Masters 1000 final and now has 24 tour-level trophies after the win.
- Bopanna, a former World No. 3, climbed four spots to No. 11 in the Pepperstone ATP Live Doubles Rankings as a result of his trophy run.
- Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina edged Aryna Sabalenka to win the Indian Wells WTA title and avenge her loss to the Belarusian in the Australian Open final.

10. Asian 20km Race Walking Championships: India's Akshdeep Singh Bags Gold, Priyanka Goswami Settles For Bronze

- India's Akshdeep Singh clinched the gold medal while Priyanka Goswami bagged bronze in the men's and women's category

respectively at the Asian 20km Race Walking Championships 2023 held in Nomi, Japan.

- A total of nine Indian athletes ' five men and four women ' participated in the Asian 20km Race Walking Championship 2023.
- The **15th edition** of the race, an annual race walking competition for athletes representing countries from Asia, was held after a hiatus of three years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

11. ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship inaugurated at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh

- The International Shooting Sports Federation- ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship was inaugurated in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh.
- Around 200 shooters from 30 countries are participating in the World Shooting Championship.
- This is the first ever Shooting World Cup to be held outside New Delhi in the country.

12. Stadium Named After Hockey Star Rani Rampal, First Woman To Get This Honour

- The Indian team's star hockey player, Rani Rampal, has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in Rae Bareilly.
- The MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the hockey stadium "Rani's Girls Hockey Turf".

13. India's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil wins bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle event of ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship

- India's Rudranksh Patil won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle event by scoring 262.2 points in the 8th ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy of Excellence in Bhopal.
- This is Rudraksh's second medal in this World Cup. He won a bronze medal in the mixed event, playing with his partner Narmada Raju.

14. Indian men, women bag 4th Asian Kho Kho titles

- The Indian men's and women's teams clinched the titles at the 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships that concluded at Tamulpur in north-central Assam's Baksa district.
- Tamulpur is in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and about 75 km north of Guwahati.
- A total of 16 teams (male and female) participated in this event.

15. Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora clinch Gold in Women's World Boxing Championship

- India has won the second Gold in World Women's Boxing Championship at K.D. Jadhav Hall IG Stadium New Delhi.
- **Saweety Boora** defeated her rival Lina Wang of China by 4-3 in the 81-kilogram category. She became the seventh Indian boxer, male or

female, to win the World championship.

- Earlier, **Nitu Ghanghas** clinched Gold in the 48-kilogram category of the IBA Womens World Boxing Championship.
- Nitu defeated Mongolia's Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan 5-0 via unanimous decision.

16. PM Modi congratulates Lovlina, Nikhat for winning gold at World Boxing Championships

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated boxers Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain for winning gold medals at the Boxing World Championships in the national capital.
- While Nikhat added a second world title to her name, Lovlina broke the 'bronze jinx' to claim her first-ever gold medal the tournament.

17. Indian weightlifters Dhanush and Jyoshna win bronze medals in their respective categories in IWF World Youth Championships

- Indian weightlifters Dhanush Loganathan and Jyoshna Sabar won bronze medals in their respective categories on the opening day of the IWF World Youth Championships in Durres, Albania.
- Competing in the women's 40kg event, 14-year-old Jyoshna had a combined lift of 115kg.
- 16-year-old Dhanush, lifted a total weight of 200kg to finish third behind Filipinos Prince K. Delos Sant

18. BFI president Ajay Singh elected as vice-president of world boxing body

- Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh was elected as the International Boxing Association (IBA) vice-president following the body's board of directors meeting in New Delhi.
- The Indian boxing official, who also serves as Spicejet's managing director, will be serving as the third vice president of the board.
- **About IBA:** IBA: Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- President: Umar Nazarovich Kremlev.
- The International Boxing Association (IBA) is a non-profit international organization that succeeded the former Fdration Internationale de Boxe Amateur in 1946. IBA is the sole worldwide governing body for the sport of boxing in all its forms, with more than 200 Member Federations.

an hour. This was Rankireddy and Shetty's first BWF (Badminton World Federation) doubles title of the year, and the fifth World Tour title in their career.

19. Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win Swiss Open Super 300 Badminton doubles title in Basel

- India's top men's doubles badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win their first title of the 2023 season in Basel.
- They beat China's Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang 21-19, 24-22 in the Swiss Open 2023, a Super 300 event.
- The world no. sixth pair beat the world no. 21 pair in a little under

Agreements & MoUs

1. Tata Steel Mining signs MoU with GAIL to get clean fuel

- In order to reduce carbon footprint in its operations, Tata Steel Mining Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GAIL (India) Limited for supply of natural gas to its Ferro Alloys Plant at Athgarh in Odisha's Cuttack district.
- GAIL will supply the agreed quantity of natural gas through its pipeline from Gujarat to Athgarh.
- Natural gas emits 27 per cent less CO₂ and has lower levels of other pollutants.
- Furnace oil emits more carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides than natural gas does. Natural gas emits 27 per cent less CO₂ and has lower levels of other pollutants.

2. NADA and NCERT sign MoU to strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers

- The key activities that will be undertaken through this MoU include developing e-content in an accessible format on sports values and ethics.
- The UNESCO Value-Based Sports Education toolkit will also be promoted in every classroom under the MoU.
- **About NCERT:** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation of the

Government of India which was established in 1961 as a literary, scientific and charitable Society under the Societies Registration Act.

3. Asian Development Bank agrees to provide Rs 1311.20 funds for Himachal Pradesh tourism infra

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to provide Rs 1311.20 crores of funds for the Himachal Pradesh tourism projects in order to strengthen the tourism infrastructure. The multi-crore project comes under Phase-1 of the proposed infrastructure development program.
- The project components to be covered under the first phase are the beautification of Palampur, the convention center at Dharamshala, the thematic cum green Park at Pragpur, the wellness center at Dharamshala, Shimla, Nadaun and Kullu-Manali, high-end fountain tourist facility at Dharamshala, and several other

4. BSE & UN Women India launches a new programme, 'FinEMPOWER', at Bombay Stock Exchange

- BSE and UN Women India launched a new programme, 'FinEMPOWER', at the Bombay Stock Exchange.
- It is a year-long joint capacity-building programme between BSE and UN Women to empower women towards financial security.
- BSE and UN Women India collaboratively organised the 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality

ceremony to accelerate investment in women leaders and entrepreneurs.

- MD and CEO of BSE- Mr. Sundararaman Ramamurthy

5. Paytm, Andhra govt tie up on financial inclusion, health and cyber security

- Digital financial services firm One97 Communications that owns Paytm brand announced it has signed an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government to drive initiatives in financial inclusion, public health, cyber security on the sidelines of the Andhra Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023.
- Under the pact, Paytm plans to empower merchants, street vendors and street hawkers in Andhra Pradesh to accept digital payments and provide them access to loans through its lending partners.

6. ONGC signs MoU with France's TotalEnergies for deep-water exploration

- India's top explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp has signed a memorandum of understanding with French major TotalEnergies for exploration of deep-water blocks. It seeks to provide technical help for ONGC's push to explore and reduce green house emissions in development of deep-water blocks especially in Mahanadi and Andamans, off India's east coast.

- India, the **world's third biggest oil importer and consumer**, ships in over 85% of its oil from overseas.
- The country wants to quickly monetise its oil and gas resources to reduce its reliance on costly imports.
- ONGC last year signed heads of agreement with U.S. oil giant ExxonMobil Corp for deep-water exploration on the country's east and west coasts.
- The tie-up with Exxon focuses on the Krishna Godavari and Cauvery basins in the eastern offshore region and the Kutch-Mumbai region in the western offshore area.

7. HCL Technologies partners Microsoft to bring quantum computing to clients

- HCL Technologies announced a partnership with Microsoft's quantum cloud computing service, Azure Quantum.
- Through this partnership, HCLTech will offer businesses cloud-based quantum computing services to its clients, by using Microsoft's platform as the technology stack.
- The services will be provided through HCLTech's Q-Labs, which is already one of Microsoft's partners.

8. Australia, India sign audiovisual co-production agreement

- India and Australia signed an audio-visual co-production agreement that seeks to offer filmmakers financial incentives amounting to up to 30 per cent of

the expenditure incurred in the respective countries.

- Australia is the 16th country with which India has a co-production agreement that would benefit mainly small filmmakers.

9. India, US sign MoU to build resilient supply chain in semiconductor sector

- India and the US inked an initial pact on increasing private sector cooperation in the area of semiconductors under which the two countries would facilitate business opportunities and develop an ecosystem with a view to reduce their dependency on China and Taiwan.
- Both sides have agreed to set up a semiconductor sub-committee.

10. Punjab National Bank signs MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation

- An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Punjab National Bank and Central Warehousing Corporation, to facilitate financing under e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt).
- The partnership is aimed at providing easy access to finance to farmers/ food processors/ traders against the pledge of agriculture commodities stored in CWC warehouses.
- Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) system in the country enables farmers to store their produce for safe and scientific storage and preservation in warehouses near their farms and to seek pledge loan from banks

against the NWRs issued against deposit of their stock

11. BEL signs MoU with NITK Surathkal in R&D space

- Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has signed an MoU with the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK Surathkal) for cooperation in research and development for the development of emerging technologies and technical solutions for both defence and non-defence applications.
- The MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and NITK Surathkal while facilitating the indigenisation of products and solutions in keeping with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

12. Microsoft inks licensing deal with cloud gaming provider Boosteroid

- Microsoft signed a 10-year licensing deal to bring Activision's Call of Duty franchise to cloud gaming provider Boosteroid's platform, a move partly aimed at allaying competition concerns over its Activision acquisition.
- Ukraine-based Boosteroid's access to Call of Duty is conditional on regulatory approval for the Activision deal.

13. India & World Bank signs loan agreement for construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project in 4 States

- India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project in four States.
- These States are Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The agreement has been signed for the construction of 781 kilometers in these States, with loan assistance of **500 million dollars**.

14. HPCL and Chevron partner to introduce cutting-edge technology lubricants in India

- Chevron Brands International LLC (Chevron), a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, has entered into a long-term trademark licensing agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).
- This agreement paves the way for Caltex-branded lubricants to be manufactured, distributed, and marketed in India by HPCL.

15. International Cricket Council inks deal with Willow TV to broadcast in US and Canada

- In a new four-year agreement, the International Cricket Council has teamed up with Times Internet in the US and Canada, making Willow TV, owned by Times Internet, the

official home of ICC cricket in both nations until 2027.

- Willow TV, the premier broadcaster of cricket in the region for almost 20 years, is accessible in over 70 million households.

16. India Post partners with Shiprocket; To benefit Startups and Small & Medium Enterprises

- India Post, the largest delivery network of the world, has signed an MoU with Shiprocket to boost last-mile Ecommerce delivery services across the country.
- The MoU will provide shipping and last-mile delivery services to Shiprocket's three lakh strong seller base which includes Startups and a large number of small and medium businesses.
- **Saahil Goel**, Co-founder & CEO, Shiprocket

17. V V Giri National Labour Institute and ASSOCHAM sign MoU to promote advocacy for labour and employment related policies

- V.V. Giri National Labour Institute & Employment and ASSOCHAM have entered into a strategic alliance by signing a MoU.
- The strategic alliance between the two organisations aims to promote professional and organisational development in labour and employment-related areas by jointly identifying & executing developmental initiatives that benefit stakeholders in the sector.

18. GAIL signs agreement with Shell Energy India on ethane sourcing

- GAIL Limited has signed a MoU with Shell Energy India Private Limited to explore prospects of importing and handling of ethane and other hydrocarbons.
- It is primarily used as petrochemical feedstock and is separated from the other components of natural gas in most well-developed gas fields.
- It will be transported further through GAIL's 14,830 km of natural gas pipelines.
- Ethane is mainly used to produce ethylene, which is then used by the petrochemical industry to produce a range of intermediate products, most of which, are converted into plastics, packaging films, wire coatings, squeeze bottles and synthetic rubber, among others.

19. Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU for skilling of rural youth and empowering women

- Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Rural development today signed Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in developing skilled personnel by imparting training to rural poor youth and women's for Ayush healthcare system under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
- The MoU is valid for three years.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the flagship program of the

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt.

- As a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), DDU-GKY aims to transform rural poor youth into economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

20. Renault Nissan signs pact with Kamarajar Port for export of locally-manufactured cars

- Franco Japanese auto alliance Renault Nissan has signed an agreement with Kamarajar Port Ltd (KPL) for export of cars manufactured in Chennai by Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd.
- The vehicles produced at the Chennai plant will be exported to the alliance's regional and global destinations.

21. Ministry of Steel Signs MoUs with 27 Companies under PLI Scheme

- The Ministry of Steel has signed 57 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 27 companies for specialty steel production under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.
- The government has allocated Rs 6,322 crores to boost the steel sector and generate an investment of about Rs 30,000 crores.
- In the **Union Budget 2021-22**, presented on 1st February 2021, the Finance Minister announced an outlay of **INR 1.97 Lakh Crores for the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes for 13 key sectors**, to create national

manufacturing champions and generate employment opportunities for the country's youth. This means that minimum production in India as a result of PLI Schemes is expected to be over US\$ 500 billion in 5 years.

23. Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) signs MOU with Makers Hive and Vilay Sports

The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr Deepa Malik, a former Paralympic medalist and current president of the PCI, Mr Gursharan Singh, the renowned para-athlete Shri Devendra Jhajharia, Mr Pranav Vempati, CEO of Makers Hive, and Mr Siddharth Ram, CEO of Vilay Sports.

The MoU was signed in the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune.

24. Defence Ministry Signs Contract Worth Rs 3,700 Crore With BEL For Radars, Receivers For IAF

- The first contract worth over Rs 2,800 crore pertains to the supply of Medium Power Radars 'Arudhra', and the second, at an overall cost of around Rs 950 crore, relates to 129 DR-118 Radar Warning Receivers. Both projects are under the 'Buy Indian' IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)' category.
- **MPR (Arudhra)** radar has been indigenously designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** and will be manufactured by **BEL**. Its

successful trials have already been conducted by the IAF.

- It is a 4D multi-function phased array radar with electronic steering in both azimuth and elevation for surveillance, detection, and tracking of aerial targets. The system will have target identification based on interrogations from co-located identification friend or foe system.
- The **DR-118 RWR** will considerably enhance the electronic warfare capabilities of the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The majority of sub-assemblies and parts will be sourced from indigenous manufacturers.

25. UIDAI and SETS join hands to conduct R&D in deep-tech including Quantum Computing, IoT Security and Cyber Security

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS), part of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, agreed to collaborate and do joint R&D leading to development of tools and products in deep tech domains.
- UIDAI has issued over 1.36 billion Aadhaar numbers to residents.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UIDAI- **Saurabh Garg**.

26. L&T signs agreement with France-based McPhy for electrolyzer manufacturing

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, an Indian multinational engaged in EPC

Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services, have entered into an Electrolyzer Manufacturing Binding Agreement with McPhy Energy, a France-based leading electrolyzer technology and manufacturing company, for a long-term partnership to explore the opportunities unfolding in the emerging Green Hydrogen market.

- Under this partnership, McPhy will grant an exclusive license of its pressurised alkaline electrolyzer technology to L&T for the manufacturing of electrolyzers, including future product upgrades.
- L&T plans to set up a Gigawatt-scale manufacturing facility for electrolyzers based on McPhy technology in India to serve the domestic requirements as well as cater to the other selected geographies.

27. ADB gives up to '754 cr loan to SAEL Industries for waste-to-energy projects

- SAEL Industries said it has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a loan of up to '754 crore (around \$91.14 million) to promote agricultural waste-to-energy plants in India. SAEL Industries has developed a business model where crop residues are used as fuel in waste-to-energy projects.
- ADB's support will fund the construction of five biomass power plants in the districts of Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, and Sikar in Rajasthan, the firm added.

28. Amazon Pay ties up with NPCI's Bharat BillPay for loan repayments

- Amazon Pay has collaborated with Bharat BillPay, the biller platform of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to strengthen its loan repayment facility.
- Loan repayment is one of the top categories in terms of bill payment, amongst other options such as electricity and municipal tax payments in India.
- Further, customers can contribute to prepayment of their loans, over and above EMI deductions, the release said, adding that the lack of a secure digital payment platform and flexibility of payment options are the major challenges faced by customers.
- Over 200 lenders, including Bajaj Finance, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance, HDB Financial Services, Home Credit, and IIFL Finance, have enrolled in the facility.

29. Japan's JBIC to lend JPY 2.65 billion to Power Finance Corp

- State-run **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has signed a project loan agreement (PLA) for JPY (Japanese yen) 2.65 billion or about '165 crore with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.
- Under this facility, JBIC has proposed to finance some of PFC's projects which ensure effective reduction of greenhouse gas

emissions and conservation of the global environment.

30. World Bank arm IFC to invest Rs 600 cr in M&M's new last-mile mobility firm

- World Bank arm IFC has decided to invest '**600 crore** in Mahindra Group's last-mile electric mobility business to scale up electric three-wheelers and small commercial vehicles that are more affordable.
- This would be IFC's first investment in an EV manufacturer and its first in electric three-wheelers globally, in the form of compulsory convertible instruments at '6,020 cr.
- Mahindra & Mahindra MD and CEO -Anish Shah

32. India's defence ministry signs 10 contracts worth Rs 5,498 with Bharat Electronics

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed 10 contracts totalling Rs 5,498 crore with state-owned aerospace and defence electronics company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for Indian armed forces.
- For Indian Air Force, a contract was signed to supply 90 units of Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite Equipment for Medium Lift Helicopter.
Another contract for Akash Missile System was signed for the maintenance of two squadrons. It is a medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, developed by DRDO and manufactured by Bharat Electronics. The Akash

Missile system can target aircraft upto 30 km away and has the capabilities to neutralise aerial threats like fighter jets, cruise missiles and Air-to-Surface Missiles.

Schemes

1. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches Swachhotsav under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched Swachhotsav, 3-week women-led swachhata campaign, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- The campaign aims to recognize and celebrate the transition from women in sanitation to women-led sanitation.
- At the launch, the first edition of Women Icons leading Sanitation & Waste Management Challenge-2023 was also announced

2. Mudra loans surpass last year's disbursal at '3.56 lakh crore

- As per the latest data, loans worth '3.56-lakh crore have been sanctioned, of which '3.48- lakh crore have been disbursed as of March 3, 2023.
- In the last financial year (FY22), the sanctioned and disbursed loans were at '3.39 lakh crore and '3.31 lakh crore.
- The total loans to be sanctioned under PMMY in FY23 could be anywhere between '3.80-lakh crore and '4lakh crore.
- **About PMMY:** Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

- These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY.
- These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.
- Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit / entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation / growth.
- Shishu- Covering Loans Upto 50,000/-
- Kishore-Covering Loans Above 50,000/- And Upto 5 Lakh
- Tarun- Covering Loans Above 5 Lakh And Upto 10 Lakh

3. MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme launched

- Union minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Narayan Rane, launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) scheme.
- Under the revamped scheme, the Centre's contribution will be 90 per cent of the implementation cost for handholding and consultancy fees as against 80 per cent previously.
- There will be an additional contribution of 5% for the MSMEs which are part of SFURTI clusters, owned by women/SC/ST and located in NER.
- Earlier, the implementation period for the scheme was set at 18 months.
- However, under the revamped scheme it has been divided into

phases - Basic (2 months), Intermediate (6 months) and Advanced (12 months).

- Under the scheme, MSMEs will implement LEAN manufacturing tools like 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, visual workplace, and Poka Yoka under the able guidance of trained and competent LEAN consultants to attain LEAN levels like basic, intermediate and advanced.
- The government has also done away with the requirement of setting up a special purpose vehicle in every cluster.

