

**May 2023**

# **BOLT**

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## Banking & Finance

### 1. HDFC Bank to roll out e-distribution network, cover 50K more villages

- HDFC Bank will start onboarding agents of its corporate business correspondents digitally who can extend services to semi-urban and rural areas, a move that will help the lender achieve its priority sector (PSL) lending targets.
- **Smart Saathi**, is a digital distribution platform that leverages technology and brings ease for business correspondents and agents. With this, they The chairman of HDFC Bank is Atanu Chakraborty

### 2. SEBI Slaps Rs 10 Lakh Fine On Angel Broking For Flouting Regulatory Norms

- Capital markets regulator SEBI has slapped a fine of Rs 10 lakh on brokerage firm Angel Broking Ltd. for alleged violation of regulatory norms.
- Angel Broking (now known as Angel One Ltd.) is a SEBI-registered stock and commodity broker. The firm is listed on both the bourses--BSE and NSE.
- The order came after SEBI along with the stock exchanges and the depositories conducted a comprehensive joint inspection of the functioning of Angel Broking

### 3. REC lists \$750 million green bonds on international stock exchanges at GIFT City

- REC Limited, a Maharatna power finance +company has exclusively listed its recently issued Green bonds worth \$750 million at GIFT IFSC Stock Exchanges, under its Global Medium Term Programme of \$7 billion.
- The Green bond issuance by REC Limited reinforces its status as one of the most accomplished and frequent

issuers in the international capital markets.

- It also marks the first Green Bond issuance by an Indian company post India's G20 Presidency.

### 4. Leading drone maker ideaForge gets Sebi nod for IPO

- Drone maker ideaForge received Sebi's approval to raise funds through IPO.
- The market regulator has given a final observation letter to the company and in the regulator's parlance, an observation letter is equivalent to the approval.
- The public issue comprises a fresh issue of Rs 300 crore and an offer for the sale of 48.69 lakh equity shares.
- The offer also includes a reservation for a subscription by eligible employees.

### 5. Axis Bank partners with India Shelter Finance Corporation under the co-lending model

- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd (IndiaShelter), a Gurgaon-based Housing Finance Company, established a co-lending model strategic alliance.
- With this collaboration, both lenders will offer Secured MSME loans to middle and low-income borrowers in semi-urban areas.
- This collaboration will leverage Axis Bank's deep financial expertise and IndiaShelter's strong loan processing technology to assess the borrower's credit profile and offer them a loan at an optimal interest rate, ensuring a seamless banking experience.

- The collaboration will allow Axis Bank and IndiaShelter to reach out to potential clients in the informal sector who are new to credit and underserved by larger banks.

#### 6. SEBI Introduces Legal Identifier System For Issuers With Listed NCDs, Securitised Debt

- **Capital markets regulator SEBI introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system** for issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts.
- **LEI is a unique 20-character code to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions.**
- The circular would come into force with immediate effect.
- Presently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of above Rs 25 crore to obtain Legal Entity Identifier code.
- In view of this, SEBI said that issuers having outstanding listed non-convertible securities as on August 31 will have to obtain and report the LEI code in the centralised database of corporate bonds by **September 1**, according to a circular
- The LEI code can be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd, a subsidiary of the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd, which has been recognised by the RBI as issuer of LEI and is accredited by the **Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)** as the local operating unit in India for issuance and management of Legal Entity Identifier code.

#### 7. Government Brings Finance Professionals Of Clients Under Anti-Money Laundering Law

- The change brings 'a relevant person practising chartered accountants, company secretaries, and cost and works accountant carrying out financial transactions on behalf of their client, into the ambit of the **anti-money laundering law**.
- Finance ministry notification clarified the extent of financial transactions carried at the behest of the client that will be considered.
- In a notification, the ministry clarified the extent of financial transactions carried at the behest of the client that will be considered. This includes:
  - **Buying and selling of any immovable property.**
  - **Managing client money, securities or other assets.**
  - **Management of bank, savings or securities accounts.**
  - **Organisation of contributions for the creation, operation or management of companies.**
  - **Creation, operation or management of companies, limited liability partnerships or trusts, and buying and selling of business entities.**
- Lawyers and legal professionals, however, seem to have been kept out in the new definition of entities covered under the PMLA.

#### 8. RBI's Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022 - March 2023

- RBI publishes half-yearly reports on management of foreign exchange reserves as part of its efforts towards enhanced transparency and levels of



disclosure. These reports are prepared half yearly with reference to the position at end-March and end-September each year.

- **The net forward asset (receivable) of the RBI stood at USD 23.60 billion as at the end of March 2023.**

#### **9. RBI mandates rupee-only settlement of fees for certain cards**

- **The Reserve Bank of India mandated certain fees/ charges levied by 'Authorised Persons' on International Debit Cards, Store Value Cards, among others, and payable in India have to be denominated and settled in Rupees only.**
- This instruction comes in the wake of the central bank coming across a few Authorised Persons (in foreign exchange) levying certain fees/charges, payable in India on such instruments, in foreign currency.

#### **10. Centre mulling new mechanism to fast track bankruptcy cases, ease NCLT burden**

- Centre is considering a new creditor-led insolvency resolution mechanism to fast-track the settlement processes and alleviate the burden on the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- Under the proposed scheme, creditors and debtors can enter into an informal agreement to resolve a bankruptcy case and then approach the NCLT to quickly admit cases.
- This mechanism is designed to expedite the resolution of bankruptcy cases and reduce the load on the NCLT.
- **The number of insolvency cases increased by 25% YoY in Q3FY23 after a slowdown during the pandemic years of FY21 and FY22, according to CARE ratings.**

#### **11. AIBEA to launch 'Bank Clinic' to help retail customers with grievance redress**

- **The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) plans to set up an online 'Bank Clinic' to assist bank customers with grievance redress.**
- With the Bank Clinic, AIBERA hopes to earn goodwill of customers' and give feedback to Banks on the areas where there is deficiency in service

#### **12. RBI slaps monetary penalty on two co-operative banks for non-compliance with rules**

- The Reserve Bank imposed a monetary penalty on two co-operative banks **The Trichur Urban Co-operative Bank, Thrissur and Bhilai Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Bhilai** for non-compliance with banking rules.
- The apex bank imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 2.00 lakh** on the Trichur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Thrissur for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on management of advance UCBs and **Rs 1.25 lakh** on Bhilai Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Bhilai for contravention of/non-compliance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.

#### **13. Sebi allows FPIs direct access to exchange-traded commodity derivatives**

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India allowed stock exchanges to extend direct market access (DMA) facility to foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in exchange-traded commodity derivatives (ETCDs).**
- In September last year, the markets regulator had allowed FPIs to participate in ETCDs only for cash

settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives contracts and indices.

- DMA facilitates the clients of a broker to directly access the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to execute orders without manual intervention by the broker.

#### 14. RBI imposes Rs 2.92 Cr penalty on Canara Bank

- **The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.92 crore on Canara Bank** for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmark, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position.

#### 15. Reserve Bank of India launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign for Return of Unclaimed Deposits

- **The Reserve Bank of India announced a '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days.**
- This measure will complement the ongoing efforts and initiatives by the Reserve Bank to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system.
- **The banks will commence the campaign from June 01, 2023.**
- Balances in savings / current accounts which are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from date of maturity are classified as **"Unclaimed Deposits"**.
- These amounts are transferred by banks to **"Depositor Education and**

**Awareness"** (DEA) Fund maintained by the Reserve Bank of India.

#### 16. Reserve Bank's gold reserves rose 4.5% to 794.64 tonnes in 2022-23

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added **34.22 metric tonnes of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023**, taking the total gold reserves to **794.64 metric tonnes**.
- RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022, compared to 695.31 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2021.
- The gold reserves as of March 31, 2023, included gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonnes, according to the RBI's half-yearly report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves- October 2022 – March 2023.

#### 17. Bank of Baroda launches electronic bank guarantee on its digital platform

- State-owned **Bank of Baroda announced the launch of electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) on its BarodaINSTA platform**, in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- NeSL is India's first and only Information Utility and is regulated by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the provisions of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**
- With this launch, the Bank of Baroda has joined a select group of banks to issue electronic bank guarantees. By joining a select group of banks that offer electronic bank guarantees, Bank of Baroda has revolutionized the conventional paper-based process of issuing inland Bank Guarantees that typically takes a few days to execute, resulting in a substantial reduction in the turnaround time.

- Through e-BGs, physical stamping has been replaced by e-stamping by NeSL, thus preventing fraud. The e-BGs are stored in a central repository, which ensures complete transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders, as well as easy authentication and verification.