4. Seven PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park sites announced

- The Government of India announced the sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile industry.
- The Parks will come up in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**. These parks will enhance the competitiveness of the textiles industry by attracting global players.
- These 7 sites were chosen out of 18 proposals for PM MITRA parks which were received from 13 States.
- Eligible States and sites were evaluated using a transparent Challenge Method based on objective criteria taking into account a variety of factors such as connectivity, existing ecosystem, textile/industry policy, infrastructure, utility services etc.
- PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity was also used for validation.
- PM MITRA Parks will help in creating world-class industrial infrastructure that would attract large scale investment including foreign direct investment (FDI) and encourage innovation and job creation within the sector.
- The Ministry of Textiles will oversee the execution of these projects. An SPV owned by Centre and State Government will be set up for each park which will oversee the implementation of the project.
- The Ministry of Textiles will provide financial support in the form of Development Capital Support upto Rs. 500 crore per park to the Park SPV.
- A Competitive Incentive Support (CIS) upto Rs 300 crore per park to the units in PM MITRA Park shall also be provided to incentivise speedy implementation. Convergence with other GOI schemes shall also be facilitated in order to ensure additional incentives to the Master Developer and investor units.
- State governments will provide contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcel of at least 1000 acres of land and will also facilitate provision of all utilities, Reliable Power Supply and Water availability and Waste Water Disposal system, an effective single window clearance as well

as a conducive and stable industrial/textile policy.

- The parks will offer an excellent infrastructure, plug and play facilities as well as training and research facilities for the industry.
- PM MITRA Parks represent a unique model where the Centre and State Governments will work together to increase investment, promote innovation, create job opportunities and ultimately make India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports.
- Nearly Rs. 70,000 crores investment and 20 lakhs employment generation is envisaged through these parks.

5. Government Sanctions Rs 800 Crore For Installing 7,432 EV Fast Charging Stations

- Ministry of Heavy Industries said Rs.800 crore under FAME India Scheme Phase II has been sanctioned to three PSU oil marketing companies(OMCs) for setting up 7,432 public fast charging EV stations across India.
- The ministry has released Rs 560 crore or 70% of the total amount to three OMCs: IOCL, BPCL and HPCL.
- The installation is expected to be completed by March 2024. At present, there are 6,586 charging stations across the country.

6. Sagarmala Programme: 70 Projects Worth Rs 2,856 Crore Sanctioned

- In a reply to Lok Sabha, Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal, said that under the Sagarmala

Programme so far 15 projects worth Rs 849 crore have been completed.

- Under the Sagarmala Programme, 70 projects worth Rs 2,856 crore have been sanctioned for the development of coastal berths, roll-on, roll-off, passenger jetties etc.
- The Sagarmala programme is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Ports' Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes'.

Appointments & Resignations

1. Shri Rajesh Malhotra takes charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau

- Shri Rajesh Malhotra has today assumed charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- Shri Malhotra takes over after the superannuation of Shri Satyendra Prakash. Previously, Shri Rajesh Malhotra, an Indian Information Service (IIS) Officer of the 1989 batch, had been working in Ministry of Finance since January 2018.
- **About PIB:** The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements.
- PIB has its Headquarters in **New Delhi**.
- It is headed by the Principal Director General (Media & Communication) who is assisted by a Director General and eight Additional Director Generals at Headquarters.

2. Vo Van Thuong sworn in as Vietnam's president

- Vietnam's newly-elected President Vo Van Thuong was sworn in the National Assembly Building in Hanoi.
- Thuong, 52, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), was formally

approved by the National Assembly to take over the presidency.

- He will serve until the present term ends in 2026.

3. Jishnu Barua becomes new chairperson of power regulator CERC

- Jishnu Barua has become the new chairperson of power regulator Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- Barua was chief secretary of Assam from October 2020 to August 2022. Prior to this, he had been additional chief secretary to Assam looking after various departments of the state from August 2017 to October 2020.
- **About CERC:** The CERC has been established by the government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.
- CERC is the central commission for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003 which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998.
- The commission consists of a chairperson and four other members, including Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, who is the ex-officio member of the commission.

4. IPS officer Rashmi Shukla appointed Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

- **About SSB:**SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
- Sashastra Seema Bal, Headquarters: New Delhi, Motto: Service, Security and Brotherhood.
- SSB is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Special Service Bureau (now Sashastra Seema Bal) was thus conceived in November 1962 and eventually created in March 1963 with the sole objective of achieving 'Total security preparedness' in the remote border areas for performing a 'stay-behind' role in the event of a war.

6. Pankaj Gupta appointed as MD and CEO of Pramerica Life Insurance

- Pankaj Gupta has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Pramerica Life Insurance. Gupta will succeed Kalpana Sampat.
- Pramerica Life Insurance Limited is a joint venture between DIL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited and Prudential International Insurance Holdings, Ltd. (PIIH), a fully owned subsidiary of Prudential Financial, Inc. Gurugram HQ Pramerica was incorporated in Sept 2008.

7. SS Dubey takes charge as new Controller General Of Accounts

- A 1989-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service officer S.S. Dubey took charge as the Controller General of Accounts, CGA, in New Delhi.

- Mr. Dubey is the 28th CGA, of Government of India. Mr. Dubey is appointed by the Government of India as the CGA .
- Prior to taking charge as the CGA, he was Additional Controller of Accounts, Public Financial System.

8. Amir Tamim appoints Sheikh Mohammed as Qatar's new prime minister

- Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has appointed Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani as the country's new prime minister.
- Sheikh Khalid was appointed as Qatar's prime minister & minister of interior in January 2020.
- Sheikh Mohammed was appointed as the foreign minister of Qatar in 2016 before being named as the deputy prime minister in 2017.

9. Axis Mutual Fund Appoints B Gopkumar As CEO, Ashish Gupta As CIO

- Axis Asset Management Company has appointed B Gopkumar, the managing director and chief executive officer at Axis Securities, as the new CEO of leading fund house Axis Mutual Fund. Gopkumar takes over from Chandresh Nigam who has stepped down as the CEO of the company.

10. HUL appoints Rohit Jawa as next CEO to succeed Sanjiv Mehta

- Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) board has approved the

appointment of Rohit Jawa as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

- The appointment for a 5-year period is effective from June 27, 2023. He will succeed Sanjiv Mehta, who has been at the helm of Hindustan Unilever since 2013.
- Rohit Jawa is presently the Chief of Transformation for Unilever.

11. Xi Jinping elected as President of China for third five-year term

- The National People's Congress (NPC) unanimously endorsed Mr. Xi, 69, with all of its 2,952 present members casting votes in favour of his reappointment, and none abstaining or opposing.
- Xi Jinping nominated Li Qiang, 63, to become premier. Li Qiang will replace Li Keqiang, who became premier in 2013.
- Han Zheng, the former Vice Premier, was appointed Vice President.

12. Tech Mahindra appoints former Infosys President Mohit Joshi as MD and CEO

- Tech Mahindra announced that former Infosys President Mohit Joshi has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company and key managerial personnel under the Companies Act, 2013, for a period of 5 (five) years.
- Mohit Joshi will take over the charge from C P Gurnani after his retirement.

- Mohit Joshi's resignation was the second top level exit at the firm in less than six months. Ravi Kumar S, in October, resigned after working at the Infosys for almost 20 years. Kumar has since taken over as the chief of Cognizant.

13. RBI approves reappointment of SumantKathpalia as MD, CEO of IndusInd Bank

- Private lender IndusInd Bank said that the Reserve bank of India had approved the re-appointment of SumantKathpalia as management director and chief executive officer of the bank for a further period of 2 years with effect from March 24, 2023.
- Established in 1994 by Srichand P Hinduja, the name 'IndusInd' Bank was inspired by the Indus Valley Civilisation.

14. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) appoints Tablesh Pandey and M Jagannath as MDs

- LIC announced the appointment of Tablesh Pandey and M Jagannath as Managing Directors of the corporation. The two managing directors who retired from the corporation this week are Raj Kumar and BC Patnaik.
- The third MD, apart from Sh.Pandey & Sh. Jagannath, is Ipe Mini.
- Siddharth Mohanty will continue to execute his functions as MD along with being the interim chairman.

15. Amitava Mukherjee assumes additional charge as NMDC CMD

- NMDC said its Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee has taken the additional charge as its Chairman-Cum-Managing Director.
- **About NMDC:** NMDC Limited is a central public sector undertaking. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
- NMDC Headquarters: Hyderabad; Founded: 1958.

16. Honeywell company veteran Vimal Kapur to replace Darius Adamczyk as CEO

- Vimal Kapur, President, and Chief Operating Officer will succeed Darius Adamczyk as Chief Executive Officer on June 1, 2023. Adamczyk, who became Chief Operating Officer in 2016, Chief Executive Officer in 2017, and Chairman in 2018, will continue to serve as Executive Chairman of Honeywell.
- Honeywell International Inc. is an American publicly traded, multinational conglomerate corporation headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina.

17. Govt appoints Deepak Mohanty as PFRDA chairman, Mamta Shankar Appointed As Whole-Time Member

- The government has appointed Deepak Mohanty as chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

- He replaced Supratim Bandyopadhyay, whose term ended in January.
- Prior to this, Mohanty, a former executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), served as a member of PFRDA.

18. G Krishnakumar takes over as Bharat Petroleum Corporation's chairman

- G Krishnakumar has taken over as the new chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
- Krishnakumar replaces Arun Kumar Singh, who retired as chairman in October 2022.
- Post that, Gupta was holding additional charge of the chairman.
- Krishnakumar will hold the position of chairman and managing director till April 2025.

19. Lalit Kumar Gupta appointed as CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Lalit Kumar Gupta as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a PSU under the Ministry of Textile.
- **About CCI:** CCI was established on 31st July 1970 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, as a Public Sector Undertaking under the Companies Act 1956.

20. CEAT appoints Arnab Banerjee as MD, CEO after Anant Goenka resigns

- Tyre maker CEAT announced that Arnab Banerjee has been appointed as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) after Anant Goenka resigned.
- Anant Goenka has been appointed as a non-executive non-independent director, designated as vice chairman of the company from April 1, 2023.
- Harsh Goenka, Chairman of CEAT and RPG Enterprises.

21. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Names Anup Bagchi As MD & CEO

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has named Anup Bagchi as MD and CEO for 5 years, effective June 19, 2023. He will replace NS Kannan, who will superannuate from the services.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Prudential Life) is promoted by ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. ICICI Prudential Life began its operations in the fiscal year 2001.
- Prudential plc is a British multinational insurance company headquartered in London, England.

22. Guruprasad Mudlapur appointed President of Bosch Group in India and MD, Bosch, effective 1 July 2023

- Bosch announced the appointment of its present CTO and Joint MD Guruprasad Mudlapur, as President of the Bosch Group in

India, and the Managing Director of Bosch, effective 1 July 2023.

- Mudlapur succeeds Soumitra Bhattacharya, who will be retiring from Bosch India, after 28 years, effective 30 June 2023.

23. Financial Services Institutions Bureau Selects Siddhartha Mohanty To Head LIC

- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau, the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, selected Siddhartha Mohanty to head insurance behemoth LIC. As per the guidelines, the chairman is selected from the four managing directors of the company.
- FSIB, the six members panel, is headed by Sh. Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
- The government in 2021 extended the superannuation age of the LIC Chairman to up to 62 years by making an amendment to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960.
- The changes made in the rules are called the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2021**.
- Other members of the FSIB are the Secretary Department of Financial Services, the Secretary Department of Public Enterprises, IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda, former LIC managing director Usha Sangwan and former Oriental Insurance MD A V Girija Kumar.

24. NDTV Names UK Sinha Non-Executive Chairman, Welspun's Dipali Goenka Independent Director

- Sh. Sinha has been appointed as non-executive chairperson as well as an additional director in the capacity of non-executive, independent director, according to NDTV, now part of AMG Media Networks Ltd.
- Goenka has been named an additional director in the capacity of non-executive, independent woman director.
- Goenka is the CEO and managing director of Welspun India Ltd. New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV), Founders: Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy.

25. Rajib K Mishra takes over as Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India

- Power trading solution provider PTC India has appointed Rajib Kumar as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
- Mishra is a power market veteran with diverse experience in the sector. He joined PTC Board on February 24, 2015 as Director (Marketing and Business Development).

26. Bain & Company names Parijat Ghosh as new managing partner in India; Karan Singh as chairman

- Global management consulting firm Bain & Company has announced the appointment of Parijat Ghosh as the new

Managing Partner in India effective from April 1.

- Parijat will succeed Karan Singh, who after leading Bain India for about eight years, has been appointed as Chairman of Bain India, effective from April 1.

Awards

1. HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is 'BS Banker of the Year 2022'

- Sashidhar Jagdishan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022, as the lender continued its strong performance under his leadership while successfully navigating through technology-related challenges.
- An eminent five-member jury, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor S S Mundra, picked the CEO of the largest private sector bank of the country as the winner.
- The other jury members were Vice Chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited Keki Mistry, Ican Investment Advisors Chairman Anil Singhvi, Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company MD and CEO A Balasubramanian, and former MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda P S Jayakumar.

2. Health Ministry gets Porter Prize 2023 for Government's strategy in managing COVID-19

- Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has received the Porter Prize 2023. It recognized the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits.

- The prize was announced during The India Dialog at Stanford University.
- Porter Prize is named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.

3. India Wins GSMA Government Leadership Award 2023

- The **Ministry of Communications** has informed in a press release that GSM Association (GSMA) has conferred Government Leadership Award 2023 to India for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation.
- With nearly 1 Lakh sites in 387 districts, India's 5G roll-out is one of the fastest in the world. Indian telecom sector has emerged as a sunrise sector.
- GSMA, which represents more than 750 mobile operators and 400 companies in the telecom ecosystem, recognizes one country every year.
- India was declared winner in the ceremony held at Mobile World Congress Barcelona on 27 Feb, 2023.

4. Writer Vinod Kumar Shukla wins 2023 PEN/Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award

- Acclaimed Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla has won the 2023 PEN/Nabokov Award for achievement in international literature, PEN America 'one of the most prestigious literary prizes worldwide.
- The short story writer, poet and essayist, Shukla, who is

considered one of the greatest contemporary writers in the Hindi language received the 59th Annual PEN Literary Awards.

- **About Vinod Kumar Shukla:** Vinod Kumar Shukla, at 87, has won the **PEN America** award for lifetime achievement in literature, one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide, after decades of composing acclaimed novels like *Naukar Ki Kameez* (1979) and poetry collections like *Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega* (1992).
- The PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature is given annually to a living author “whose body of work is of enduring originality and consummate craftsmanship.” Previous winners include NggwaThiong’o, Anne Carson, M. NourbeSe Philip, Sandra Cisneros, Edna O’Brien, and Adonis.
- Shukla, whose works incorporate magic-realist elements and have won the **Sahitya Akademi** award and the Atta Galatta–Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize, was born on January 1, 1937 in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh (then Madhya Pradesh).
- His first published work was a poetry collection *Lagbhag Jai Hind* (1971), followed by *Vah Aadmi Chala Gaya Naya Garam Coat Pehankar Vichar Ki Tarah* (1981). *Naukar Ki Kameez* was his first novel, adapted into a 1999 Hindi film by Mani Kaul.
- One of his latest story collections, *Blue is like Blue* (2019), translated by Arvind

Krishna Mehrotra and Sara Rai, explores characters who live in one-room apartments and fear being swindled by electric companies. *Mahavidyalaya* (2022) is a collection which discusses the conflicts between nature and humanity and how literature can rescue both.

- The novel *A Silent Place* (2021), translated by Satti Khanna, narrates a forest silenced by exploitation, and the journey of a few kids within who seek to enliven it again.

5. BHEL wins CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy.'
- CBIP awards are conferred for outstanding contribution to the development of water, power and renewable energy sectors.
- The award was received by BHEL's CMD Dr Nalin Shinghal along with BHEL's Director (IS&P) Renuka Gera.

6. Mirabai Chanu: Weightlifter is BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year

- Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2022 following a public vote.
- The 28-year-old Commonwealth champion, who also won in 2021, becomes the first person to take the honour twice. The other shortlisted contenders were wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and

SaksheeMalikkh, boxer Nikhat Zareen and badminton player PV Sindhu.

- Table tennis player Bhavina Patel was named BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year.

7. First Edition of Women Icons Leading Swachhata (WINS) Awards 2023 Launched By MoHUA

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri announced the 'Women Icons Leading Swachhata' (WINS) Awards 2023 on 7th March 2023.
- The WINS Awards 2023 aim to recognize celebrate and disseminate inspiring and exemplary initiatives in urban sanitation and waste management by women led organisations and individual women.
- The applications are open from 8th March to 5th April 2023. Applications for the Awards are open to (i) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (ii) Micro-enterprises, (iii) Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), (iv) Startups and (v) Individual Women Leaders/Swachhata champions.

8. India has bagged a Golden and Silver Star at the International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 at ITB, Berlin 2023

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has bagged a Golden and Silver Star at the International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023' in 'TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country

International' Category at ITB, Berlin 2023.

- The annual award ceremony takes place at ITB Berlin, the world's leading tourism trade show.
- The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.
- The 'Golden City Gate' is a creative multi-media international competition for countries, cities, regions and hotels.
- The entries received for the awards are judged by an international jury comprising film and tourism experts.

9. 'The Elephant Whisperers' emerged as the winner at the 95th Academy Awards making it a maiden victory for India in the Documentary

- 'The Elephant Whisperers' emerged as the winner at the 95th Academy Awards making it a maiden victory for India in the Documentary Short Subject category. Well, this is not the first time that Guneet Monga has brought the Oscar to India.
- In 2019, Guneet Monga's documentary 'Period. End of Sentence' bagged the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject

10. iBrowsejobs Awarded as India's Most Trusted IT Consulting Company at ILA 2022

- India, 13th iBrowsejobs Technologies Private Limited won the most prestigious Industry Leaders Awards 2022 for the 'Most

Trusted IT Consulting Company in India.

- iBrowsejobs focuses on interviews, sticking to the basics of what is needed for one to secure a job and execute it efficiently.
- Dr. Krish Bhargav is the founder of this company.

11. AuditOnline Application Makes India Proud on Global Platform

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) alongwith National Informatics Centre (NIC), functioning as technology partner of the Government, has been recognized for its AuditOnline software programme at the WSIS Forum 2023 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva under Category 7 Action Line (AL) C7 ICT Applications: e-Government for conducting online audit of all Panchayati Raj
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is an annual award event coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), affiliated with the United Nations (UN), in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD to promote ICTs for achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- This event is intended for ICT development initiatives that support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023 is being organized on the theme, 'WSIS Action Lines for

Building Back Better and Accelerating the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

12. Delhi airport adjudged best airport in South Asia: Skytrax

- Delhi airport has been adjudged the best airport in India and South Asia, according according to international air transport rating organization Skytrax.
- The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital has also moved up to the 36th position this year from 37th in 2022,
- The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd-led led consortium, is operating IGIA, which is also the country's largest airport.

13. REC CMD Vivek Kumar Dewangan bags 'The Most Promising Business Leaders of Asia' Award

- In recognition of his stellar leadership in scaling up the operational business matters in the power sector value chain Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC Limited, has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Most Promising Business Leaders of Asia' award on March 21 at the 7th edition of the Economic Times Asian Business Leaders Conclave 2022-23.
- **About REC:** REC has been accorded with the status of a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise, thus giving REC

greater operational and financial autonomy. An order to this effect was issued yesterday by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance. Incorporated in 1969, REC is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India. Thus it became India's 12th Maharatna.

14. Alia Mir, First Woman Wildlife Rescuer In J K, Honoured With Wildlife Conservation Award

- Alia Mir, a woman from Jammu and Kashmir has been honoured with the Wildlife Conservation Award by the administration for her conservation efforts in the region.
- Alia is also the first woman from Kashmir who works for the charity Wildlife SOS organization which is part of the Wildlife Rescue Team.
- Alia, who is an eminent sociologist, was awarded at the World Forestry Day

15. Special literary award conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) conferred a special literary award on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- The award has been conferred for his trilogy- The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries and the New China 1952.

16. NGO from Assam honoured with Children's Champion Award

- An Assam-based NGO that cares for special and autistic children has won the Children's Champion Award 2023 in the health and nutrition category.
- The award, instituted by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights in 2022, recognises individuals and institutions championing the cause of children in education, justice, health, nutrition, sports.
- Set up in 2005, Tapoban has been working for the specially-abled children providing speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, music and other skills besides awareness.

Ranks & Reports

1. Reliance Jio second-strongest telecom brand in world, says report

- Reliance Jio has climbed up to number two rank ' up from fifth place last year ' in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.
- The list is by UK-based Brand Finance, a leading brand valuation company, and part of its latest global report on the world's 150 most valuable telecom brands for 2023.
- Based on the scores, Reliance Jio is behind only Swisscom and ahead of Etisalat, MTC.

2. Mumbai jumps to 37th place globally in price growth in luxury housing

- Mumbai's rank has improved to 37th from 92nd in a global list of movement in prices of luxury homes as the city saw an appreciation of 6.4 per cent during 2022 calendar year, according to Knight Frank India.
- The value of Prime International Residential Index (PIRI 100) that tracks the movement in luxury house prices across the world increased by 5.2 per cent YoY in 2022.
- Aspen ranks 2nd with 27.6 per cent growth in prices, followed by Riyadh (25 per cent), Tokyo (22.8 per cent), Miami (21.6 per cent), Prague (16.3 per cent), Algarve (15.3 per cent), Bahamas (15 per cent), Athens 13 per cent and Porto (12.7 per cent).

- According to the report, **Monaco** continues its reign as the world's most expensive city where USD 1 million can get you 17 square metres of space

3. UAE tops the MENA region in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report, scoring 100% in 5 of 8 key indicators

- According to the annual World Bank report, which covers 190 countries, the UAE scored 82.5 out of 100 possible points across 35 sub indicators divided into eight major areas of the report: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension. UAE has been enacting legislation and regulations that support women's rights and workplace roles. Middle East/North Africa- MENA
- ***MENA countries consist of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.***

4. Dubai based Emirates emerges as the largest foreign airline for international traffic

- Dubai based **Emirates** airline emerges as the largest foreign airline for outbound and inbound international traffic to & from India, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation India.
- According to DGCA data for the final quarter of 2022, Emirates is also the third-largest carrier for international traffic when all

domestic carriers in India are taken into account.

- Maximum passengers are carried to and from **United Arab Emirates** (32.4 percent) followed by Singapore (7.9 percent), Thailand (7.0 percent), Saudi Arabia (6.7 percent) and Qatar (6.3 percent).
- The **United Kingdom** is the most popular travel destination among European nations, receiving roughly 4.4 percent of all international travelers during Q4 of 2022. Maximum international passengers were carried on the Dubai-Mumbai sector followed by Dubai-Delhi.
- German **Cargo Aerologic** carried the maximum freight with 14.4 percent market share followed by Emirates Airline (11.4 percent market share) and Qatar Airways (10.8 percent market share) during the fourth quarter of the year 2022. There are 81 scheduled international carriers—74 foreign and 7 Indian—in existence. India now has 322 routes connecting it via air to 52 different nations.
- In comparison to Indian carriers, who hold a 56.5 percent share of the overall international passenger traffic during the fourth quarter (October-December) of 2022, the share of foreign carriers is 43.5 percent.
- The top ten international carriers carried about 63.4 percent of all passengers traveling internationally in the fourth quarter of 2022. The most international passengers were carried by Indigo, followed by Air India and Emirates. Except for

Singapore Airlines, every foreign airline in the top 10 list is from a Gulf nation.

5. 31 Indian states have implemented 'PM CARES for Children' scheme: ILO-UNICEF report

- An ILO-UNICEF report on **Social Protection for Children** said 31 Indian states have implemented the national 'PM CARES for Children' scheme launched during the pandemic with 10,793 full orphans (children who have lost both parents) and 151,322 half-orphans (children who have lost one parent) due to the pandemic taking the benefit of the scheme.
- Introduced in March 2020, PM CARES for Children scheme aims to support orphan children.
- The United Nations (UN) report titled ' **More than a billion reasons: The urgent need to build universal social protection for children** - warns that an additional 50 million children aged 0-15 missed out on a critical social protection provision ' specifically, child benefits (paid in cash or tax credits) ' between 2016 and 2020, driving up the total to 1.46 billion children under 15 globally.
- Introduced in March 2020, the PM CARES for Children scheme aims to support orphan children.
- Under the scheme, Rs one million can be paid on a monthly basis from age 18 to 23 to provide regular income support, or it can be taken as a lump sum when the beneficiary turns 23 years old, it

said, citing the government's statement of 2021.

7. Karnataka, Gujarat make most progress in clean energy transition: Report

- Karnataka & Gujarat are the Indian states making the most progress in overall preparedness and commitment in the transition to clean electricity, a joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember showed.
- Report analyses 16 Indian states, which together account for 90% of the country's annual power requirement across 4 dimensions.
- The dimensions track a state's preparedness to shift away from fossil fuel-based power, its ability to incentivise greener market participation, its power system's reliability and policies pushing for power sector decarbonisation.
- Based on this analysis, the report authors devised the states' electricity transition (SET) scoring system, which measures the performance of the different states in the transition to clean electricity.

8. India Has Significantly Less Academic Freedom Now Than 10 Years Ago: New V-Dem Report

- In a 2023 update to its 'Academic Freedom Index,' the V-Dem Institute has noted that India is among 22 countries and territories out of 179 in the world, where institutions and scholars enjoy

'significantly less freedom today than 10 years ago.'

- India was behind immediate neighbours Nepal (0.86), Pakistan (0.45) and Bhutan (0.46) and before Bangladesh (0.25) & Myanmar (0.01) India received a score of 0.38 in a table of 0 to 1, where 1 is highest academic freedom.
- The update focuses on detailed comparative studies between the decline in academic freedom in India since 2013, to those in the United States, China and Mexico.
- In the Academic Freedom Index published last year, India had received a score of 0.38 in a table of 0 to 1, where 1 is the highest academic freedom. The country was in the bottom 20-30% bracket.
- India was behind immediate neighbours Nepal (0.86), Pakistan (0.45) and Bhutan (0.46) and before Bangladesh (0.25) and junta-ruled Myanmar (0.01).

9. India Ranks 108th on Electoral Democracy Index 2023

- India ranks 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy report 2023. India's ranking dipped from the 100th position in 2022 to 108th this year in the report's Electoral Democracy Index (EDI) while it was 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI).
- Denmark is the country that has been placed at the top rank with a score of 0.89 in the index.

10. Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag, Tehri top landslide index: ISRO report

- Uttarakhand's **Rudraprayag district**, which houses the Kedarnath shrine, has "maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country", according to the 'Landslide Atlas' report prepared by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Rudraprayag has 32 chronic landslide zones, with the maximum located on NH-107. Kerala's Thrissur and Palakkad districts are at 3rd and 5th spots respectively.
- Another Uttarakhand district, **Tehri** is at the **second spot** in the list of landslide prone districts. It has over two dozen landslide zones, including Totaghati which has been identified as a "very chronic landslide site".
- The ISRO database covered landslide vulnerable regions in 17 states and two UTs of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- Rajouri and Pulwama (J&K); Kozhikode and Malappuram (Kerala); and South Sikkim and East Sikkim (Sikkim) are the other high risk districts, according to the Landslide Susceptibility Zonation Map.

11. NITI Aayog releases Task Force report on economic viability of Gaushalas

- NITI Aayog released report '**Production and Promotion of Organic and Bio fertilisers with Special Focus on Improving Economic Viability of Gaushalas**'.
- Task Force was constituted by Aayog to suggest measures to make Gaushalas economically viable, address the problem of stray and abandoned cattle & effective utilisation of cow dung and urine in agriculture and energy sectors.

12. India's digital payments market will more than triple to USD 10 trn by 2026: Report

- A recent report by PhonePe and Boston Consulting Group concluded that India's digital payments market will more than triple from USD 3 trillion to USD 10 trillion by 2026.
- In a span of just 6 years after launch of UPI in 2016, India primarily a cash-based economy, now leads the world in real-time digital payments, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all such transactions.
- In 2015, the Indian government launched its Digital India programme.

13. Women hold around 36% of senior positions in India's mid-market biz: Report

- According to Grant Thornton's International Business Report on

'Women in Business 2023 - The push for parity', 32 per cent of senior management positions are now held by women globally, in mid-market businesses, and the same stands at 36 per cent in India.

- Around 9 per cent of such businesses still have no women in senior leadership roles globally, the report said.
- The Grant Thornton International Business Report (IBR) is the world's leading mid-market business report, surveying around 10,000 business leaders in 28 countries, annually.
- In India, around 281 mid-market businesses were surveyed for this report.
- The report further revealed that all regions (Africa, APAC, ASEAN, Latin America, North America, EU) surpassed the 30 per cent figure for women in senior management for the first time.
- The ASEAN region experienced the most significant percentage point rise, increasing from 37 per cent to reach the 40 per cent mark, the report stated.

14. Delhi ranks 4 on list of world's most polluted cities

- Delhi ranked fourth on a list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2022, according to the World Air Quality Report prepared by IQ Air.
- Delhi had an average PM2.5 level of 92.6 g/m³ in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4 g/m³ in 2021.

- The most polluted city in the world was found to be Lahore, followed by Hotan in China.

15. Mayurbhanj and Ladakh Are Among Time's 'World's Greatest Places Of 2023'

- The TIME magazine has released its annual list of the **'World's Greatest Places'** for the year 2023 and two Indian destinations have made it to the list.
- The list which has 50 spots includes two Indian places - Mayurbhanj and Ladakh, that have been selected for their rare tigers and ancient temples, and adventures and eats, respectively.
- Last year, Kerala and Ahmedabad were the Indian destinations in Time's 'World's Greatest Places of 2022'.

16. Global Terrorism Index 2023: Afghanistan Tops The List Of Most Impacted Country By Terrorism

- Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) showed. India ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. India is among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index.
- Globally, deaths from terrorism fell by nine per cent to 6,701 deaths, marking a 38 per cent decrease from its peak in 2015.

17. Rao Inderjit Singh releases the publication "Women and Men in India 2022"

- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Rao Inderjit Singh released the 24th issue of publication titled '**Women and Men in India 2022**' at Scope Convention Centre, New Delhi.
- The inaugural session was followed by a seminar on 'Role of Gender Statistics in Policy Making'.

18. India stands third in world in terms of fish production

- India is the third largest fish producing country, contributing 8 percent to the global fish production and ranks second in aquaculture production.
- The production in 2021-22 is 16.24 MT comprising of Marine fish production of 4.12 MT & Aquaculture of 12.12 MT.
- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has taken several initiatives for development of fisheries and attract farmers towards fisheries along with agriculture to increase their income through its various schemes namely (i) implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
- Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries for a period of 5 years from 2015-16 to 2019-20

- (ii) Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampada Yojana (PMMSY) with effect from the financial year 2020-21 to 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories
- (iii) Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total fund size of Rs 7522.48 crore implemented for a period of 5 years from 2018-19 to 2023-24 for providing concessional finance,
- (iv) issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers.

19. Ranveer Singh topples Virat Kohli to become India's most valued celebrity of 2022

- Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has surpassed cricketer Virat Kohli to become the most valued celebrity of 2022 with a brand value of \$181.7 million, revealed a report by corporate investigation and risk consulting firm Kroll.
- This year, Singh has dethroned cricketer Virat Kohli, who was on top position for five consecutive years.
- Ace cricketer Kohli came in second position with a brand value of \$176.9 million and Akshay Kumar remained steady at the third position with a brand value of \$153.6 million.
- Meanwhile, South Indian stars Allu Arjun and RashmikaMandanna made it to the list of India's top 25 most valued celebrities for the first time.
- Allu Arjun ranked 20th with a brand value of \$31.4 million, while

Rashmi Mandanna ranked 25th with a brand value of \$25.3 million.

20. India ranks third in terms of self-made billionaires, highlights 2023 Hurun Global Rich List

- India ranked third in terms of number of self-made billionaires with 105 billionaires in the list, showed 2023 Hurun Global Rich List.
- The cumulative wealth of these 105 billionaires stood at \$381 billion,
- The list showed that 70 per cent of the billionaires are self-made, meanwhile, 30 per cent come under the inherited category.

21. QS Rankings: IIT-Delhi enters list of top 50 institutions for engineering

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has entered the list of top 50 institutions for engineering in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023.
- The thirteen edition of the 'QS World University Rankings by Subject' has ranked 66 Indian universities, cumulatively achieving 355 entries, a 18.7 per cent increase compared to last year (299).
- As many as 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in different disciplines have figured in the top 100 globally. Last year, 35 Indian programmes made it to the top 100.
- The Delhi University is the Indian varsity with maximum entries (27) followed by Indian Institute of

Technology (IIT), Bombay, (25) and IIT-Kharagpur (23), a statement released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) said.

22. India's Renewable Energy Capacity At 168.96 GW Till February 2023: Minister RK Singh

- Out of the total 168.96 GW, 64.38 GW is solar power capacity, 51.79 GW is hydropower, 42.02 GW is wind power, and 10.77 GW is biopower, R K Singh, Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, said
- Another 82.62 GW of green energy capacity is under implementation, and another 40.89 GW of capacity is in various stages of tendering.
- A total of 3,16,754.86 MU of electricity has been generated from renewable energy sources during the current year 2022-23 (up to January 2023).
- The government's aim is to achieve 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.

23. Mukesh Ambani only Indian among world's top 10 billionaires

- Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited, is the only Indian to feature in the list of the world's top 10 billionaires, according to Hurun Global Rich List. The report compiled by research platform Hurun in coordination with real-estate group M3M, mentioned that the RIL chief occupied ninth rank globally with a net worth of \$82 billion.

- The Hurun Global Rich List 2023 ranked 3,112 billionaires, down from 3,384 last year, from 2,356 companies and 69 countries.
- **Top 10 Billionaries**
- Elon Musk
- Jeff Bezos
- Bernard Arnault
- Bill Gates
- Warren Buffett
- Sergey Brin
- Larry Page
- Steve Ballmer
- Mukesh Ambani
- Bertrand Puech & Family.

24. 26 % of world's population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report

- 26 per cent of the world's population does not have safe drinking water and 46 per cent lack access to safely managed sanitation, according to a report published by UNESCO at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.
- As per the report, between two and three billion people experience water shortages for at least one month per year, posing severe risks to livelihoods.
- The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from 930 million in 2016 to 1.7 to 2.4 billion people in 2050.
- The growing incidence of extreme and prolonged droughts is also stressing ecosystems, with dire consequences for both plant and animal species, the report said.

25. Loan disbursements to MSME sector grew 24% in Q2FY23: TransUnion CIBIL-SIDBI report

- Loan disbursements to the micro, small and medium enterprise sector in Q2 (July-September) FY23 grew 24 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), with significant growth in the micro segment establishing that there's increased inclusivity focus in the market, according to a TransUnion CIBIL-SIDBI MSME Pulse Report.
- Micro, small and medium segments saw a growth of 54%, 23% and 9%.

26. Agriculture sector employs highest female workers: labour ministry report

- The agriculture sector has the highest estimated percentage distribution of female workers followed by manufacturing.
- Nearly 63% workers are female in the agriculture sector at the pan-India level, while the estimated percentage distribution of female worker in the manufacturing sector is 11.2%, according to the annual **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** Report 2021-22

27. India expected to be one of the major beacons of economic growth: KPMG

- Amid global slowdown, India is likely to be one of major beacons of economic growth this year, consultancy major KPMG has said in its Global Economic Outlook report.

- The growth will be driven by driven by strong domestic demand and government expenditure.
- The report said that the recent Budget is likely to boost consumption in the country.
- The efforts of the Union Budget 2023-24 to improve the disposable income of taxpayers in the country is expected to boost consumption via an increase in discretionary spending.



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Important Days

1. Zero Discrimination Day 2023 | March 1st

- On Zero Discrimination Day this year, under the theme "Save lives: Decriminalise", UNAIDS is highlighting how the decriminalisation of key populations and people living with HIV saves lives and helps advance the end of the AIDS pandemic.
- Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.

2. 47th Civil Accounts Day | 1 March

- The Indian Civil Accounts Service was constituted in 1976, after the the maintenance of Accounts of the Union government was separated from that of Audit.
- Consequently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was divested with this responsibility.
- Two Ordinances, the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1976.
- Departmentalisation of Union Accounts (Transfer of Personnel) Ordinance, 1976 were promulgated by the President on 1st of March 1976 to initiate the process of separation of accounts from audit and paving the way for departmentalised accounts.
- Consequently, every year on 1st of March, organization celebrates its foundation day.

3. World Civil Defence Day | 1 March

- World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people and their property from natural disasters, accidents, and other emergencies.
- The day honours the work of several civil defence organisations.
- It was first celebrated in the year 1990 by the International Civil Defence Organization.
- The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2023 is "unifying the world's leading industry specialists for the safety and security of future generations"

4. Self-Injury Awareness Day | 1 March

- Self-Injury Awareness Day is observed every year on 1 March.
- The day is celebrated to create awareness among people about the harmful effects of self-harm.
- Self-injury or self-harm is a serious and often misunderstood behaviour that involves intentionally harming one's own body.
- In 1995, the first International Conference on Self-Mutilation was held. In 1997, the International Society for the Study of Self-Injury was founded.

5. World Seagrass Day | 1 March

- In May 2022, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 1 March as World Seagrass Day.

- Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that are found in shallow waters in many parts of the world, from the tropics to the Arctic circle.
- They form extensive underwater meadows, creating complex, highly productive and biologically rich habitats.

6. World Wildlife Day | 3 March

- March 3 is known as World Wildlife Day (WWD), marked annually to draw attention to issues of conservation of flora and fauna.
- The WWD site states, 'This year, the theme is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3 as the UN World Wildlife Day the day of signature of CITES in 1973.

7. World Hearing Day | 3 March

- Every year, March 3 is marked as the global event to raise awareness of hearing loss, promote ear and hearing care, and urge action to solve hearing loss and associated concerns.
- The day was commemorated for the first time in 2007. Earlier, the day was originally known as International Ear Care Day.
- Later, the World Health Organisation declared World Hearing Day in 2016. The theme of 2023 is "Ear and Hearing Care for All! Let's Make It a Reality"

8. World Obesity Day 2023 - March 4

- World Obesity Day was established in 2015 as an annual campaign with the goal of stimulating and supporting practical actions that will help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight and reverse the global obesity crisis.
- 1.9 billion people will be living with obesity in 2035.
- Childhood obesity is expected to increase by 100% between 2020 and 2035.
- 2023 theme: 'Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity'.

9. National Safety Day 2023 - March 4

- The main aim of the day is to highlight safety measures and make sure that people are aware of them and follow them to avoid accidents at work. 4 March also marks the beginning of the National Safety Week in India. The National Safety Week is observed from 4 to 10 March annually.
- The theme for National Safety Day 2023 is 'Our Aim ' Zero Harm'.
- National Safety Day commemorates the establishment of the National Safety Council in 1966
- National Safety Day has been celebrated since 1966. Every year on March 1, this day commemorates the establishment of the National Safety Council.
- On March 4, 1966, the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India established

the National Safety Council as a non-profit, self-financing body.

- National Safety Day was established for the first time in 1972.
- The National Safety Council was established as a public trust under the **Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950** in the year 2000.

10. International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness - March 5

- Observed on 5 March, the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons.
- This is the first-ever observation of the day.
- On December 7, 2022, the UN General Assembly unanimously supported the initiative of Kyrgyzstan and adopted a resolution on proclaiming 5th of March as the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness.
- In 2021, global military spending reached \$2.1 trillion.
- 12,700 nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to humanity today. 26,000 people can be treated for malaria for the price of 1 battle tank.

11. Jan AushadhiDiwas | 7 March

- 'Jan AushadhiDiwas' is celebrated on 7th March every year for enhancing awareness about the scheme and promoting generic medicines. The 05th Jan AushadhiDiwas this year is being celebrated with the theme of " " by organizing week-long events in different cities/ towns all across the country from 1st of March 2023 to 7th March 2023.
- **About PM-BJP:** The 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiPariyojana' is a flagship scheme of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, which has made significant impact to the lives of common people by providing quality generic medicines at an affordable price.
- There has been 100 times growth in number of Kendras which were only 80 in 2014 and have now grown to more than 9,000 Kendras covering almost all the districts of the country.
- As an important step in ensuring the health security and menstrual health wellness for Indian women, Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkins were launched in year 2019 and sold at Rs.1/ per pad only.

International Women's Day | 8 March

- Each year, March 8 is observed as International Women's Day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political

achievements of women from all around the world.

- The day also focuses on a call to action for accelerating gender parity and setting agendas and goals in achieving these targets.

12. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day | March 10

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is celebrated every year on March 10 to commemorate the establishment of the CISF in 1969.
- The CISF is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces in India. It is responsible for providing security to various public sector undertakings, airports and other important installations.