#### 18. IMEs With Udyam Assist Certificate To Be Treated As Micro Units For PSL: RBI

- The Reserve Bank said **Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) with an Udyam Assist Certificate will be treated as micro-enterprises under MSME** for the purposes of priority sector lending classification.
- IMEs are those enterprises which are unable to get registered on the Udyam Registration Portal due to a lack of mandatory required documents, such as Permanent Account Number.

#### 19. AU Small Finance Bank launches RuPay credit card for self-employed customers

- **AU Small Finance Bank has partnered RuPay to roll out the Business Cashback Rupay credit card**, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers.
- This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses.

#### 20. NPCI's RuPay goes live on CVV-less payments for tokenized cardholders

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said RuPay has now introduced the CVV (Card Verification Value) free payment experience for its debit, credit and prepaid cardholders **who have tokenized their cards on the merchant application or webpage.**
- This new CVV-less experience ensures that the cardholder will not have to reach out to their wallet or remember

any card details, if they have saved (tokenized) their card on the ecommerce merchant which supports this feature

- **Tokenization** is a simple technology to secure card transactions without sharing the clear or real card details with the merchants.

#### 21. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Mizoram Rural Bank, Tripura Gramin Bank for rule violations

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed **Rs 5 lakh penalty on Mizoram Rural Bank and Rs 2 lakh penalty on Tripura Gramin Bank** release said. According to the release, the penalty was levied on both banks as it failed to categorize certain loan accounts as non-performing in line with the Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.

#### 22. HDFC Mutual Fund Launches India's First Defence Fund

- **HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd announced the launch of the country's first mutual fund focussed on defence sector**, a move that will provide investors an opportunity to participate in growth potential of this space.
- The fund will invest at least 80 per cent of its net assets in defence and allied sector companies.

#### 23. SBI Funds Management gets RBI nod to raise upto 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank

- **SBI Funds Management has received RBI approval to increase stake in HDFC Bank to 9.99 per cent in six months.**
- The investment will be made as part of the mutual fund schemes managed by SBI Funds Management. The approval was granted on an application made by SBI Funds Management to RBI.

- SBI Funds Management is the largest in the country with assets under management of '7.17-lakh crore as of March-end.

#### 24. RBI cancels certificate of registration of 7 NBFCs, 14 surrender permits

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 12 said it has cancelled permits of seven non-banking finance companies (NBFC).**
- The NBFCs whose certificate of registration was cancelled were Coorg Tea Company, Trimurthi Finvest, East West Finvest India, J.V.Modi Securities, K K Patel Finance, Purvi Finvest, and Genfin Capital Pvt Ltd.

#### 25. NHB asks large housing finance companies to adopt early warning signals framework

- Regulator for housing finance firms **National Housing Bank (NHB) has asked housing finance companies with asset size of over Rs 1,000 crore to adopt an early warning signals (EWS) framework to check financial frauds and also to prevent accounts from turning into non-performing assets.**
- The mechanism needs to be put in place by **April 1, 2024.**
- National Housing Bank (NHB), is the apex regulatory body for overall regulation and licensing of housing finance companies in India.
- It was founded in **1988.**
- It is under the **Ministry of Finance.**

#### 26. SEBI proposes 4 key revamps to strengthen corporate governance in securities market

- The Indian market regulator, proposed changes in the **framework of investment funds, Uniform total expense ratio, market malpractices,**

#### **and registration of Foreign Venture Capital Investors.**

- As per the proposal, **SEBI suggested that the Category I and Category II AIFs should not borrow funds directly or indirectly for making investments.**
- AIFs can borrow to meet the shortfall in drawdown while investing in an investee company, under certain conditions. The borrowed amount should be less than 10 per cent of the proposed investment in the investee company.
- **Uniform total expense ratio (TER)**
- In its set of proposals, SEBI also pitched for the formation of a uniform total expense ratio (TER) across mutual fund schemes in a bid to bring in transparency in the cost charged to unitholders.
- The current framework allows asset management companies (AMC) to charge four additional types of expenses over and above the TER limits. They are brokerage and transaction costs, additional TER for distribution commission for inflows from B-30 (beyond top 30) cities, good and services taxes, and addition expenses for exit loads.
- TER stands for a certain amount of money charged by mutual fund houses. Its amount equals a percentage of a scheme's corpus. Other than this, SEBI suggested charging additional commissions to distributors to continue for inflows from B30 cities.
- TER is advised by SEBI to be kept at AMC level and inclusive of all costs and expenses including GST on management fees, brokerage and transaction costs, B-30 incentive etc.