13. Savitribai Phule, India's first woman teacher: 126th Death Anniversary | March 10

- Savitribai Phule was an Indian social reformer, poet, and powerful voice in the Indian freedom struggle.
- She worked tirelessly to emancipate women and the Dalit community, inspiring generations of Indians.
- Sadly, she passed away on 10th March 1897 at the age of 64, while fighting the plague.

14. International Mathematics Day | 14 March 2023

- International Day of Mathematics, also known as Pi Day, is an annual celebration observed on March 14th.

- The theme for International Day of Mathematics 2023 is "Mathematics for Everyone," which was proposed by Marco Zarco-Rotairo from the Trece Martires City National High School in the Philippines.
- The first Pi Day was celebrated in 1988 by physicist Larry Shaw at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The celebration included a circular parade, cutting of a Pi-shaped pie, and recitation of pi to as many decimal places as possible.
- In 2019, International Mathematics Day was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) during its general conference.

15. International Day Of Action For Rivers 2023

- Every year on March 14, the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed to promote awareness of the importance of the river systems on the planet earth.
- This year marks the 26th International Day of Action for Rivers.
- The focus is given to river protection with the involvement of the community. Previously, the day was known as World Day against Dams for Rivers, Water, and Life.

16. National Vaccination Day | 16 March

- In India, National Vaccination Day is celebrated on March 16 every year, which is also known as "Polio Ravivar."

- It was introduced Eradication Program (NPEP) launched in 1995.
- National Vaccination Day is a day dedicated to promoting vaccination and raising awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated.
- The first National Vaccination Day was observed on October 2 1995, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who was a strong advocate of preventive healthcare.
- However it was later shifted to March 16 every year to avoid conflict with other health programs.
- The day was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Jonas Salk, , the developer of the polio vaccine.

17. Ordnance Factory Day 2023 | March 18

- Indian Ordnance Factories operated under the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- The Government of India, decided in 2021 to transfer control of the 41 production units collectively known as Ordnance Factories to 7 Government-owned companies, under the Department of Defence Production, **Ministry of Defence** (DDP). The transfer took place on October 1, 2021.
- It is the day on which the first Ordnance factory was set up by the British at Cossipore, Kolkata in 1801, during colonial rule

18. Global Recycling Day | 18 March

- Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.
- It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.
- The theme of Global Recycling Day 2023 is Creative Innovation.

19. World Oral Health Day | March 20

- World Oral Health Day is celebrated every year on March 20 to raise awareness about the importance of oral health and hygiene. This day was first observed in 2013 and is now celebrated in more than 140 countries around the world. The day is organised by the FDI World Dental Federation, which is the largest membership-based dental organization in the world.
- The three-year continuous theme for World Oral Health Day 2021, 2022 and 2023 is "Be Proud of Your Mouth".

20. World Sparrow Day 2023: March 20th

- World Sparrow Day is observed every year on March 20 to raise awareness about the importance of sparrows and their conservation.
- The day was first celebrated in 2010 in India and has since been observed in several countries around the world.
- World Sparrow Day was initiated by the Nature Forever Society of

India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France.

- The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March 20, 2010.

21. International Day of Happiness | 20 March

- International Day of Happiness is celebrated on 20 March every year. The purpose of this day is to know the value of happiness in one's life and create awareness around it. The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution on 12 July 2012 and proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness.
- In 2013, the United Nations' 193 member states commemorated the first International Day of Happiness.
- This year's theme for International Day of Happiness is 'Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind'.

22. International Day of Forests 2023: March 21

- On November 28, 2012, The United Nations General Assembly designated March 21 to be celebrated as the International Day of Forests (IDF).
- The theme for the 2023 International Day of Forests is "Forests and Health". The Collaborative Partnership on Forests selects the topic for each International Day of Forests.
- In 1971, the 16th session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) voted to constitute "World Forestry

Day" and later, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) held World Forest Days for six years from 2007 to 2012.

23. March 21 | World Down Syndrome Day

- March 21, marks World Down Syndrome Day. The objective of this day is to spread awareness about Down Syndrome, a rare genetic condition, and to reduce the social stigma faced by patients.
- The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006. Eventually, the United Nations General Assembly adopted March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day in 2012.

24. World Meteorological Day | March 23

- World Meteorological Day takes place every year on 23 March and commemorates the coming into force on 23 March 1950 of the Convention establishing the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- The theme of World Meteorological Day 2023 is 'The Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations.'
- WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- President: Gerhard Adrian. This day has been celebrated since 1961.
- Last year, the theme for World Meteorological Day was 'Early Warning and Early Actions.'

- The WMO originated in 1873 from the International Meteorological Organisation after the Vienna International Meteorological Congress.

25. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade | 25 March

- United Nations General Assembly established the Outreach Programme on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery, also designated 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- The Day is observed with ceremonies and activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations.
- 2023 Theme: 'Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education'

26. World Theatre Day 2023 | 27 March

- The international theatre community and ITI centers celebrate World Theatre Day on March 27th every year.
- On this day, theatre arts are celebrated to raise awareness about their importance in entertainment and the changes they bring to society.
- Additionally, it helps to promote theatre in all its forms across the world and to make people aware of the importance of theatre
- The International Theatre Institute founded World Theatre Day in 1961. In 1962, Jean Cocteau wrote a

message for World Theatre Day. The International Theatre Institute has set the theme of this year's World Theatre Day as "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."

27. International Day of Zero Waste - March 30

- The International Day of Zero Waste, observed for the first time on 30 March 2023 and jointly facilitated by UNEP and UN-Habitat, aims to raise awareness of the importance of zero waste and responsible consumption and production practices and urban waste management contributing to achieving sustainable development.
- On 14 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its seventy-seventh session to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually.
- Türkiye, with 105 other countries, put forward the resolution.
- It follows other resolutions focused on waste, including "End plastic pollution: towards an internationally legally binding instrument", adopted at the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022.
- Promoting zero-waste initiatives can help advance all the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and

sustainable and Sustainable Development Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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Summit & Conferences

1. Japan, U.S., South Korea, Taiwan launch 'Chip 4' talks for supply chain

- Japan, the United States, South Korea, and Taiwan have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable supply of semiconductors.
- The initiative is part of a U.S. strategy to build a resilient chip supply chain and reduce Chinese involvement.
- The preliminary meeting of the Chip 4 Alliance took place in September 2022.

2. PM Modi inaugurates 8th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the eighth edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is the Chief Guest of the three-day Dialogue. Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy.
- The theme of the 2023 Edition is 'Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.'

3. SCO's First International Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine inaugurated by Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal

- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first B2B Global Conference &

Expo on Traditional Medicine under Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at Guwahati.

- The Global Center for Traditional Medicine of World Health Organisation (WHO-GCTM) being set up at Jamnagar with the support of India will help member countries.

4. President Murmu inaugurates 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Seventh International Dharma Dhamma Conference, organised by the India Foundation in collaboration with the Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal.
- The three-day conference has the theme 'Eastern Humanism for the New Era.'

5. Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti

- The event saw the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan 'Catch the Rain 2023' campaign by President Droupadi Murmu and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The theme of the campaign is source sustainability for drinking water.
- 36 women WASH Champions were conferred with the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023'.

6. 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference begins in Goa

- The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference was inaugurated by Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- The Conference has 500 delegates from 52 countries in attendance.
- During his address, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju emphasized the importance of the conference as a platform for open discussions on critical issues.

7. EC to host 3rd International Conference on theme 'Inclusive Elections and Elections Integrity'

- Election Commission hosts 3rd International Conference on the theme 'Inclusive Elections & Elections Integrity' in virtual format.
- ECI is leading the Cohort on Elections Integrity which was established as a follow up to the 'Summit for Democracy' held in 2021. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar & Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel will participate.
- The first international conference of the Cohort was organized in November last year in New Delhi on the topic 'Role, Framework and Capacity of Election Management Bodies.
- The 2nd Conference on the theme 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity' was organised by the Election Commission in January this year.

8. 17th FEDAI Annual Conference ' From 4th March to 7th March, 2023 held at Cairo, Egypt

- Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) has been holding its Annual Conference since the year 2005.
- The Conference gives an opportunity to representatives of our member banks to exchange notes and share views on the latest developments and current trends in the foreign exchange market, with other market participants and regulators.

9. IIM Ahmedabad hosts two day international research conference on 'FinTech: Innovation, Inclusion and Regulation'

- Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy (MCFME) at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), along with the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) organised the 'International Research Conference on FinTech: Innovation, Inclusion, and Regulation' .
- **About CAFRAL:** The Governor of RBI is the Chairman of the Governing Council of CAFRAL.
- The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) is an independent body set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the backdrop of India's evolving role in the global economy, in the financial services sector and its position in various international fora. CAFRAL seeks to develop

into a world class global institution for research and learning in banking and finance.

10. 2nd edition of World Food India(WFI)-2023 to be organised during 3-5 November, 2023 in New Delhi

- WFI will be organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Curtain Raiser Event to WFI-2023 was held on 10th March.
- Minister Paras outlined five pivotal elements of the WFI-2023 as Millets- 'Shree Anna-The Super Food of India', Innovation and Sustainability 'Green Food', White Revolution 2.0, making India an export hub and focus on technology and digitisation. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries: Pashupati Kumar Paras
- The Curtain Raiser Event to WFI-2023 was held in New Delhi. During the event, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Pashupati Kumar Paras launched the website, publicity brochure and promotional video for WFI-2023.
- Addressing the Curtain Raiser event, Mr. Paras emphasised that India is one of the fastest-growing economies with many investment opportunities, especially in the food processing sector. He outlined five pivotal elements of the WFI-2023 as Millets- 'Shree Anna-The Super Food of India', Innovation and Sustainability 'Green Food', White Revolution 2.0, making India an export hub and

focus on technology and digitisation.

11. India to host mega Buddhism meet this week for SCO nations

- India is organising an international conference on 'shared Buddhist heritage' here on March 14-15, as it seeks to focus on the country's civilisational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations.
- This event is a follow-up to the announcement made by PM Modi on strengthening cooperation in this domain at the previous SCO Summits.

12. Two-day SCO Tourism Ministers' meeting held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)

- The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting has begun today in Varanasi.
- During the meeting, the Tourism Joint Action Plan on the Development of Cooperation in Tourism among SCO member countries would be adopted.
- Varanasi has been designated as the first cultural capital of the SCO.
- India is the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The eight-member countries of SCO represent around 42 percent of the world population and 25 percent of the global GDP.

13. International Ayurved conclave on 'Veterinary and Ayurveda' inaugurated at Haridwar

- International Ayurved conclave on the theme 'Veterinary and Ayurveda', was inaugurated at Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University at Haridwar.
- Union Minister of State for Animal husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Sanjiv Baliyan said that government has taken initiative to validate use of Ayurveda in the treatment of animals

14. PM Modi inaugurates global conference on millets or 'Shree Anna'

- PM inaugurated the Global Millets Conference at Subramaniam Hall, NASC Complex, IARI Campus, PUSA New Delhi.
- It will have sessions on all important issues related to millets like promotion and awareness of millets among producers, consumers and other stakeholders; millets' value chain development; health and nutritional aspects of millets; market linkage etc.
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has organized the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference

15. DRDO organises workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms'

- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a two-day workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms' in New Delhi.
- The workshop has been organised by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a Delhi-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO: Dr Samir V Kamat.

16. Union Health Minister to chair two-day global conference on digital health

- Union Health Minister MankushMandaviya chaired a two-day Global Conference on Digital Health on March 20-21 in New Delhi.
- Using India's Presidency of G20, the conference was organised by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the WHO (World Health Organisation) South-East Asia Regional Office.

17. 1st Trade and Investment working group meeting under India's G20 Presidency begin in Mumbai

- The 1st Trade and Investment working group meeting under India's G20 Presidency began in Mumbai today.
- During the three-day meeting, over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee

countries, regional groupings and international organizations will engage in deliberations to accelerate global trade and investments

- On the first day, an International Conference on 'Trade Finance' is going to be held. This International Conference is being organized by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) and India EXIM Bank.
- The conference will include two sessions highlighting role of banks, financial institutions, development finance institutions and export credit agencies in closing the trade finance gap - a macro view of current trends & future prospects.

18. 601st Meeting of Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India

- Deputy Governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Shri T. Rabi Sankar and other Directors of the Central Board ' Satish K. Marathe, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, and Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia attended the meeting. Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary, & Dr. Vivek Joshi Financial Services secretary were also present.
- The meeting was held at Hyderabad under the Chairmanship of Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor.

Science & Technology

1. ISRO: Successful Flight Acceptance Hot Test of CE-20 Cryogenic Engine for LVM3-M4/Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- The flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine that will power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 Mission was successfully conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- The hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility.
- Earlier this year, Chandrayaan-3 lander successfully underwent EMI/EMC test at U R Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.
- EMI-EMC (Electro - Magnetic Interference/ Electro - Magnetic Compatibility) test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure the functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels, it was noted.
- Chandrayaan-3 interplanetary mission has three major modules: the propulsion module, lander module, and a rover. The mission's complexity calls for establishing radio-frequency (RF) communication links between the modules.
- During the Chandrayaan-3 lander EMI/EC test, launcher compatibility, antenna polarisation of all RF systems, standalone auto compatibility tests for orbital and

powered descent mission phases, and lander and rover compatibility tests for post landing mission phase were ensured, according to ISRO.

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. ISRO plans to launch the mission in June.
- It will be launched by **Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3)** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh)**.
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit. The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.

2. Physicists from West Virginia University give the first law of thermodynamics a makeover

- "We generalized the first law of thermodynamics for systems that are not in equilibrium,".
- "We did a pencil and paper calculation to find how much energy is associated with matter not being in equilibrium, and it works whether the system is close to or far from equilibrium." , according to the physicists of West Virginia University.
- The theory will help scientists understand plasmas in space, which is important for preparing for space weather. Space weather

occurs when huge eruptions in the solar atmosphere blast superheated plasma into space. It can cause problems like power outages, interruptions to satellite communications and the rerouting of airplanes.

- Groundbreaking research related to this is being carried out in PHASMA, the PHase Space MApping experiment, in the WVU Center for KINetic Experimental, Theoretical and Integrated Computational Plasma Physics.
- "PHASMA is making space-relevant measurements of energy conversion in plasmas that are not in equilibrium. These measurements are totally unique worldwide," .
- Developed in the 1850s, the first law of thermodynamics is only valid for systems in which a temperature can be properly defined, a state known as equilibrium. As an example, when combined, a cup of cold water and a cup of hot water will eventually reach a warm temperature between them. This warm temperature is the equilibrium. However, when the hot and cold water have not yet reached that endpoint, the water is out of equilibrium.

3. Scientists confirm existence of a fifth layer in Earth's core

- By measuring the different speeds at which seismic waves created by large quakes penetrate and pass through the Earth's inner core, seismologists from the Australian

National University (ANU) believe they have documented evidence of the fifth layer - a solid metallic ball that sits within the inner core.

- The findings are published in the journal Nature Communications.
- Earth is composed of 4 layers:the crust, mantle, outer core and inner core.
- The Earth is composed of four layers - the crust, the mantle, the outer core and the inner core - each with unique characteristics and properties. A new study has now confirmed the existence of a fifth layer, called the innermost inner core.
- The fifth layer is made of iron and nickel, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core.
- The difference between the two parts of the inner core could stem from how iron atoms are arranged to form a solid.
- Alternatively, the iron in the innermost inner core could have solidified and grown in a different direction than the rest of the inner core.
- The idea that the Earth could hold a fifth layer was proposed in 2002. Since then, researchers have been trying to get more data to learn about the elusive inner core.

4. Svaya Robotics develops 1st indigenous quadruped robot, exoskeleton in India

- As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Hyderabad-based Svaya Robotics has developed India's first indigenous quadruped (four-

legged) robot and exoskeleton for the defence sector.

- India currently imports these robots from the US and Switzerland to help strengthen the country's defence capabilities.
- The indigenous robots and wearable exoskeletons were developed in collaboration with the DRDO Labs, Research and Development Establishment (R&DE), Pune, and the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru, as technology demonstrators with their design inputs.

5. ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on March 26.
- Under a commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited, ISRO will launch 72 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associates Limited and place them in low Earth orbits.
- NewSpace is the commercial wing of ISRO. The first set of 36 satellites was launched on October 23 last year by the LVM3 M2 launch vehicle.
- In the second mission on March 26th, the remaining 36 satellites weighing about 5805 kgs will be placed in 450 km circular low Earth orbit by LVM3 M3 launch vehicle.

- The LVM3 had five consecutive successful missions, including the Chandrayaan 2 mission. The satellites offer space based broadband internet services to the corners of the world.

6. ISRO Delivers 36 OneWeb Gen-1 Satellites Into Orbit In LVM3's Sixth Straight Successful Flight

- India's heaviest rocket took off with 36 OneWeb satellites and deposited all of them in their intended orbits.
- The successful mission marked the completion of the LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 mission, which, along with the OneWeb India-1 mission on 23 October last year, has led to the placement of a total of 72 satellites in low-Earth orbit (LEO) over two missions.

7. IIT Madras Researchers develop pocket-friendly device to detect milk adulteration in 30 seconds

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- The test could be even performed at home.
- It can detect multiple substances commonly used as adulterating agents including Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide.

8. Space System Design Lab Inaugurated in Ahmedabad

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has established a new state-of-the-art space systems design lab for the benefit of startups at its headquarters in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
- IN-SPACe is a single-window, independent, nodal agency under the Department of Space that facilitates private sector participation in Indian space activities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the headquarters of the IN-SPACe at Bhopal, Ahmedabad on June 10, 2022, with the aim of promoting and enabling of private entities in the space sector.

9. India's First Quantum Computing-based Telecom Network Link Now Operational: Ashwini Vaishnaw

- While speaking at the 1st international quantum enclave, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the quantum communication link is now operational between Sanchar Bhawan and the National Informatics Centre office located in the CGO Complex in the national capital.
- He also announced a Rs.10 lakh prize money for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system.

Defence

1. Indian, Japanese air forces take part in ShinyuuMaitri bilateral exercise

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the two-day ShinyuuMaitri bilateral exercise with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF).
- The exercise is being organised on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian. Dharma Guardian commenced on February 13 in Komatsu, Japan, and will conclude on March 2.

2. Indian Navy successfully test-fires the BrahMos supersonic missile

- The Indian Navy successfully test-fired in the Arabian Sea the ship-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic missile.
- The missile that was tested had the indigenous "seeker and booster".
- BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.
- BrahMos missile flies at a speed of **2.8 Mach** or almost three times the speed of sound.
- The anti-ship version of the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired jointly by the Indian Navy and the Andaman and Nicobar Command in April last year.

- India is also exporting BrahMos missiles.
- In January last year, India sealed a USD 375 million deal with the Philippines for supplying three batteries of the missile.

3. INS trikanth participates in international maritime exercise- CUTLASS EXPRESS 2023

- INS Trikanth is participating in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23) being held in the Gulf region.
- IMX/CE-23 is one of the largest multinational maritime exercises in the world.
- Earlier, in Nov 22, INS Trikanth had participated in the CMF led Operation Sea Sword 2.

4. India- France Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 to begin at Thiruvananthapuram

- The maiden Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 between Indian Army and French Army will be conducted at Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- For the first time, both the armies are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group each from the Thiruvananthapuram-based Indian Army troops and French 6th Light Armored Brigade.

5. Indian Navy successfully tests Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile from INS Visakhapatnam

- Indian Navy has successfully undertaken Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) firing from INS Visakhapatnam validating capability to engage Anti-Ship Missiles.
- The MRSAM was jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israeli Aerospace Industries at Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- **MRSAM is designed to destroy hostile aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles and drones at a 70km range**

6. Indian Navy gets first-ever privately made indigenized fuze of Anti-Submarine Warfare rocket

- In a first, Indian Navy has received a fully indigenised fuze YDB-60 for underwater Rocket RGB 60 manufactured by a private Indian industry.
- The fuze made for war ships was manufactured through M/s Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.
- This would be the first time the Indian Navy has placed supply order for underwater ammunition fuze on an Indian Private industry.

8. Exercise FRINJEX ' 2023: Indian and French armies maiden joint military drill in Kerala

- The armies of India and France took part in FRINJEX ' 2023, at the Pangode Military Station in

Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram.

- The Indian Army was represented by troops based at Thiruvananthapuram whereas its French counterpart was represented by the French 6th Light Armoured Brigade.
- It was a two-day exercise.

9. HAL gets '667-crore IAF order for six Dornier aircraft

- The Defence Ministry signed a contract for the procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at a cost of '667 crore.
- The IAF has used the Dorniers for route transport role and communication duties, apart from training of transport pilots.
- The Dornier order for HAL comes on the back of a '6,838-crore contract awarded to it by the defence ministry for 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft.

10. Exercise La Perouse 2023

- The two-day multilateral maritime exercise La Perouse has begun in the Indian ocean region.
- This edition witnessed participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy and the United States Navy.
- The biennial exercise La Perouse is conducted by the French Navy, and is aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness and

optimising maritime coordination amongst the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.

- The two day exercise provides an opportunity for like minded navies to develop closer links in planning, coordination and information sharing for seamless maritime operations.

11. Successful flight-test of DRDO's indigenous power take off shaft conducted on LCA Tejas

- A successful flight-test of power take off (PTO) shaft was conducted on the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas in Bengaluru. The PTO is a critical equipment that transmits power from aircraft engine to the gearbox.
- The maiden successful flight-test of PTO shaft was conducted on LCA Tejas Limited Series Production (LSP)-3 aircraft. DRDO Chairman: Samir V Kamat.
- The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- "The PTO shaft was designed with a unique innovative patented 'Frequency Spanning Technique' which enables it to negotiate different operating engine speeds,".

12. Indian Navy's P8I to participate in anti-submarine warfare exercise Sea Dragon 23

- The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft will participate in Sea Dragon 23, the third edition of the coordinated multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise for long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- The exercise, which began on March 15 and will continue until March 30, stresses coordinated anti-submarine warfare amongst the participating countries.

13. India remains world's largest arms importer, with Russia, France & US as the biggest suppliers

- India continues to languish in the strategically-vulnerable as well as embarrassing position of being the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 11% of the total global imports in 2018-2022, despite the government's continuing thrust on 'Make in India' in defence production.
- The latest data on international arms transfers released by e Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**Russia** remains the largest weapons supplier to India, with 45% of the total imports in the 2018-2022 timeframe, though its share is declining.
- India is followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%), China (4.6%), Egypt (4.5%), South Korea and Pakistan (3.7%) among the top 10 arms importers.

- The top 10 arms exporters, in turn, are the US (40%), Russia 16%), France (11%), China (5.2%), Germany (4.2%), Italy (3.8%) Spain (2.6%), South Korea (2.4%) and Israel (2.3%). China, incidentally, accounts for 77% of the arms supplies to Pakistan.

14. India approves proposal worth Rs 70,500 crore for acquisition of military hardware

- India approved proposals worth Rs 70,500 crore for the acquisition of indigenously designed, developed and manufactured military hardware as part of a mega procurement plan that is expected to significantly boost domestic defence manufacturing.
- Indian Navy proposals constitute more than Rs 56,000 crore, which largely includes indigenous BrahMos missiles etc.

15. 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise between the armies of India and Singapore concludes

- The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise at Jodhpur Military Station, India.
- First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.

16. President DroupadiMurmu presents President's colours to Navy's Gunnery School INS Dronacharya

- President DroupadiMurmu presented the President's Colour to INS Dronacharya, Indian Navy's gunnery school at Fort Kochi.
- The President's Colour or the Nisham is considered the highest honour that the President bestows on a unit for exceptional service to the nation.
- INS Dronacharya is also the nodal centre for training Sagar Prahari Bal and the Navy's centre for training several Indian Ocean Region (IOR) nations in constabulary operations.

17. DRDO conducts two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System missile off Odisha coast

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of **Odisha**.
- VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.

- The missile incorporates many novel technologies including Dual-band IIR Seeker, miniaturised Reaction Control System and integrated avionics.
- The propulsion is provided by a dual thrust solid motor.

18. Indian Army, Air Force conduct joint drills Vayu Prahar along LAC in eastern command

- Indian Army and the Air force jointly conducted a Multi Domain Air-Land Exercise Vayu Prahar along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern command.
- The exercise validated and refined procedures quintessential for synergized joint operations.
- Multi-Domain operations aim to orchestrate military activities across all domains to deliver converging effects.

19. Indian Navy Launches INS Androth- 'The Most Silent Vessel' In Kolkata

- 'Androth', the second of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project, being built by M/s GRSE for Indian Navy was launched on 21 March 2023 at M/s GRSE, Kolkata.
- The ship has been named Androth to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Androth, located about 170 Nm north-west of Kochi, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

20. India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea

- Konkan 2023, a joint maritime exercise, was conducted between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.
- The joint drill by the two navies demonstrated operational readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations.
- INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, participated in this edition and undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices. The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface, and subsurface.
- India and UK agreed to significant new cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, which includes new agreements on maritime information sharing, an invitation to the UK to join India's Information Fusion Centre in Gurugram. India considers the defence sector as one of the major areas where the bilateral partnership could be expanded around the Make in India campaign.
- In maritime cooperation, the engagements between both countries are increasing.
- The UK will be deploying a Carrier Strike Group in the Indian Ocean region this year in line with its strategic tilt to Indo-Pacific.

21. First joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries held in Pune

- The first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries was held in Pune on March 28.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh attended the conference as the chief guest.
- This is the first-ever conference of Army Chiefs of these countries.
- Army chiefs of 10 countries along with 31 representatives of African countries were present in this conference.

22. MoD signs contract with BEL for 13 Lynx-U2 Fire Control Systems for Indian Navy worth Rs 1,700 crore

- Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore for procurement of 13 Lynx-U2 Fire Control Systems for Indian Navy at a total cost of over Rs 1,700 crore under Buy {Indian ' IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)} category.
- The Lynx-U2 System is a Naval Gun Fire Control System designed and developed indigenously.
- It is capable of accurately tracking and engaging targets amidst sea clutter as well as air/surface targets.
- The 4th generation, completely indigenous systems, will be installed on New Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels to be built indigenously at **Garden Reach**

Shipbuilders & Engineers and Goa Shipyard Limited.

- This move will generate an employment of two lakh man-days over a period of four years and encourage active participation of various Indian industries, including MSMEs, thus significantly contributing to the Government's efforts to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

Books & Authors

1. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveils 'India's Vaccine Growth Story' at World Book Fair 2023

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' authored by **Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav**, Additional Secretary, Govt of India at the World Book fair 2023. The book elaborates on India's impressive achievement in developing, producing and distributing COVID-19 vaccines.
- The book entitled "India's Vaccine Growth Story- From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri presents World's largest vaccination drive for COVID-19 conducted by India is elaborately.
- The author has also delved upon future challenges that may emerge for vaccinology and new vistas for the growth of Indian vaccine industry in a candid manner.

2. As Good As My World, a memoir of KM Chandrasekhar

- As Good as My Word by KM Chandrasekhar, who was the Cabinet Secretary from 2007-2011, starts as an autobiography with graphic details of his childhood, schooling and college education, set within the confines of a modest but disciplined Malayali home.
- The next part delves into his joining the IAS and the early years in his home state Kerala.



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Miscellaneous

1. National Gallery of Modern Art to organise 'Spring Fiesta' 2023 to celebrate 69 years of the Museum

- National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi for the first time will organise 'Spring Fiesta' 2023, to celebrate 69 years of the museum which was officially inaugurated on March 29, 1954 by Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan.
- The fiesta is the first of its kind and the audience will be captivated by a variety of creative products accessible for purchase at nominal prices.



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Attempt Now

Obituary

1. Renowned Bengali litterateur Sasthipada Chattopadhyay dies at 82

- Renowned Bengali novelist and short story writer Sasthipada Chattopadhyay passed away.
- He was the creator of the famous 'PandavGoenda' (five detectives) series.
- He created two more detective series: 'Detective Ambar Chatterjee' and 'Goenda Tatar'.
- West Bengal government in 2017 honoured him with the 'Bangla Akademi Award' for his contribution to children's literature.
- Born on March 9, 1941 at Khurut in Howrah district, Chattopadhyay published his first literary work 'KamakhyaBhraman' (visit to Kamakhya) in 'DainikBasumati' in 1961.
- Chattopadhyay joined AnandabazarPatrika the same year and worked for its 'Rabibasoryo' supplement before joining the Indian Railways.
- Besides short stories, Chattopadhyay had written many novels and travelogues, but gained immense popularity after the release of 'PandavGoenda' adventure detective series for children in 1981.

2. Former CJI A M Ahmadi passes away at 91.

- Former Chief Justice of India Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi passed away.

- He was named Chief Justice of India in October 1994, making him the third Muslim to hold office.
- Judge Ahmadi was born in Surat in 1932. He was the 26th Chief Justice of India, serving from 1994 to 1997.
- He served as chancellor at the Aligarh Muslim University for two terms.

4. Satish Kaushik, Noted Actor-Director, passes away at 66

- An alumnus of Delhi University's Kirori Mal College, Sh. Kaushik made a mark in Bollywood with films like Mr India, Ram Lakhan and Deewana Mastana.
- He also directed movies like Hum AapkeDil Mein Rehte Hain and Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja.

5. Renowned writer, director & ad filmmaker Pradeep Sarkar passes away

- Renowned writer, director and ad filmmaker, Pradeep Sarkar passed away in Mumbai on Friday. He was 67 years old and had been suffering from kidney disease.
- His famous Bollywood movies included 'Parineeta', LagaChunari Mein Daag', Mardaani and Helicopter Eela.

6. Gordon Moore, Intel Co-Founder, Dies at 94

- Intel and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation announced that company co-founder Gordon Moore has passed away at the age of 94.
- Moore and his longtime colleague Robert Noyce founded Intel in July

1968. Moore initially served as executive vice president until 1975, when he became president. Pat Gelsinger, Intel CEO.

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View Details

Person in news

1. ACF confers Grandmaster D Gukesh with Player of the Year award

- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram last year.
- In March last year, Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark.
- The Indian women's team, comprising of Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, was adjudged the 'Best Women's team of the Year' for its bronze-winning effort, while Grandmaster R B Ramesh bagged the men's Coach-of-the-Year award and Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte won the Women's Coach-of-the-Year awards.
- The All-India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the 'Most Active Federation' award conferred during the ACF annual summit.

2. Sayantan Das becomes India's 81st Grandmaster

- Sayantan Das became India's 81st GM after beating the opposition at the International Festival des Jeux in Cannes, France.
- Das entered the A Group of the tournament as an IM, chasing the 24 FIDE Elo points that would bring him to the 2500 mark and

grant him the title of India's newest grandmaster.

- Vignesh N R is India's 80th and first Grandmaster brothers with Visakh.

3. MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar named brand ambassadors of Women's World Boxing Championships 2023

- The IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 will be held in India from March 15 to 26 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has announced Mahindra as the title sponsor for this championship, while appointing MC Mary Kom and Bollywood star Farhan Akhtar as brand ambassadors.
- India is hosting the event for the third time in history.

4. Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat

- Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman loco pilot, has now become the first female to operate the newly-introduced semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train.
- She achieved the feat as she piloted the semi-high speed train between Solapur station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai.
- Surekha Yadav became India's first female train driver in 1988. Hailing from Satara in the western Maharashtra region, Yadav has won many awards at the state and

national levels so far for her achievements.

in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).

5. Viacom18 announce MS Dhoni as their brand ambassador

- Viacom18 announced India's most celebrated cricket captain and four-time IPL-winning skipper MS Dhoni as their brand ambassador.
- Dhoni, one of the most revered players in world cricket, will participate in several network initiatives featured on the JioCinema, Sports18 and his social media accounts.

6. Former Australia captain Tim Paine retires from cricket

- Former Australia Test captain Tim Paine has retired from domestic cricket.
- Wicketkeeper Paine played 35 Tests for Australia, including 23 as skipper.
- The 38-year-old, who also played 35 One-Day Internationals, was given a guard of honour as he left Bellerive Oval and Tasmania captain Jordan Silk confirmed Paine had ended his first-class career.

7. Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service

- For distinguished service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship, particularly to trade, investment, and philanthropy, Indian industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata has been appointed as an Honorary Officer

8. Mesut Ozil announces retirement from football

- Germany's World Cup-winning midfielder Mesut Ozil announced his retirement from football at the age of 34.
- The former Real Madrid and Arsenal player was a key member of Germany's World Cup-winning side in Brazil in 2014.
- Ozil made 645 appearances for club and country, in which he scored 114 goals and had 222 assists.

9. Bombay Jayashri chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 by Music Academy

- Renowned Carnatic vocalist and musician Bombay Jayashri will be awarded Sangita Kalanidhi by The Music Academy. The Music Academy also declared names for Nritya Kalanidhi, Sangita Kala Acharya, TTK, and Musicologist awards for the year 2023.
- The Nritya Kalanidhi award will be presented to VasanthalakshmiNarasimhachari, who is a dancer and acharya par excellence of both Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi.

10. SampannaShelar becomes fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across Palk Strait

- Swimmer, Sampanna Ramesh Shelar became the fastest Indian in under 21 group to swim across

the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu in 5 hours and 30 minutes.

- In 2018, Shelar had set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel two ways for 38 km in 9 hours 10 minutes.
- The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes.

11. 'Ironman' Krishna Prakash becomes first person to swim from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves

- Krishna Prakash, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has made history by becoming the first person to swim from the Gateway of India to the Elephanta Caves in Mumbai, a distance of 16.20 kilometers, in just 5 hours and 26 minutes.
- The feat was part of the "Drowning Prevention Awareness" campaign. In 2017, he completed the Ironman Triathlon, one of the most challenging sports events.
- In 2017, he completed the Ironman Triathlon, one of the most challenging sports events in the world.
- This is a three-day event that requires the participants to complete a 3.8-kilometre swim, a 180.2-kilometer bicycle ride, and a 42.2 km run in 16–17 hours.
- This achievement earned Prakash the 'Iron Man' title and a mention in the World Book of Records.
- He was the first Indian Government Servant, Civil Servant, and Uniformed Services Officer, including Armed Forces

and Paramilitary Forces, to earn this title.

12. Star Sports signs Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador.

- The Walt Disney Company India-owned channel Star Sports has signed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador.
- The association, the company said, makes the pop culture icon the first actor to be associated with the channel.
- Star Sports and Ranveer Singh's journey as partners starts with the Opening Weekend of Tata IPL 2023 (Mar 31 ' Apr 2).

Insurance

1. After Bajaj Allianz, New India Assurance gets into surety bonds business

- State-owned general insurer New India Assurance said it entered the surety insurance bonds business, becoming the second such domestic insurance company.
- The regulator Irdai (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) had permitted general insurers to issue surety insurance bonds in April 2022.
- **About Surety Bonds:** Surety bonds are legally enforceable tripartite contracts that guarantee compliance, payment and/or performance.
- The issuing insurer provides guarantee, for a premium, in case of a default in execution of a project. It assures one party (obligee) that the entity (principal) responsible for the project or service delivery delivers on the project in a time-bound manner by adhering to the prescribed stipulations.
- Last December, Union highways minister Nitin Gadkari had launched the country's first surety bond insurance for infrastructure projects by the private sector player Bajaj Allianz.
- Surety bond insurance acts as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal, he had said, adding the product will also cater to the requirements of a diversified

group of contractors, many of whom are operating in increasingly volatile environment.

2. Ujjivan SFB ties up with Max Life for life insurance products

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has tied up with Max Life Insurance Company to offer life insurance products to its customers.
- Through this partnership, Max Life and Ujjivan SFB will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to more than 73 lakh customers of the bank.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has a network of 606 branches in 254 districts, covering 25 States and Union Territories.

3. ICICI Lombard becomes first to offer 'Anywhere Cashless' feature

- In an industry-first, ICICI Lombard General Insurance launched 'Anywhere Cashless' feature for health insurance policyholders to avail cashless facilities at any hospital, even if not part of ICICI Lombard's current network of hospitals.
- The feature will be subject to the hospital's acceptance of the cashless facility.

4. LIC Intends To Record Rs 2.4 Tn Investments Next Fiscal

- Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC), the country's largest investor, plans to invest a record '2.4 trillion across markets, including shares of locally traded companies, in the

year starting 1 April, according to two people directly familiar with the state-run insurer's plans.

5. IRDAI removes commission cap for insurance agents; replaces it with company-wide limit

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the cap on commission payments to agents, aggregators and brokers.
- According to new rules the earlier cap on commission payments is now replaced with an overall cap on expenses of management of insurers.
- These regulations will come into force from 1 April and will be reviewed once every 3 years.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved new rules on the payment of commissions to insurance agents or insurance intermediaries by insurers.
- Under the IRDAI (Payment of Commission) Regulations, 2023, notified on 26 March 2023, the insurance regulator has replaced the earlier individual cap on commission payments on insurance products with an overall cap on expenses of management(EoM) of insurers.
- The rule is applicable for life and non-life insurers (general and standalone health insurers). Hence, the move can provide more flexibility to insurers in managing their expenses.

India & World

1. Deakin University becomes first foreign varsity to set up its international branch campus at GIFT City

- Australia-based Deakin University has become the first foreign university to receive approval of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to set up an International Branch Campus (IBC) in GIFT-IFSC, GIFT City, Gujarat.
- By virtue of this approval, Deakin University will be able to offer the same degree courses it offers in Australia. IFSCA chairperson: Injeti Srinivas
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2022-23 announced that “World class foreign universities and institutions will be allowed in the GIFT City to offer courses in financial management, fintech, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, free from domestic regulations, except those by the IFSCA to facilitate availability of high-end human resources for financial services and technology”.
- Deakin is ranked 266th in the QS World University Rankings and features among the top 50 young universities in the world. That apart, the university is placed in the 250- 300 band in the Times Higher Education World Rankings.
- The IFSCA, which is the unified financial regulator for IFSCs in India, notified IFSCA (Setting up and Operation of International

Branch Campus and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022 in October, 2022, which has received encouraging response from reputed foreign universities from across the world.

2. Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on March 3.

- India hosted a Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on March 3. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting while Foreign Minister of Australia, the Foreign Minister of Japan, and the Secretary of State of the USA participated.
- Meeting was an opportunity for the Ministers to continue their discussions held at last meet in New York in September 2022.
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad comprises **India, US, Japan and Australia**.
- United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan Hayashi Yoshimasa, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the Quad Summit.
- Notably, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad comprising India, the United States, Japan and Australia earlier in February, launched a public campaign ‘Quad Cyber Challenge’ to improve cyber security across their nations.

3. ISRO receives Indo-US jointly developed NISAR satellite

- The US Air Force C-17 aircraft landed in Bengaluru and handed over NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) to the Indian space agency which marks a milestone in the US-India ties in space collaboration.
- The satellite will operate for a minimum of three years. It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory. NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days.
- NISAR, an Earth-observation satellite, is being jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- NISAR was envisioned by NASA and ISRO **eight years ago in 2014** as a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before.
- **NISAR will be the first radar of its kind in space to systematically map Earth, using two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimeter across.**
- NISAR will provide a wealth of data and information about the Earth's surface changes, natural hazards, and ecosystem disturbances, helping to advance our understanding of Earth system processes and climate change.

4. PM Modi, Hasina to launch Rs 377-cr cross-border oil pipeline

- India's first-ever cross-border oil pipeline with Bangladesh is set to be launched on March 18 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina.
- Constructed at a cost of Rs 377.08 crore, the bilateral project has been financed by a grant in aid of Rs 285.24 crore by India and Rs 91.84 crore by NRL.
- The 130-km-long Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) pipeline is part of several bilateral measures to allow Bangladesh to tap into larger volumes of energy to meet its growing domestic demands. It would carry high speed diesel from Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Assam.
- The pipeline would carry fuel from NRL's marketing terminal in Siliguri, West Bengal to the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's (BPC) oil depot in Parbatipur city in Dinajpur District of the neighbouring country

5. India, Australia pledge to raise trade to \$100bn

- India and Australia aim to take their bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next five years through a deal that will target new areas such as critical minerals, mobility, education, sports, space and defence being opened up to each other, hopeful of inking the pact by the end of 2023.

- The deal will build on the free trade agreement, known as India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), that came into effect between the two countries last year, slashing away duties on 96% of Indian exports and 85% of Australian exports.