- **SEBI's proposal to curb market malpractices**
- To control malpractices done by market participants and deal with unexplained suspicious trading pattern in the market, SEBI proposed a regulatory framework.
- Under the new framework, a person or group of connected persons exhibiting an unexplained suspicious trading pattern -- repetitive abnormal gainful dealings in a security or a set of securities, around the presence of material non-public information, would be deemed to be violating the securities laws, unless they are able to effectively rebut the said presumption. SEBI also imposed a fine of '50 lakh on in-genuine traders.
- In another proposal, SEBI proposed to change the current definition of unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) to bring regulatory certainty and uniformity in compliance for the listed companies in respect of the identification of certain events as UPSI.
- **Registration of Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs)**
- SEBI proposed to streamline regulatory framework for registration of Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs). SEBI, in its consultation paper pitched a process granting registration to FVCIs and processing other post-registration references may be delegated to designated depository participants (DDPs) in line with provisions prescribed for FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors).
- If a businessperson wishes to get registered as an FVCI, then he should engage a DDP to avail its services for obtaining a registration certificate as

FVCI. As of now, SEBI is the sole operator which carries out the registration process of FVCIs. The Indian regulator also suggested to streamline the eligibility criteria for FVCIs.

#### **27. Sebi proposes expanding definition of Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) for debt market**

- According to Sebi, **multistate cooperatives with net worth of more than Rs 500 crore should be classified as QIBs.**
- Besides, Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), housing finance companies regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), small finance banks, reinsurance companies, pension funds, and refinancing agencies such as MUDRA should be included in the category of QIB.

#### **28. Monetary penalty imposed on Kohinoor Sahakari Bank Ltd.**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated May 23, 2023, imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.00 lakh on Kohinoor Sahakari Bank Ltd.**
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.
- The statutory inspection of the bank conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2022, and examination of the Risk Assessment Report and all related correspondence pertaining to the same, revealed, inter alia, that the bank had failed to adhere to (i) prudential inter-bank gross exposure

limit and (ii) inter-bank counter party limit.

- **This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act).**

### **29. Axis Bank launches 'Sarathi', a digital onboarding platform for POS Terminals, streamlining the merchant acquisition process**

- **Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, has launched 'Sarathi', a first of its kind digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.**
- Unlike the cumbersome traditional onboarding process that can take several days, Sarathi provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants.
- With an innovative onboarding solution, Sarathi is built to provide merchants with a smooth and effective experience.
- The paperless onboarding process eliminates the need for merchants to fill out cumbersome forms or wait for extended periods to have their POS terminals installed.

### **30. RBI approves the voluntary amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd**

- **The Reserve Bank of India has sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune, Maharashtra.**
- The Scheme has been sanctioned in exercise of the powers conferred under

Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- All the branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra) will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune (Maharashtra).

### **31. RBI imposes Rs 84.5 lakh penalty on Central Bank of India for non-compliance**

- **The penalty of '84.50 lakh (Rupees Eighty four lakh fifty thousand) has been imposed** as the bank failed to report as fraud to RBI certain accounts within seven days of the decision of the Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) to declare the accounts as fraud and recovered SMS alert charges from its customers on a flat basis rather than on actual usage basis.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **32. Bank of Maharashtra top performer in NPA management during FY23**

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) falling as low as 0.25 per cent during the financial year ended March 2023.** This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore and not just public sector banks (PSBs).
- In terms of loan growth, **BoM retained the top spot among the scheduled commercial banks by recording a 29.49 per cent increase on an annual basis, as per the published data of banks.**

- **Indian Overseas Bank stood at second spot with a rise of 21.28 per cent followed by IndusInd Bank 21 per cent.**
- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India has shown 15.38 per cent rise in loans during FY'23.**
- With regards to deposits growth rate, **HDFC Bank was at the first spot with 20.80 per cent**, followed by **federal bank with 17 per cent rise and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) with 16.49 per cent rise.**
- However, in terms of low-cost Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits BoM topped the chart with 53.38 per cent followed by IDBI bank with 53.02 per cent and KMB at 52.83 per cent.

### **33. PhonePe becomes the First Payment App to Link Two Lakh RuPay Credit Cards to UPI**

- PhonePe, announced that it has achieved two significant milestones.
- The company has become the first digital payments app to successfully enable linkage of two lakh RuPay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface. In addition, PhonePe has also processed a Total Payment Value (TPV) of Rs.150 crore via RuPay Credit on UPI.

### **34. ICICI Bank to up stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance**

- **The board of ICICI Bank has decided to raise the bank's stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company (ILGIC) by an additional 4 per cent and turn the insurance company into a subsidiary of the bank.**

- The bank will acquire at least 2.5 per cent stake out of the 4 per cent before September 9, 2024.
- **As on March 31, 2023, the bank held 48.2 stake in the ILGIC.**

### **35. RBI working on a light weight, portable payment system, independent of conventional technologies**

- The Reserve Bank is working on a light weight and portable payment system that that can be used for critical transactions during catastrophic events like natural calamities and war.
- The apex bank in its annual report of 2022-23 said the proposed Light weight and Portable Payment System (LPSS) will be independent of conventional technologies and can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff
- The proposed LPSS System would be made active only on a need basis.

### **36. Indian Bank empanelled as Clearing and Settlement Bank with ICCL**

- **Indian Bank has been empanelled as a Clearing and Settlement Bank with the Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL).**
- Indian bank was established in **1907** and is headquartered in **Chennai**.
- The public sector bank can now facilitate banking services to members of BSE for clearing and settlement operations. Clearing members of BSE can now open settlement accounts with the Bank for funds settlement. Extension of this facility to the members of NSE is under active consideration.

## Economy

### 1. India's exports likely to touch \$900 billion in FY24

- India's exports of goods and services could touch \$900 billion in the current financial year, up from \$770 billion in the previous year, keeping resilient despite global headwinds.
- Merchandise exports could expand to between \$495 billion and \$500 billion, while services exports could touch \$400 billion in the year ending March 2024.

### 2. India's Services PMI Expands At Fastest Rate Since June 2010

- India's services activity and new business rose at the fastest rates since June 2010, according to a monthly survey.
- The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index surged from 57.8 in March to 62 in April, its fastest expansion in output since mid-2010.
- A reading above 50 indicates expansion while one below it signals contraction.

### 3. Centre scraps levy on crude soyabean oil, sunflower seed oil shipments

- The Centre has scrapped the customs duty and cess levied on shipments of crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower seed oil imported by firms that had been authorised for such imports under the Tariff Rate Quota regime in 2022-23.
- The duty exemptions will be effective till June 30.
- Ukraine is one of the world's leading suppliers of sunflower oil.

### 4. India's vulnerability to global shocks to reduce in FY24: CRISIL

- India's vulnerability to global shocks is expected to reduce in FY24 as the Current Account Deficit (CAD) improves amid challenging external financing conditions, according to CRISIL Rating.
- CAD is India's major short-term external liability, affecting the exchange rate and investor sentiment.
- After peaking at 3.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the second quarter of the previous fiscal (FY22), CAD shrank significantly to 2.2 per cent in the third quarter of FY23. This decline was driven by falling oil imports, boost from services exports, and rising remittances.

### 5. C-PACE to simplify removal of company names from register: MCA

- The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has set up the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) that is expected to provide timely and process-bound striking-off of companies from the MCA register.
- As per the new rules issued by the Ministry of corporate affairs, from May 1, applications for removal of the name of a company under Section 248 of the Companies Act would be made to the registrar, C-PACE.
- Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 provides for removal of the name of company from the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

### 7. Amazon Web Services to invest over one lakh crore rupees in India by 2030; To create over 1.30 Lakh jobs

- Amazon Web Services, AWS will invest around one lakh five thousand crore rupees by 2030 on cloud-related infrastructure in India. The company is



making this investment to meet the growing demand of customers for cloud services. With this, Amazon's total investment in India by 2030 is estimated to reach over one lakh 36 thousand lakh crore rupees.

- AWS is a subsidiary of Amazon, which provides a cloud computing platform on demand to individuals, companies, and governments.
- Earlier this month, **Cisco Systems also announced that it will begin manufacturing in India to diversify its global supply chain, while Apple Inc supplier Foxconn will invest 500 million dollars to establish operations in Telangana.**

#### **8. India to contribute 16% to global GDP growth over 2023-24: Morgan Stanley**

- According to Morgan Stanley, **India is benefitting from a combination of cyclical & structural tailwinds and is expected to contribute 16 per cent of the global gross domestic product growth over 2023-24.**
- With the Indian economy being a key contributor for Asian economic growth outperformance, the broad-based recovery in demand runs counter to the weakness seen outside Asia.