6. RBI allows India and Tanzania to use their national currencies for bilateral trade settlement

- RBI authorized India & Tanzania to settle bilateral trade in their respective national currencies.
- Tanzanian banks will have to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts in India by approaching authorised Indian banks, who will in turn approach RBI for their approval with details of the arrangement.
- Rupee & Tanzanian Shiling (Tsh) can now be used for settlement of bilateral trade, Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan.

7. India, Japan sign 2 documents on cooperation on Japanese language and bullet train

- India and Japan agreed to sign two agreements on Monday, one to renew a memorandum of cooperation related to the Japanese language, and the other to exchange notes regarding a **300 billion loan** from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail project, commonly referred to as the "bullet train."
- "There were two documents signed on the sidelines- Renewal

of MOC (Memorandum of Cooperation) in the Japanese language, essentially focussing on higher level language learning and second agreement was Exchange of notes on **JICA loan for 300 bn** on Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed railway project," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said in a special briefing.

- JICA and the Government of India signed a loan agreement in 2022 for an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. '6,000 Crore) which was the Tranche 3 on the 'Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).'

8. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar inaugurates "Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To be There" Exhibition

- The historic exhibition which features the works of Sri Lanka's iconic architect the late Geoffrey Bawa, was jointly organized by the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust to mark the 75th anniversary of Indo-Lanka diplomatic relations, which falls this year.

9. India, Maldives hold fourth defence cooperation dialogue in Male

- India & the Maldives conducted the 4th Defence Cooperation Dialogue (DCD) in Male on and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral defence engagements while agreeing to

increase the complexity of existing exercises.

- During the interaction, ongoing bilateral defence cooperation activities were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the increasing engagements.
- The dialogue was co-chaired by **Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane** and his Maldivian counterpart, Chief of Defence Force, Maldives National Defence Forces **Major General Abdulla Shamaal**.

10. IFC Picks Up Green Bonds Worth \$50 Million From Tata Capital Arm

- Tata Cleantech Capital, the green funding arm of Tata Capital, said that its equity partner, the International Finance Corporation, has picked up its sustainability-linked bonds worth \$50 million, or about Rs 375 crore. The bonds are the first in the country issued by a private financial institution.
- Tata Cleantech Capital is a joint venture between Tata Capital & the IFC.
- IFC estimates the country will need around \$403 billion in renewable finance by 2030 to achieve its renewable targets, under which the government has set a target of reducing carbon intensity by over 45% by 2030 from its 2005 levels.

11. G20: Larry Summers, NK Singh-led panel on multilateral banks to submit report by June 30

- The G20 expert group on strengthening multilateral

development banks (MDBs), such as the World Bank, has been constituted and given until June 30 to submit its report.

- The group, co-chaired by former US Secretary of Treasury Larry Summers and India's NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, will have seven other members. This is a 11-member expert group.
- The decision to set up the expert group was taken last month in the meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Bengaluru.

12. World Bank Approves \$100 Million to Increase Social Protection and Disaster Resilience in Odisha

- The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a \$100 million loan to help the Indian state of Odisha strengthen its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters and enhance its social protection coverage for poor and vulnerable households through digital platforms.
- The coastal state of Odisha is vulnerable to natural disasters with cyclones hitting the state every 15 months on an average.
- The state's 480 km coastline is also exposed to tsunami risk.
- Recurrent disasters significantly impact economic activities including agricultural production, infrastructure and access to health, education, and jobs.

Environment

1. First two cheetahs released in wild in MP's Kuno Park

- Two Namibian cheetahs, Oban and Aasha, were successfully released into the wild at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, nearly six months after they were brought to India. They were kept in 'hunting enclosures' at the park.
- Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first batch of eight cheetahs from Namibia into a quarantine enclosure at Kuno National Park.
- The last recorded cheetah was hunted down in Chhattisgarh in 1952.

2. Embassy REIT commits over Rs 300 crore towards investments in green initiatives

- Embassy Office Parks REIT (Embassy REIT), has committed over Rs 300 crore to its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) program across its 43.6 million sq ft pan-India portfolio.
- On March 10, 2023, the company commissioned first phase of its 20 MW solar project, which aims to generate 30 million units of solar power, offsetting around 25,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- As part of its 2040 net zero carbon operations goal, Embassy REIT aims to achieve 75% renewable energy usage by 2025. Apart from the existing 100 MW solar plant, the REIT strategically plans to

more more than double its current 120 MW onsite and offsite renewable energy capacity by installing new solar plants across Bengaluru and NCR.

3. SBI announces donation of '48 lakh for tree plantation

- The State Bank of India has announced a donation of '48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University, Bengaluru, in association with an NGO, That's Eco Foundation, as part of its corporate social responsibility.
- The project is being implemented under **Miyawaki Technique**.
- Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist, Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests. This ensures that the plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.
- The plants that are grown under this method grow in 2-3 years and are self-sustaining.

Apps & Portals

1. Central Government launches High Price Day Ahead Market and Surplus Power Portal

- To ensure the availability of power during the peak demand season, the Central Government has launched a High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM) and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHP).
- Power Minister R.K. Singh virtually launched the portal in New Delhi.

2. Union Agriculture Minister Shri Tomar launches DigiClaim for claim disbursement through National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP)

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely DigiClaim under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- The Union Minister also mentioned that till date Rs 1.32 lakh crore claim amount has been disbursed to the insured farmers under PMFBY.
- With the launch of a DigiClaim Module, insurance claims totaling Rs 1260.35 crore have been disbursed on March 23, 2023 to insured farmers in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

3. Shri SarbanandaSonowal inaugurates 'Sagar Manthan', the Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush Shri SarbanandaSonowal virtually launched Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW 'Sagar Manthan' ' Digital platform having all the integrated data related to the ministry and other subsidiaries.
- It was inaugurated in the presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, MoPSW.

4. Income Tax App: IT Department Launches 'AIS for Taxpayer' App To View TDS, Interest, Dividend Income

- The Income Tax department has launched the 'AIS for Taxpayer' mobile app which will give taxpayers a comprehensive view of their information related to TDS/TCS, interest, dividends and share transactions, and an option to provide feedback.
- The mobile app will facilitate taxpayers to view their information as available in the AIS and TIS.
- **Annual Information Statement- AIS**
- **Taxpayer Information Summary- TIS**

5. HM Amit Shah inaugurates Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Vedic Heritage portal in New Delhi.
- The portal aims to communicate message enshrined in the Vedas.
- It will help common people to have a general understanding about the Vedas.
- The portal will be a one-stop solution for the user, who would like to search any information regarding the Vedic heritage.
- This portal has over 18 thousand mantras of the four vedas with a duration of over 550 hours.

6. PM Modi launches 'Call Before u Dig' application

- The "Call Before You Dig" (CBuD) app was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in order to facilitate coordination between excavation agencies and the owners of underground utilities and prevent damage to utilities caused by digging.
- The CBuD app will link excavators and asset owners via SMS/Email notifications and click-to-call.
- The Call Before u Dig mobile application, a project of the **Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Communications**, aims to prevent damage to underlying assets like optical fibre cables that result from uncoordinated digging and excavation, which results in losses of about Rs 3,000 crore every year.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Axis Bank completes acquisition of Citibank's India consumer business

- Mumbai-headquartered Axis Bank has completed the acquisition of the India consumer business of the Citigroup-owned foreign bank Citibank for Rs 12,325 crore prior to evaluation of the closing position of Citibank India's assets, assets under management, and liabilities as of January 31, 2023.
- Post evaluation, the deal is valued at around Rs 11,603 crore.

2. Sun Pharma completes acquisition of US-based Concert Pharmaceuticals

- The drug major Sun Pharma has successfully completed the acquisition of Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc, a late-stage clinical biopharmaceutical company that is developing deuruxolitinib for the potential treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe alopecia areata.
- In January, the Mumbai-based company inked a pact to acquire Concert in a USD 576 million deal.

3. HSBC buys Silicon Valley Bank's UK unit for 1 in rescue deal

- HSBC Holdings plc announces that its UK ring-fenced subsidiary, HSBC UK Bank plc, is acquiring Silicon Valley Bank UK Limited (SVB UK) for 1.
- SVB UK has been swept up in the implosion of California-based

Silicon Valley Bank, which US regulators shut.

- SVB UK will become part of HSBC's ringfenced UK business, which has 14mn customers and 18,500 staff.

4. Competition Commission of India clears Reliance's \$344 million buy of Metro's local business

- India's competition regulator cleared Reliance Industries Ltd's 28.50 billion rupees (\$346.16 million) acquisition of the Indian business of German retailer Metro AG.
- Metro has been active in the Indian market since 2003 and reported sales of about 77 billion rupees for the financial year ended September 2022.

5. NCLT approves merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of HDFC and HDFC Bank.
- The proposed merger is to create a large balance sheet and net worth that would allow a greater flow of credit into the economy.
- It will also enable the underwriting of larger ticket loans, including infrastructure loans, an urgent need of the country.
- The Central Government has constituted NCLT under section 408 of the Companies Act 2013
- Under the scheme, HDFC shareholders will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank having a face value of Re 1 each for 25

- shares of HDFC having a face value of '2 each.
- Further, HDFC shareholding in HDFC Bank will be extinguished as per the scheme of amalgamation.
- Post the merger, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41% of the former.

6. ACKO Insurance acquires digital health platform Parentlane

- ACKO Technology and Services, the parent company of ACKO General Insurance, has acquired digital health platform Parentlane which operates in the maternity and child health space.
- It will deliver personalised content and services to enable better healthcare choices, informed decisions, and improved outcomes.
- Parentlanewas founded in 2015 by Anand and Neeraj Gupta.

7. UBS agrees to buy crisis-hit Credit Suisse for \$3.2 billion in historic deal

- UBS agreed to buy rival Swiss bank Credit Suisse for 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.23 billion) and agreed to assume up to \$5.4 billion in losses, in a shotgun merger engineered by Swiss authorities to avoid further market-shaking turmoil in global banking.
- The Swiss central bank will supply substantial liquidity to the merged bank. UBS was formerly known as Union Bank of Switzerland.

- UBS Group AG is a multinational investment bank and financial services company founded and based in Switzerland.
- **CEO: Ralph Hamers.**
- Credit Suisse shareholders will receive 1 UBS share for every 22.48 Credit Suisse shares held, equivalent to 0.76 Swiss francs per share for a total consideration of 3 billion francs.
- Credit Suisse Group AG is a global investment bank and financial services firm founded and based in Switzerland.*Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.*
- **Credit Suisse Chief Executive Officer: Ulrich Koerner**

8. CCI Approves Abu Dhabi Investment Authority Stake Buy In Lenskart

- Competition Commission of India has given approval under the green channel route to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for acquiring a stake in Lenskart Solutions Pvt.
- The proposed transaction relates to the proposed acquisition of a certain shareholding of Lenskart Solutions by Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust (Platinum Jasmine).
- Under the green channel route, wherein a transaction, which does not raise any risk of an appreciable adverse effect on competition, is deemed to be approved on being intimated to the competition watchdog.

9. Competition Commission Clears LIC Mutual Fund-IDBI Mutual Fund Deal

- Fair trade regulator CCI approved LIC Mutual Fund's acquisition of IDBI Mutual Fund. Life Insurance Corporation of India is the sponsor of LIC Mutual Fund and the parent entity of LIC AMC and LIC TC.
- Post transaction, the schemes of IDBI MF will form part of LIC MF with LIC AMC acting as the asset management company for the schemes of IDBI MF.
- The proposed combination involves LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Ltd. acquiring the rights to manage and administer the schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund from IDBI Asset Management Ltd.

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Agri-Business

1. CIL & IFFCO to manufacture Nano DAP for 3 years: Govt

- The government said that the state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) and fertiliser cooperative major IFFCO will manufacture Nano DAP for a period of three years.
- IFFCO informed that it is setting up a Nano DAP plant at its Kalol unit, Gujarat with a production capacity of two lakh bottles of 500 ml per day.

FinTech

1. Fintech platform PhonePe raises \$200 mn in additional funding from Walmart

- PhonePe, one of India's largest fintech platforms, has raised an additional \$200 million in primary capital from its parent Walmart, at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion.
- This new funding comes as a part of PhonePe's ongoing fundraise of up to \$1 billion in capital, following its domicile shift to India last year.

2. CRIF Connect Receives Account Aggregator License From RBI

- CRIF Connect Pvt., a subsidiary of credit bureau CRIF High Mark's parent company, has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval for setting up the business of account aggregators in India.
- Account aggregators collect and share financial information from entities that store user data with entities that request it.

- The approval of CRIF's license marks the first time an NBFC-AA license has been awarded to the parent company of a credit bureau.
- The RBI has so far granted operating licenses for account aggregators to nine entities, including PhonePe Technology, CAMSFinserve, and Perfios Account Aggregation Services. Another set of eight companies has been awarded in-principle AA licenses.

PSUs

1. NHPC to issue corporate bonds worth '5,600 crore in the next financial year

- The govt-backed, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, has announced to raise up to Rs.5,600 crore of debt during next financial year through corporate bonds.
- The company in its stock filing, informed that the funds will be raised through issuance of corporate bonds in one or more series/ tranches on private placement basis and/ or raising of Term loans.

States/ UT's

Assam

1. World Bank Approves \$108 Million Loan To Improve Disaster Preparedness For Assam

- Aimed at improving disaster preparedness for flood-prone areas, the World Bank has approved a \$108 million loan to help the northeastern state of Assam to enhance flood forecasting and safer evacuation.
- The project will benefit around 6 million people and is part of a larger \$500 million investment programme for Assam.
- The Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project will help the state reduce vulnerability to floods and river erosion by building green infrastructure in the Beki and Buridehing river basins, protecting around 100,000 people.
- The \$108 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 11.5 years and a grace period of four years.

Chhattisgarh

1. Education infrastructure gets lion's share in Chhattisgarh's Budget

- The Chhattisgarh government has set aside Rs 19,489 crore for the school education department, the highest provision for any department in the Rs 1.21-trillion annual Budget for the fiscal year 2023'24.

- The allocation is about Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous year, also the highest increase for any department.

2. Broad Gauge Network of Chhattisgarh is 100% electrified

- On the lines of setting the target of achieving Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030, the Indian Railways has 100% electrified existing Broad-Gauge network of Chhattisgarh.
- The 1,170 Route kilometre, resulting in saving on account of reduced line haul cost, heavier haulage capacity, increased sectional capacity, reduced operating & maintenance cost of railways.
- Chhattisgarh state's territory falls in SE Central & East Coast Railway's jurisdiction.

Karnataka

1. Amit Shah opens command centre under Safe City project in Bengaluru

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Phase I of the Bengaluru Safe City project. The project is envisaged under Nirbhaya Scheme at a cost of over Rs 496 crore to ensure the safety of women in Bengaluru city.
- Bengaluru police have installed about 6,300 fixed surveillance cameras under the project.
- As part of the project, mobile forensic vans, counselling centres and a dedicated women's response team - Rani ChannammaPade (squad) - will be set up.

- This apart, several crucial traffic junctions across Bengaluru are secured with 800 PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras and 400 high-resolution cameras.
- As many as 560 body-worn cameras have been distributed among enforcing officers.
- To facilitate the exchange of information, a mobile command and control vehicle will be part of the system.

2. Shri Amit Shah unveils the statues of Lord Basaveshwara and NadaprabhuKempegowda in Bengaluru

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and NadaprabhuKempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- These statues will continue to give Basavanna ji and Kempegowdaji's message of social justice, democracy, good governance and development to those who get elected in the assembly.
- The statue of Lord Basaveshwar ji will give a message to the whole world that India is the mother of democracy, by installing Basavanna's statue here, not only the Assembly but all people across the world who believe in democracy are honoured.
- Kempegowda ji explained the importance of water to the whole world by building hundreds of lakes in Bengaluru, he had laid the foundation of global outlook of today's Bangalore

3. Jaipur to get India's 2nd largest cricket stadium named after Anil Agarwal

- Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited signed an MoU with the Rajasthan Cricket Association for the development of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in the village of Chonp in Jaipur.
- Vedanta's HZL will spend INR 300 crore on the stadium, one of the largest corporate investments in Indias sports infrastructure. The stadium would be named as Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur.

Kerala

1. AttukalPongala festival being celebrated in Thiruvananthapuram

- In Kerala, the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram is about to witness one of the largest gathering of women in the world , for the 'AttukalPongala'.
- The ritual had made it to the Guinness Book of World Records in 2009 for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day when 2.5 million took part in it

2. First in country: Kochi Metro to accept e-rupee for parking.

- In an initiative to promote Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Kochi Metro has started accepting the digital currency in its parking facilities. It was inaugurated at the parking facility in Thykoodam and the system would be introduced in

all other parking areas of the Metro soon.

- It was introduced in association with IDFC FIRST bank & Anantham Online, a tech startup.
- The retail CBDC will be mainly used for retail payments like cash. It will be a digital rupee signifying legal tender in the form of digital token and issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins and will be distributed through intermediaries, such as banks.

3. NGT imposes fine of 100 crore rupees on Kochi MC

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of 100 crore rupees on the Kochi Municipal Corporation for continuing to neglect its responsibilities which resulted in a fire at a Brahmapuram waste plant site in Kochi, Kerala.
- The tribunal also directed the civic body to address the health issues faced by the people after the waste plant fire.
- **About NGT:** The National Green Tribunal, established in 2010, as per the National Green Tribunal Act is a specialised judicial body equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
- The Tribunal has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Mauganj, a tehsil of Rewa, becomes Madhya Pradesh's 53rd district

- Mauganj, a tehsil of Rewa district, will be the 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh announced Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It will be developed by joining four tehsils of Rewa district.
- The four tehsils include Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab. Residents of Mauganj were raising the demand for a separate district for a long time.

2. Madhya Pradesh CM launches 'LaadliBehna' scheme for women

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'LaadliBehna' scheme wherein eligible women will get '1,000 monthly assistance.
- The amount will be credited to the accounts on the 10th of every month.
- The government aims to reach out to one crore women in the state for which a provision of '8,000 crore has been made in the annual Budget of 2023.
- Women from 23 to 60 years of age who have less than 5 acres of land or an annual income of less than '2.5 lakhs are eligible to get the benefits of LaadliBehna yojana.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra budget 2023: State farmers to now get Rs 12,000 per year cash benefits

- Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government presented its first budget, a massive '5,47,450 crore based on the principle of 'Panchamrut', with a focus on farmers, women, tribals, development of the infrastructure with substantial capital investment, employment & eco-friendly development.
- Announced Rs.12,000 honorarium per year to farmers under Namo Shetkari Mahasamman Nidhi.
- Under the honorarium scheme, the state government will provide an additional amount of Rs.6000 along with Rs.6000 per farmer per year from the central govt. This will benefit 1.15 crore farmer families. For this, an outlay of Rs 6,900 crore is proposed in 2023-24.

Manipur

1. Yaoshang festival begins in Manipur

- The five-day-long Yaoshang festival, Manipur's version of Holi, has begun. The festival is celebrated every year on the full moon of Lamta (February-March) of the Meitei lunar calendar.
- Yaoshang begins just after sunset followed by Yaosang Mei thaba, also known as Burning of the Straw Hut. The festival is celebrated by the Meitei.
- The thabalchongba is a traditional dance of the Meitei

Meghalaya

1. Meghalaya Gets Electric Train for the First Time After Electrification of 23 km track

- In an endeavour for complete electrification, Northeast Frontier Railway has achieved another milestone by commissioning Dudhnai ' Mendipathar (22.823 Track Kilometre) single line section and Abhayapuri ' Pancharatna (34.59 Track Kilometre) double line section.
- Mendipathar is the only railway station in the north-eastern state of Meghalaya which is in operation since 2014.

Nagaland

1. With Hekani Jakhalu's Win, Nagaland Gets its First Ever Woman MLA

- Hekani Jakhalu became the first woman to ever be elected as an MLA in Nagaland. Contesting as a candidate for the NDPP, Jakhalu was declared the winner from the Dimapur III constituency.
- Jakhalu, 48, is a lawyer and activist. Another NDPP woman candidate, Salhoutuonuo Kruse, defeated her Independent rival by just seven votes in Western Angami constituency.

Tamil Nadu

1. Ashok Leyland unveils all-women production line at Tamil Nadu plant

- Heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland has unveiled a new

production line that would produce engines at its manufacturing facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu completely operated by women employees.

- The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry.