#### **9. IDBI, BOB and SBI Capital to manage IREDA IPO**

- The government has appointed **IDBI Capital, BOB Capital and SBI Capital to manage the initial public offer of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency.**
- IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction. Separately, Saraf and Partners has been appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO. On March 17, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved IREDA IPO.

- **IREDA is currently a wholly owned Government of India enterprise incorporated in 1987** and is engaged in the financing of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

#### **10. No TCS on LRS transactions upto Rs 7 lakh via international debit, credit cards from July 1, 2023**

- **The Centre excluded up to Rs 7 lakh of debit and credit card payments in a financial year from the ambit of the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS).**
- **These transactions will not attract 20% levy of tax collected at source (TCS).**
- This relaxation does not extend to international transactions charged to institutional or corporate credit cards.
- In the Union Budget 2023, the government announced that international credit card expenses would be subject to a higher TCS rate of 20 percent, **effective from July 1.**
- Under the LRS scheme, the RBI allows residents to spend funds abroad up to the specified ceiling for investment and expenditure, including travel, education, medical treatment and buying securities and physical assets.

#### **11. RBI approves '87,416 cr surplus transfer to Centre for FY23**

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has approved the transfer of '87,416 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2022-23.**
- The central bank has also decided to raise the contingency risk buffer to 6% from 5.5% earlier.
- **The apex bank had transferred '30,307 crore to the government in FY22 as against '99,122 crore in the previous year.**

## 12. India Remains A Bright Spot, Economy Expected To Grow 6.7% In 2024: UN report

- The **World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023**, released by UN, said **India's economy, the largest in the South Asian region, is expected to expand by 5.8% in 2023 and 6.7% in 2024** (on a calendar year basis), supported by resilient domestic demand.
- **Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5 per cent in 2023.**
- The estimates for India's economic growth in the mid-year assessment remained unchanged from the projections made in the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 report launched in January this year.
- The flagship report issued in January had said that India's GDP is projected to moderate to 5.8 percent in 2023 as higher interest rates and global economic slowdown weigh on investment and exports.
- According to the report, **the world economy is now projected to grow by 2.3 percent in 2023 (+0.4 percentage points from the January forecast) and 2.5 percent in 2024 (-0.2 percentage points), a slight uptick in the global growth forecast for 2023.**

## 13. Growth expected to exceed 7% in FY23: RBI Governor Das

- Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said the **growth for 2022-23 is expected to be more than the advance estimate of 7 per cent** on the back of economic momentum maintained in the third and fourth quarters of the last fiscal.
- As per the second advance estimate released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** in February, the economy is estimated to grow at 7 per cent in 2022-23 against 8.7 per cent in the preceding fiscal

## 14. RBI's Provisions, forex gains hit record highs in FY23

- **In 2022-23, the central bank made a provision of Rs 1.31 lakh crore, up 14 percent from 2021-22.**
- **The RBI's FX gains in 2022-23 stands at Rs. 1.03 lakh crore.**
- The RBI makes a profit on every unit of foreign currency it sells.
- RBI's foreign exchange transactions made up 44 percent of its total income of Rs 2.35 lakh crore.
- The RBI sold a record amount of foreign currency in 2022-23 as it tried to bring down volatility in the rupee's exchange rate following the turmoil that roiled global financial markets after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## National

### 1. India's first cable-stayed Anji-Khad Rail Bridge ready in record time

- The **Anji-Khad rail bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge**, is ready.
- The first bridge of its kind is made of 96 cables in total. Anji-Khad rail bridge will connect Katra to Reasi in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The bridge has been made using cutting-edge technology and is designed to withstand harsh weather conditions.

### 2. Government cuts windfall tax on petroleum crude

- India has cut the **windfall tax on petroleum crude to 4,100 rupees (\$50.14) per tonne from 6,400 rupees per tonne**.
- The government left the windfall tax on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel at zero.
- The government revises tax rates fortnightly based on oil price fluctuations

### 3. World's highest Chenab rail bridge is ready clearing all tests

- Indian Railways has created history by building the **world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- This bridge has been built between Bakkal and Kauri in Jammu and Kashmir, some 42 km from Reasi district, and on the middle line of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Banihal.
- The bridge has passed all the mandatory tests.
- This bridge is **higher than the Eiffel Tower**.
- The height of the Eiffel Tower is 324 meters, however the height of this

bridge is **359 meters**. Its length is 1,315 meters.