2. Tamil Nadu Assembly re-adopts Bill against online gambling

- The state legislature has unanimously re-adopted The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Ordinance, 2022 which aims to ban online gambling.
- The bill adopted first on 19 Oct 2022 was returned to the government for reconsideration on 8 March by Governor R.N. Ravi, who sought additional information and suggested changes to the proposed law.

Uttar Pradesh

1. QCI & UP Govt. launch Uttar Pradesh Guncvatta Sankalp in Lucknow

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh and Quality Council of India, in collaboration with industry associations - ASSOCHAM, FICCI, IIA and PHDCCI - launched the Uttar Pradesh Guncvatta Sankalp (Uttar Pradesh Quality Mission) at Lucknow.
- Through this initiative, QCI is increasing its depth into the grassroots to impact real change

for improving the life of every Indian citizen.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Army installs tallest Iconic National Flag in hilly Doda district, J&K

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Army installed the tallest 'Iconic National Flag' in the hilly Doda district today, March 9.
- The tricolour which has been installed on a 100 feet-high pole is the highest Tricolour in the Doda district.
- This was the second such high-mast flag hoisted by the Army in the Chenab valley region.

2. Centre unveils Rs 1,18,500 crore budget for J&K

- As per documents laid in the Parliament, the total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore.
- The capital component of the budget has increased substantially.
- The expected revenue receipts are Rs 1,06,061 crore whereas Revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 77,009 crore.
- "Launch of HIMAYAT 2.0 with renewed focus on employment oriented trades for training and convergence of skill related infrastructure across the Departments like Skill Development, Mission Youth, Industries & Commerce, School Education, Agriculture etc.,".

- **Budget at a glance:**

1. Rs 900 crore have been provisioned under Holistic Agriculture Development Scheme.
2. Rs 120 crore have been provisioned for Crop Insurance Scheme.
3. Rs 500 crore provisioned for GST Re-imbursement.
4. Rs 200 crore has been earmarked for the 'Mission Youth Programme'.
5. Provision of Rs 100 crore have been kept for capitalization of the Banks.
6. Rs 20 crore have been kept for establishment of Highway Resting Places.
7. Provision of Rs 300 crore under CRIF, Rs 1600 crore under PMGSY and Rs
8. 1000 crore under NABARD scheme. Budget provision of Rs 40 crore for Tourism Promotion.
9. Rs 30 crore have been provisioned for the festival promotion, Rs 100 crore for promotion of Cinema/Theatre and Rs 100 crore for Heritage Preservation.
10. Rs 60 crore have been kept for new circuits including Mansar, Surinsar & Sufi Circuit and identified Religious Circuits during year 2023-24.
11. Rs 15 crore have been projected for new Ropeways and Promotion of Golf.
12. Provision has been kept for all incentives under Industrial Policies and Start-ups. Besides, Rs 400 crore is provisioned for land development in Industrial Estates.
13. Budget provision have been made for saturation of all the pension and scholarship schemes.
14. Rs 50 crore have been provisioned for establishment of the Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage.
15. Rs 100 crore have been provisioned for development of new Townships/Mass Housing.
16. Rs 120 crore have been kept for establishment of DDC/BDC/PRI accommodation and offices.
17. Rs 44 crore have been kept for digitization of Police Stations- online filing of complaints, transparency in maintenance of FIRs, roznamcha and case diaries. Investigation Monitoring Other initiatives 25 System will be built to assess conviction rates, charge sheet filing and tracking of cases in courts, NOCs from Police, Passport Verification and Incident Response Time Tracking System will be introduced with maintenance of Asset Registers, Deployments, Accounting System, CCTV in Police Stations etc.
18. Rs 5000 crore provisioned for Jal Jeevan Mission. All districts will be covered under 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'. Funds are being earmarked for ensuring Quality Assurance, Setting up of Labs and introduction of Service Level Benchmarking System.
19. Rs 500 crore have been provisioned for Jal Jeevan Mission as Union Territory Share.
20. Third party Inspection system will be established within Finance Department for ensuring 100% physical verification of all the

- projects being implemented in the Union Territory.
21. Solid Waste Management will be ensured in all the towns and Service Level Benchmarking System will be introduced. Rs 200 crore have been provisioned under Swachh Bharat Mission.
 22. Rs 5 crore have been earmarked as Ex-Gratia to members of DDCs, BDCs & Panchayats.
 23. Rs 25 crore provision have been kept for agriculture processing zones (Food Cluster Parks).
 24. Rs 30 crore have been provided for the Trade Fairs/Investors Summit/Trade Promotion through Jammu and Kashmir TPO.
 25. E-Office in all Offices, Panchayats & DDCs/BDCs.
 26. Rs 13 crore for Transformer Cutouts and installation of Smart Meters.
 27. Rs 3 crore for procurement of Prosthetic Aids for disabled persons. Rs 40 crore for PRI Security.
 28. Rs 30 crore for construction of Police Housing Colonies and Rs 41.75 crore for relief and rehabilitation.
 29. Rs 50 crore for construction of bunkers.
 30. Rs 1313 crore for PRIs/ULBs.
 31. Rs 200 crore @ Rs 10 crore each earmarked as 'Development Fund' for 20 DDCs and Rs 71.25 crore @ Rs 25 lakh each as 'Development Fund' for 285 BDCs. 26
 32. Rs 18 crore for providing of 9,000 Solar Pumps.
 33. Rs 40 crore provisioned for improving Quality in Schools, School Infrastructure, for Career Counseling and for introduction of additional Streams in Schools.
 34. Rs 25 crore for construction of pathway around Wular Lake.
 35. Rs 90 crore for Dal Development.
 36. Rs 140 crore for Metro Corporations.
 37. Rs 100 crore for Jammu and Srinagar City Grants.
 38. Rs 150 crore have been provisioned for City Sustainable/Infrastructure Development Fund.
 39. Rs 400 crore provisioned for construction of Transit Accommodations for Kashmiri Migrants.
 40. Rs 520 crore for Smart City Projects under CSS and Union Territory Sector.
 41. Rs 399 crore have been provisioned for AB-PMJAY SEHAT Scheme for Universalization and Saturation of Health Insurance in Jammu and Kashmir.
 42. Rs 205 crore for procurement of Machinery and Equipments and Rs 487 crore for procurement of drugs in Health Sector.
 43. Rs 15 crore have been earmarked for NashaMukht Abhiyan.
 44. Rs 75 crore provisioned for welfare of Scheduled Tribes and for construction of Tribal Hostels/Milk Villages/ Nomad Shelters /Libraries for Gujjar & Bakerwals.
 45. Rs 20 crore have been provisioned for replacement of old fleet in Transport Sector.

46. Rs 2 crore have been provided for Devika Project.
47. Rs 60 crore provisioned for Youth Startup/Seed Capital /Women Self-employment Schemes.
48. Rs 50 crore have been earmarked for High Density Plantation and refurbishment of Mandis. 27
49. Rs 50 crore over and above BADP have been provisioned under Samridh Seema Yojana for holistic development of border areas.
50. Rs 28.50 crore provisioned for 'Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme' @ Rs 10 lakh for 285 blocks.
51. Adequate provision have been kept for 'Aspirational Town Development Programme' under City Sustainable/Infrastructure Development Fund.
52. Rs 280 crore have been provisioned for completion of World Bank Aided Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery (JTFR) Projects.
53. Rs 100 crore have been earmarked for high density plantation and refurbishment of mandis.

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Committees

1. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) committee to explore ways to bring home Indian start-ups

- IFSCA has formed a committee to design a road-map to attract Indian start-ups to set up base in GIFT City and not have their domicile in other nations.
- Other members of the committee include Zerodha Co-founder Nikhil Kamath, IFSCA Executive Director Dipesh Shah, Avaana Capital Founding Partner Anjali Bansal, and Groww CEO Lalit Kshere. The committee will be headed by former RBI Executive Director G Padmanabhan.
- The committee is tasked with better understanding the nuances from regulatory, tax, legal, and other perspectives, and identifying measures required to make GIFT City the preferred location for start-ups.

2. Centre constitutes panel committee to monitor stock disclosure of Tur

- The Centre has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs, to monitor the stock of Tur held by entities such as importers, millers, stockists and traders in close coordination with the state governments.
- The decision to set up the panel came following reports of market players not releasing stocks despite the regular arrival of imports in good quantities.

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Important CA

1. Govt launches Grievance Appellate Committee as part of IT Rules

- The government launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC), a faceless dispute resolution mechanism that makes digital platforms, big and small, accountable to DigitalNagriks.
- The GAC was one of the provisions in the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Three such bodies have been constituted.
- On January 28, three GACs were constituted with three members each. Each of the three GACs have a chairperson, two whole-time members from different government entities, and retired senior executives from the industry, for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office.
- According to the Rules, users will have the option to appeal against decision of the grievance officer of the social media intermediaries and other online intermediaries before this new appellate body. The Committee will endeavour to address the user's appeal within a period of 30 days.

Possible Question: In March 2023, The government launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC), a faceless dispute resolution mechanism that makes digital platforms, big and small,

accountable to DigitalNagriks. According to rules, Committee will endeavour to address the user's appeal within a period of _____ days.

2. NTPC commissions India's first Air cooled condenser at North Karanpura Super Critical plant in Jharkhand

- NTPC has commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser installed Super Critical plant to demonstrate its Commitment towards water conservation through reduce, reuse and recycle.
- NTPC, the country's largest integrated energy utility, has started commercial operation of 1st Unit of 660 MW at North Karanpura (3*660 MW), in Jharkhand on 01st March-2023.
- NTPC is meeting 24% of country's demand through coal, gas, hydro, solar & wind plants.

Possible Question: NTPC has commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser installed Super Critical plant to demonstrate its Commitment towards water conservation through reduce, reuse and recycle in which state/UT of India?

3. World Bank commits \$1 billion to India for public healthcare infra

- The World Bank and India signed two complementary loans of USD 500 million each to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure. Through this combined financing of USD 1 billion (about '8,200 crore), the bank will

support India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**, launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare.

- India's performance in health has improved over time. According to the World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy—at 69.8 in 2020, up from 58 in 1990—is higher than the average for the country's income level.
- The under-five mortality rate (36 per 1,000 live births), infant mortality rate (30 per 1,000 live births), and maternal mortality ratio (103 per 100,000 live births) are all close to the average for India's income level, reflecting significant achievements in access to skilled birth attendance, immunizations, and other priority services.

Possible Question: In March 2023, India signed two complementary loans of USD 500 million each with which of the following international financial institutions to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure?

4. Conrad Sangma takes oath as Meghalaya CM; PrestoneTynsong, Sniawbhalang Dhar his deputy

- National People's Party chief Conrad Sangma takes oath as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya for the second consecutive term.
- Meghalaya governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath to the 12-member council of

ministers, including NPP's PrestoneTynsong and BJP's Alexander LalooHek.

- Tynsong and Sniawbhalang Dhar took oath as deputy chief ministers.

Possible Question: Who among the following took place as the deputy CM of Meghalaya?

5. NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio takes oath as Chief Minister of Nagaland

- NDPP leader Neiphiu Rio took oath as the Chief Minister of Nagaland for the fifth term, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Rio was administered the oath of office by the Governor of Nagaland La. Ganesan, at the Capital Cultural Hall in Kohima.
- T R Zeliang of NDPP and Y Patton of BJP took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers of the state.

Possible Question: Who among the following has recently taken oath as Chief Minister of Nagaland?

6. Dr Manik Saha sworn-in as Chief Minister of Tripura for second consecutive term

- Senior BJP leader, Dr. Manik Saha was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Tripura. Dr.Saha who was administered the oath of office by Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Around nine MLAs were sworn-in as Ministers in the cabinet of Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha which includes, Ratanlal Nath, Pranajit Singh Roy.

Possible Question: Dr. Manik Saha was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of which state of India?

7. Govt says trade in crypto currency to be covered under India's money laundering laws

- The government has said that Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 will apply to trade in cryptocurrencies or virtual assets.
- In a notification, Ministry of Finance has said that exchange between virtual digital assets & fiat currencies, the exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets & the transfer of virtual digital assets will be covered under the act.

Possible Question: Recently, the government has announced to cover trade in cryptocurrency in which of the following Act?

8. Oscars 2023: 'RRR' creates history, 'NaatuNaatu' wins Best Original Song

- SS Rajamouli's RRR has created history by becoming the first Indian feature film to win an Oscar. The film's 'NaatuNaatu' soundtrack by MM Keeravani was awarded the Best Original Song Award at the 95th Academy Awards in Los Angeles, United States.
- Composer Keeravani, along with lyricist Chandrabose, collected the award.
- The win also makes NaatuNaatu the first song from an Indian movie to win an Oscar.

- Notably, 'NaatuNaatu' won the Golden Globe for the best song earlier this month. The win made RRR the first Indian film to win a Golden Globe. The song is composed by music director MM Keeravaani, and sung by Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, with lyrics by Chandrabose.
- 'Jai Ho', composed by AR Rahman and penned by Gulzar, from the 2008 British film Slumdog Millionaire became the first Hindi song to win an Academy Award in the Best Original Score and Original Song categories.
- **"The Elephant Whisperers"** emerged as the winner at the 95th Academy Awards making it a maiden victory for India in the Documentary Short Subject category. Well, this is not the first time that Guneet Monga has brought the Oscar to India. In 2019, Guneet Monga's documentary 'Period. End of Sentence' bagged the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject.

Possible Question: RRR movies 'NaatuNaatu' soundtrack by MM Keeravani was awarded the Best Original Song Award at the _____ Academy Awards in Los Angeles, United States

9. RBI allows banks from UK, 17 other countries to open Vostro accounts for rupee trade

- The RBI has allowed Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman,

Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom to open Vostro accounts as of now.

- In July last year, the Centre had said that it will be setting up of a mechanism to settle international trade in rupees.
- Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said the central bank had granted 60 approvals in total so far to domestic and authorised foreign banks to open so-called 'Special Rupee Vostro Accounts' of correspondent banks from 18 countries.
- A **vostro account** is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, in this case, the rupee. Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs. It is an integral offshoot of correspondent banking that entails a bank (or an intermediary) to facilitate wire transfer, conduct business transactions, accept deposits and gather documents on behalf of the other bank. It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets and serve international clients without having to be physically present abroad.

Possible Question: In March 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted approvals to foreign banks in 18 countries to open _____ accounts to settle international trade in _____.

10. Govt clears smartphone PLI incentives worth Rs765 cr, Wistron to get Rs 601.93 cr

- Govt. has cleared financial incentives to the tune of Rs 765 crore under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large scale electronics manufacturing.
- The government will release financial incentives worth Rs601.93 crore to Wistron, followed by Rs149.63 crore for Dixon Technologies, according to data provided by India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA)

Possible Question: In March 2023, government cleared financial incentives to the tune of Rs 765 crore under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for _____

11. RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) signed an MoU in Abu Dhabi, to enhance cooperation and jointly enable innovation in financial products and services.
- CBUAE and RBI will jointly conduct proof-of-concept (PoC) and pilot(s) of bilateral CBDC bridge to facilitate cross-border CBDC transactions of remittances and trade.
- This bilateral engagement of testing cross-border use case of CBDCs is expected to reduce costs, increase efficiency of cross

border transactions and further the economic ties between India and UAE.

- The MoU also provides for technical collaboration and knowledge sharing on matters related to Fintech and financial products and services.

Possible Question: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has signed a MoU with the central bank of which among the following countries to enhance cooperation and jointly enable innovation in financial products and services?

12. RBI's Shaktikanta Das named Governor of the Year at Central Banking Awards 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Shaktikanta Das, has been named Governor of the Year by the Central Banking Awards 2023.
- Sh. Das has helped maneuver the ship as it faced multiple obstacles since his appointment, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war being the two major tests.
- Shaktikanta Das is serving as the current & 25th governor of RBI. RBI's former governor Raghuram Rajan was conferred the title back in 2015.

Possible Question: Shaktikanta Das is serving as the _____ governor of RBI

13. Harry Brook and Ashleigh Gardner win ICC Player of the Month for February 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for February 2023, with Australia's Ashleigh Gardner named the ICC Women's Player of the Month, and England's Harry Brook reclaiming the ICC Men's Player of the Month.
- The outcomes of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for February replicate the results of December 2022.

Possible Question: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Ashleigh Gardner as the ICC Women's Player of the Month awards for February 2023. She is a cricketer from _____.

14. TCS MD & CEO Rajesh Gopinathan resigns, K Krithivasan to take over

- TCS MD & CEO Rajesh Gopinathan has tendered his resignation.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) board has appointed K. Krithivasan as the Chief Executive Officer Designate, with effective from 16 March, 2023.
- Sh. Rajesh has stepped after a 22 year career with the company, and spent six years as the managing director and CEO of the company.

Possible Question: Who among the following has been recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)?

15. Bhumi Samvaad IV: National conference on implementation Bhu-Aadhaar

- Department of Land Resources organized national conference - Bhumi Samvaad IV on the implementation of Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar in New Delhi. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh will be the chief guest on the occasion.
- Around 300 participants across the Nation from diverse fields will take part.
- The theme of the national conference is - **"Digitizing and Geo-Referencing India with Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN)."**
- The conference will have sessions on "Democratization of Land Records Data and Matribhoomi; "Application of Bhu-Aadhaar in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Living; and **"Best Practices – National and Global (Georeferencing / Survey/ Resurvey/ Use of Bhu-Aadhaar and Way Forward."**
- The Bhu-Aadhaar or ULPIN, a 14-digit alpha-numeric number generated based on the latitude longitude of the vertices of each land parcel shall be a single, authoritative source of truth of information on any parcel of land or property to provide integrated land services to the citizens as well as all stakeholders.

Possible Question: With reference to management of land resources,

the term 'ULPIN' refers to_____.

16. Pankaj Advani Beats Brijesh Damani to Retain Asian Billiards Title

- India's Pankaj Advani retained his Asian Billiards title in the 100-up format, defeating fellow countryman Brijesh Damani 5-1 in the final played at Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy.
- Advani is a 25-time International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world champion.
- This is the eighth Asian Billiards title in all for Advani.
- In the women's section, **China's Bai Yulu** won the title beating **PanchayaChannoi of Thailand** 3-0 in the final.
- The Indian cue sports ace who has been bestowed the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009 and Padma Bhushan in 2018.

Possible Question: Who among the following won the Asian Billiards women's title beating PanchayaChannoi of Thailand 3-0 in the final?

17. PM MITRA: Seven states selected to develop mega textile parks

- The Government of India announced the sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile industry. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka,

Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

- The MITRA Scheme was first announced in the budget speech of 2021-22 by FM Nirmal Sitharaman.
- In October 2021, the **Union Textiles Ministry** has issued the notification for setting up of seven PM MITRA parks with a total outlay of Rs 4,445 crore to be disbursed over five years specifying that these will be set up at both greenfield and brownfield sites located in different willing States.
- Each park will come up in at least **1,000 acre land** with ready nearby availability of raw material, fully-equipped infrastructure including port, road and rail connectivity, water and power availability etc.

Possible Question: In March 2023, the Government of India announced the sites for setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the Textile industry. Which one of the following states is NOT selected for the project?

18. NTPC Green Energy, Indian Oil to form JV for setting up RE projects

- NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) signed a joint venture (JV) agreement with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) for setting up of renewable energy (RE) projects to meet round-the-clock power requirement of the state-run oil marketing company's (OMCs) refineries.

- NGEL is a subsidiary of the country's largest power generator NTPC.
- Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation. Mr. Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC. Sh. Mohit Bhargava, CEO of NTPC Green Energy (NGEL).
- **NTPC incorporated NGEL in April 2022** for consolidating its renewable energy (RE) businesses and aggressively pursuing its green/ sustainable energy venture.

Possible Question: In March 2023, NTPC Green Energy signed a joint venture agreement with which of the following for setting up of renewable energy projects to meet round-the-clock power requirement of the state-run oil marketing company's refineries?

19. World Water Day | 22 March

- First observed in 1993, the objective of World Water Day is to raise awareness and inspire action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis.
- In 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda 'the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal 6- water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The theme for the 2023 World Water Day is "accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis".

Possible Question: The theme for 2023 World Water Day is _____

20. Finland Happiest Country In World; India's Rank 126 In World Happiness Report

- Finland has been named the happiest country in the world in the annual World Happiness Report. This is the sixth consecutive year that they have won the coveted prize due to high scores in factors the report uses to measure happiness: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and low corruption.
- Denmark is at number 2, and Iceland is 3rd.
- The World Happiness Report is a publication of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and is based on global survey data from people in more than 150 countries.
- India, one of the fast growing economies, was placed at number 126 in the report, below Nepal, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- Interestingly, the Russia-Ukraine war caused a drop in the rankings of both the countries. While Russia is ranked 72, Ukraine is at the 92nd spot.

Possible Question: What is India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2023?

21. World Tuberculosis Day 2023 (March 24) | PM Modi addresses 'One World TB Summit' at Varanasi

- On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, Sh. Modi addressed the One World TB Summit being organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Stop TB Partnership, a United Nations-hosted organisation.
- He launched various initiatives, including the TB-free panchayat initiative, official rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment (TPT).
- Theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2023: "Yes! We can end TB!".
- He released TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) which is a family-centric care model for TB, along with India's Annual TB Report 2023.
- In March 2018 during the "End TB" summit held in the national capital, Modi had called for the country to achieve TB-related sustainable development goals targets by 2025, five years ahead of the stipulated time.

Possible Question: The 'One World TB Summit' 2023 was recently held in _____.

22. ISRO launches LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 Mission in Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organisation launched the LVM 3-M3 /One web India-2 Mission from the second launch pad at Sathish Dhawan Space Centre at

Sriharikota. This is the second mission for the One Web Group from the UK. The commercial venture with New Space India Limited will launch 72 satellites to low earth orbits. Earlier the first set of 36 satellites were launched.

- LVM 3 would place 36 satellites totalling about five thousand 805 kilograms into a 450 km circular orbit with an inclination of 87.4 degrees.
- This is the sixth flight of LVM 3. It is to be noted that the light vehicle mission had five consecutive successful missions including the Chandrayaan - 2 mission.
- The commercial ventures of ISRO have been successful making India a global destination for sending satellites at a reasonable cost.
- ISRO will hold the 4th Space Economy leaders meeting under India's G 20 Presidency in Shillong and Bengaluru.
- The precursor event in which G 20 Ambassadors will participate will be on space economy, policy and new space. The meeting will be held on April 17 and 18 at Shillong.
- The Space Economy Leaders Meet will be held at Bengaluru on 6th and 7th of July, the heads of Space Agencies and the G 20 space industries and will carry forward the recommendations taken in the earlier G 20 meets.

Possible Question: Which of the following statements of LVM 3- M3 /One web India-2 Mission is correct? I. The Indian Space Research Organisation launched the LVM 3- M3 /One web India

Mission from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in March 2023

II. This is the second mission for the One Web Group from the UK.

III. LVM 3 would place 36 satellites in Space.

23. Finance Secretary T V Somanathan to head panel on pension schemes: FM

- With demand growing for the old pension system (OPS) with assured benefits, the Centre announced to set up a committee headed by finance secretary TV Somanathan to explore ways to salvage pension reforms, by treading a middle path between the fiscally-imprudent OPS and the reform-oriented National Pension System (NPS).

Possible Question: Recently, the Union Finance Minister has announced to create a panel on pension schemes. Who among the following will head the panel?

24. Kerala Governor presents maiden 'Kerala Puraskarngal' awards, M T Vasudevan Nair awarded state's highest civilian honour

- Kerala Governor Arif Muhammad Khan has presented the maiden 'Kerala Puraskarngal', the state awards to eminent personalities.
- Kerala's highest civilian honour "Kerala Jyothi" was awarded to writer M T Vasudevan Nair. The second-highest award Kerala Prabha was shared by actor Mammooty, former civil service

officer T Madhava Menon and writer Omchery NN Pillai.

- Kerala Sree Puraskaram has been awarded to writer and activist **MP Parameswaran**, magician **Gopinath Muthukad**, sculptor **Kanayi Kunhiraman**, businessman and social worker **Kochouseph Chittilappilly**, musician **Vaikom Vijayalakshmi** and biologist **Sathyabhama Das Biju**.
- In 2021, the government of Kerala instituted the civilian award "Kerala Puraskarangal" on the model of the Padma awards.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presided over the function at the Raj Bhavan. The awards were given in three categories namely "Kerala Jyothi", "Kerala Prabha" and "Kerala Shri".

Possible Question: Recently, Kerala's highest civilian honour "Kerala Jyothi" was awarded to M.T. Vasudevan Nair. He is a _____

25. Argentine Mathematician Luis Caffarelli wins 2023 Abel Prize

- Argentinian-born mathematician Luis Caffarelli has won the 2023 Abel Prize 'one of the most coveted awards in mathematics.'
- Caffarelli won the prize for the recognition of his work on equations that are significant for describing physical phenomena, such as how ice melts and fluids flow.
- The award is endowed with 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (about \$647,300). Abel Prize is

considered the Nobel Prize of mathematics.

- The 74-year-old has become the first person born in South America to win the award that was presented by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- In his first big breakthrough, Caffarelli generated proof for the regularity of melting ice¹ — showing that the surface of a piece of ice remains mostly smooth as it turns into water.

Possible Question: Who among the following has won the 2023 Abel Prize?

26. Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff appointed as new President of BRICS Bank

- Former Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff elected as new President of The New Development Bank (NDB), succeeding Marcus Troyjo.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), commonly known as the BRICS Bank, is a multinational financial organisation established by the five BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Possible Question: Who among the following has recently been elected as the new President of the New Development Bank (NDB)?

27. RBI releases Monetary Policy Committee schedule for FY24

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that its rate-setting panel, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), will meet six times in the next financial year (FY24). The first meeting of the MPC is scheduled to take place from April 3-6, followed by meetings in June, August, October, December, and February 2024.
- The Indian government has tasked the RBI with keeping inflation at 4%, with a margin of 2% on either side. The RBI's central board recently reviewed the global and domestic economic situation, as well as the associated challenges, including the impact of current global geopolitical developments. The board also discussed the RBI's activities during the current accounting year 2022-23 and approved the budget for the accounting year 2023-24. The meeting was held in Hyderabad and was chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- The meeting was attended by directors of the RBI's central board, including **Satish K Marathe, Sachin Chaturvedi, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, and Ravindra H Dholakia**. The meeting was also attended by RBI Deputy Governors **Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar**, as well as **Economic Affairs**

Secretary Ajay Seth and Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi.

Possible Question: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that its rate-setting panel, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), will meet _____ times in the next financial year (FY24).

28. SJVN gets Rs 915 crore 'GREEN' finance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation

- SJVN Ltd secured Rs 915 crore 'GREEN' finance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh & 100 MW Raghnesda solar project in Gujarat.
- The SJVN & JBIC virtually inked the 'Facility Agreement' under Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation (GREEN) programme of JBIC.
- The Japan Bank for International Cooperation, JBIC, is a Japanese public financial institution and export credit agency that was created on October 1, 1999, through the merger of the Japan Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Possible Question: In March 2023, SJVN Ltd secured _____ 'GREEN' finance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project

QUICK LEARNERS

BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Rajesh Malhotra	Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB).
Vo Van Thuong	President of Vietnam
Jishnu Barua	Chairperson of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)
Rashmi Shukla	Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
Craig Fulton	Chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team
Pankaj Gupta	MD & CEO of the Pramerica Life Insurance
S.S. Dubey	Controller General of Accounts
Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani	Prime Minister of Qatar
B Gopkumar	MD & CEO of Axis Securities
Rohit Jawa	MD & CEO of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)
Xi Jinping	President of China
Mohit Joshi	MD & CEO of Tech Mahindra
SumantKathpalia	MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank
Tablesh Pandey	Managing Director of LIC
M Jagannath	Managing Director of LIC
Amitava Mukherjee	Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of NMDC
Vimal Kapur	Chief Executive Office of Honeywell
Deepak Mohanty	Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
G Krishnakumar	Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)
Lalit Kumar Gupta	Chairman and Managing Director of Cotton

	Corporation of India
Arnab Banerjee	MD & CEO of CEAT
Anup Bagchi	MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
Guruprasad Mudlapur	President of the Bosch Group- India
UK Sinha	Non-Executive Chairman of NDTV
Dipali Goenka	Independent Director of NDTV
Rajib Kumar	Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of PTC India
Parijat Ghosh	Managing Partner of Bain & Company
Anand Selvakesari	Chief Operating Officer of Citigroup
K. Krithivasan	Chief Executive Officer Designate of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
Neiphiu Rio	Chief Minister of Nagaland
Manmeet K Nanda	MD & CEO of Invest India
Dr. Manik Saha	Chief Minister of Tripura
Conrad Sangma	Chief Minister of Meghalaya

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
March 1st	Zero Discrimination Day	Save lives: Decriminalise
March 1st	47th Civil Accounts Day	
March 1st	World Civil Defence Day	
March 1st	Self-Injury Awareness Day	
March 1st	World Seagrass Day	
March 3rd	World Wildlife Day	Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation
March 3rd	World Health Organisation	Ear and Hearing Care for All! Let's Make It a Reality
March 4th	World Obesity Day	Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity
March 4th	National Safety Day	Our Aim ' Zero Harm'
March 5th	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness	
March 7th	Jan AushadhiDiwas	
March 8th	International Women's Day	

March 10th	Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day	
March 14th	International Day of Mathematics	Mathematics for Everyone
March 14th	International Day of Action for Rivers	
March 16th	National Vaccination Day	
March 18th	Ordnance Factory Day 2023	
March 18th	Global Recycling Day	Creative Innovation
March 20th	World Oral Health Day	
March 20th	World Sparrow Day	
March 20th	International Day of Happiness	
March 21st	International Day of Forests	Forests and Health
March 21st	World Down Syndrome Day	
March 22nd	World Water Day	
March 23rd	World Meteorological Day	The Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations
March 24th	World Tuberculosis Day	Yes! We can end TB!
March 25th	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
March 27th	World Theatre Day	
March 30th	International Day of Zero Waste	
March 31st	International Transgender Day of Visibility	

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Anupama Upadhyaya	Badminton
Mithun Manjunath	Badminton
T Hemanagendra Babu	Badminton
Kanika Kanwal	Badminton
S Kushal Raj	Badminton
S Prakash Raj	Badminton
Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
Treesa Jolly	Badminton
Aishwarya Babu	Triple Jump
Jeswin Aldrin	Long Jump
Sruthilekshmi	Long Jump
Max Verstappen	Racing Driver
Max Verstappen	Racing Driver
Sergio Perez-	Racing Driver
Fernando Alonso	Racing Driver
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
Matthew Ebden	Tennis
Wesley Koolhof	Tennis
Neal Skupski	Tennis
Elena Rybakina	Tennis
ArynaSabalenka	Tennis
Akshdeep Singh	Race Walking
Priyanka Goswami	Race Walking
Rudranksh Patil	Shooting
Nitu Ghanghas	Boxing
Saweety Boora	Boxing
Nikhat Zareen	Boxing
LovlinaBorgohain	Boxing
Dhanush Loganathan	Weight Lifting
Jyoshna Sabar	Weight Lifting
SatwiksairajRankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
D Gukesh	Chess
Sayantan Das	Chess
Tim Paine	Cricket
Mesut Ozil	Football
Ashleigh Gardner	Cricket
Harry Brook	Cricket
Pankaj Advani	Billiards

Brijesh Damani	Billiards
Bai Yulu	Billiards
PanchayaChannoi	Billiards

BOOKS and AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri	Sajjan Singh Yadav
As Good as My Word	KM Chandrasekhar

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
Swachh Bharat Mission	Sanitation and Cleanliness
Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana	Providing loans up to 10 lakhs to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises
MSME Competitive (LEAN) scheme	Provide a roadmap to global competitiveness for the MSMEs of India
PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA)	Parks for the Textile industry
Sagarmala programme	Reduce logistics cost for EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana	Agro-Marine Processing Scheme
Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)/ EMC 2.0 Scheme	Initiative for promoting electronic manufacturing in the country
Green Wall scheme	Initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range
New India Literacy Programme	Adult Literacy Program
Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme	Initiative to boost domestic manufacturing
FAME India Scheme	Incentive that encourages the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles
'PM CARES for Children' scheme	Ensure comprehensive care and protection of children in a sustained manner
Nirbhaya Scheme	Bengaluru Safe City project
'LaadliBehna' scheme	Financial Aid for Women
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana	Clean cooking fuel - LPG for households
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	India youth employment scheme
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima	Crop Insurance Scheme

Yojana

AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MOU THEME
Tata Steel Mining Limited and GAIL (India) Limited	Reduction of Carbon Footprint
National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)	Strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers
Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Himachal Pradesh	Strengthen the tourism infrastructure
BSE and UN Women India	Empower women towards financial security
Paytm and Andhra Pradesh government	Strengthen financial inclusion, health and cyber security
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and TotalEnergies	Deep-water exploration
HCL Technologies and Microsoft	Quantum cloud computing service
India and Australia	Audio-visual co-production agreement
India and United States of America	Build resilient supply chain in semiconductor sector
Punjab National Bank and Central Warehousing Corporation	Facilitate financing under e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt)
Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK Surathkal)	Research and development for the development of emerging technologies
Microsoft and Boosteroid	Licensing deal to bring Activision's Call of Duty franchise
India and the World Bank	Construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project
Chevron Brands International LLC (Chevron) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).	Introduction of cutting-edge technology lubricants in India
International Cricket Council and Willow TV	Broadcasting of official home of ICC cricket in US and Canada
India Post and Shiprocket	Boost last-mile Ecommerce delivery services
V.V. Giri National Labour Institute & Employment and ASSOCHAM	Promote advocacy for labour and employment related policies
GAIL Limited and Shell Energy India	Ethane sourcing

Private Limited	
Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Rural development and Ministry of Ayush	Skilling of rural youth and empowering women
Renault Nissan and Kamarajar Port Ltd	Export of locally-manufactured cars
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)	Conduct R&D in deep-tech including Quantum Computing, IoT Security and Cyber Security
Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and McPhy Energy	Electrolyzer manufacturing
SAEL Industries and Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Finance for waste-to-energy projects
Amazon Pay and Bharat BillPay	Strengthen loan repayment facility
Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)	Project loan Agreement
World Bank and Mahindra Group	Last-mile electric mobility business
Ministry of Defence and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	Manufacturing Contracts
NTPC Green Energy (NGEL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL)	Setting up of renewable energy (RE) projects
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE)	Enhance cooperation and jointly enable innovation in financial products and services

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
ShinyuuMaitri	India and Japan
International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023	34-nation naval group
FRINJEX-23	India and France
La Perouse	Australia, Japan, France, India, UK and USA
Sea Dragon- 23	Multiple Country Exercise organized by USA
Konkan 2023	India and UK
Bold Kurukshetra-23	India and Singapore

INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and USA	Space Tech- NISAR Satellite
India and Bangladesh	Cross Border Oil Pipeline
India and Australia	Bilateral Trade
India and Tanzania	Bilateral Trade Settlement in Domestic Currency
India and Japan	Co-operation of Language and Bullet Train Manufacture
India and Maldives	Defence Dialogue

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY
Citibank	Axis Bank
Concert Pharmaceuticals	Sun Pharma
Silicon Valley Bank UK Limited (SVB UK)	HSBC UK Bank plc
Metro AG	Reliance Industries Ltd
Parentlane	ACKO General Insurance
Credit Suisse	UBS
Silicon Valley Bank	First Citizens BancShares Inc
IDBI Mutual Fund	LIC Mutual Fund

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	LIC in news	SEBI in news	SIDBI in news	IRDAI in news
RBI launches Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)	LIC Intends To Record Rs 2.4 Tn Investments Next Fiscal	Bajaj Finserv Gets SEBI Licence To Commence Mutual Fund Business	Loan disbursements to MSME sector grew 24% in Q2FY23: TransUnion CIBIL-SIDBI report	IRDAI removes commission cap for insurance agents; replaces it with company-wide limit
RBI imposes Rs 3.06 Crore penalty on Amazon Pay (India)	Competition Commission Clears LIC Mutual Fund-IDBI Mutual Fund Deal	Sebi imposes Rs 6 lakh penalty on MCX in data entry norms case		After Bajaj Allianz, New India Assurance gets into surety bonds business

				from IRDAI
RBI puts restrictions on Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank; caps withdrawal		NSE get SEBI nod to launch WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts		
RBI initiates 75 digital villages programme		Tata Motors unit Tata Technologies files IPO papers with SEBI		
RBI imposes monetary penalty on Nuvama Wealth Finance Ltd. (formerly known as Edelweiss Finance & Investments Limited), Mumbai				
RBI has imposed a monetary penalty on Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) and IGH Holdings Private Limited				
RBI imposes Rs 2.27-cr penalty on RBL Bank for non-compliance with rules on recovery agents				
RBI's Data Centre And Cybersecurity				

Training Institute To Come Up In Bhubaneswar				
CRIF Connect Private gets RBI license to operate as NBFC account aggregator				
RBI imposes Rs 30 lakh penalty on Karur Vysya Bank for rule violations				
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency gets 'Infrastructure Finance Company' status from RBI				
RBI allows India and Tanzania to use their national currencies for bilateral trade settlement				
RBI allows banks from UK, 17 other countries to open Vostro accounts for rupee trade				
RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and				

services				
RBI releases Monetary Policy Committee schedule for FY24				

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Sashidhar Jagdishan	Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022	Banking
Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry	Porter Prize 2023	Health
Government of India	Government Leadership Award 2023	Telecommunication
Vinod Kumar Shukla	2023 PEN/Nabokov Award	Literature
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited	CBIP Award 2022	Energy Conservation
Mirabai Chanu	BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year	Sports
Bhavina Patel	BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year	Sports
Ministry of Tourism	Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023	Tourism
The Elephant Whisperers	Oscar 2023	Documentary
Nattu Nattu from RRR	Oscar 2023	Original Score-Music
Delhi airport	Best airport in India and South Asia	Transportation
Vivek Kumar Dewangan	The Most Promising Business Leaders of Asia award	Leadership
Alia Mir	Wildlife Conservation Award	Environment
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	Special Literary Award by Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature	Literature
Tapoban	Children's Champion Award 2023	Child Welfare
Shaktikanta Das	Governor of the Year by the Central Banking Awards 2023	Leadership
Ashleigh Gardner	ICC Women's Player of the month- February	Sports
Harry Brook	ICC Men's Player of the month-	Sports

	Februar	
Luis Caffarelli	Abel Prize 2023	Mathematics
M T Vasudevan Nair	Kerala Jyothi	Civilian Award

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
Raisina Dialogue	Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest.	New Delhi
B2B Global Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine under Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)		Guwahati
Seventh International Dharma Dhamma Conference	Eastern Humanism for the New Era	Bhopal
23rd Commonwealth Law Conference		Goa
3rd International Conference	Inclusive Elections & Elections Integrity	Virtual Format
Annual Conference of Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)		Cairo, Egypt
International Research Conference on FinTech: Innovation, Inclusion, and Regulation		Ahmedabad
2nd edition of World Food India(WFI)- 2023		New Delhi
International conference on 'shared Buddhist heritage'- SCO		New Delhi
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting		Varanasi
International Ayurved conclave	Veterinary and Ayurveda	Haridwar
Global Millets Conference		New Delhi
Global Conference on Digital Health		New Delhi
Trade and Investment working group meeting of G20		Mumbai
One World TB Summit		New Delhi
Blockchain Life 2023 conference		Dubai
UN 2023 Water Conference		New York, USA

COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
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COMMITTEE		
Explore ways to bring home Indian start-ups	International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	G Padmanabhan
Monitor the stock of Tur held by entities such as importers, millers, stockists and traders	Central Government	Nidhi Khare
Explore ways to salvage pension reform	Central Government	TV Somanathan

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	INDIA'S RANK	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Electoral Democracy Index	V-dem Democracy report 2023	108 th	Denmark
World Air Quality Report	IQ AIR	DELHI-50 th	Lahore
Global Terrorism Index (GTI)	Institute of Economics and Peace	25 th	Afghanistan
World Happiness Report	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network	126 th	Finland

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Sasthipada Chattopadhyay	Bengali Novelist
Aziz Mushabber Ahmadi	Former Chief Justice of India
Satish Kaushik	Actor- Director
Pradeep Sarkar	Writer, Director, Film maker
Gordon Moore	Intel Co- Founder

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 Bhushan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan

Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	SatyadeoNarain Arya
UttarPradesh	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 Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
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

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