- This bridge will be able to withstand wind with a speed of 260 kilometers per hour and is capable of withstanding an earthquake of magnitude 8 on the Richter scale. Presently a single track has been laid on it.

### 4. India Will Get Its Own Index To Quantify Heat Impact Next Year: IMD Chief

- India will launch its **own composite index** next year to **quantify the impact of heat on its population** and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations, the India Meteorological Department has said.
- The IMD began issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country last week, taking into account air temperature and relative humidity .

### 5. Vistara operates first commercial, wide-body aircraft flight using SAF

- Indian full-service carrier **Vistara** has become the **first Indian airline** to operate a **commercial, wide-body aircraft** on a domestic flight using **Sustainable Aviation Fuel(SAF)**.
- Vistara's Boeing 787-9 flew from **Delhi to Mumbai** using a blend of 17% SAF with 83% conventional jet fuel.
- It was able to reduce approximately 10,000 pounds of CO2 emissions on this flight. Vistara CEO: Vinod Kannan.
- In April 2023, Vistara operated a wide-body aircraft on a long-haul international route using SAF, first time for an Indian airline. A blend of 30% SAF and 70% conventional jet fuel was used on a ferry flight between Charleston International Airport, South Carolina to Indira Gandhi International Airport,

Delhi, which resulted in the reduction of approximately 1,50,000 pounds of CO2 emissions over the fuel's life cycle.

#### 6. SJVN bags project worth Rs 600 crore for setting 1,000 MW STU Connected Solar PV Power Plant

- SJVN announced that its arm **SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL)** has bagged an order worth **Rs 600 crore** for setting up of 1,000 MW STU Connected Solar PV Power Plant. It has bagged the order from Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RUVNL) of the **Rajasthan government**.
- This 1,000 MW STU Connected Solar PV Power Plant can be set up anywhere in Rajasthan.

#### 7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Heritage Centre in Chandigarh

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre**.
- The Centre has been set up under a memorandum of understanding between the Union Territory of **Chandigarh** and the **IAF** which was signed last year.
- Spread over 17,000 square feet, this is the first heritage centre of the IAF and depicts its role in various wars, including in 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war, and the Balakot air strike through murals and memorabilia.

#### 8. Ban diesel four-wheelers in cities with 10 lakh population, says panel

- India should by **2027 ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population** and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles, according to a report.
- The **report** of the committee headed by former Oil Secretary **Tarun Kapoor**

also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035.

#### 9. Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023

- To meet the larger vision of achieving the Zero Carbon Emission Goal, the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines.
- **Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023** envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with '**Working with Nature**' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem
- It lays emphasis on use of Clean / Green energy in Port operation, developing Port capabilities for storage, handling and bunkering Greener Fuels viz. Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol / Ethanol etc.

#### 10. NITI sets FY31 target for Ola, Uber in green push

- In the latest push to electric vehicles (EVs) to meet climate goals, government think tank **NITI Aayog** has come up with **yearly targets for ride-hailing apps for electrifying their fleet by 2030-31**.
- For two-wheelers, the target is to achieve 30 per cent of EVs in the fleet, while for four-wheelers the aim is 20 per cent.

#### 11. Indian govt to launch faster immigration clearance scheme for 'trusted travellers' at airport

- With an aim to **reduce congestion at airport checkpoints**, the Indian



government will soon launch a **'Trusted Traveller Programme'** for faster immigration clearance of pre-verified travellers.

- The new scheme will be launched for travellers with Indian passports across international airports in India.
- The program will be started on a **pilot basis at Delhi and Mumbai airports** this year. Later it will be expanded to 15 more international airports by 2027 and all airports by 2032

#### 12. Govt to spend \$1.2 billion on modernising semiconductor lab in Mohali

- The government will spend around **\$1.2 billion** to modernise the **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali**, a 30-year-old facility currently capable of producing 8-inch CMOS microchip wafers mostly used for the country's strategic needs such as the space programme.
- The planned modernisation and commercialisation of the facility is a part of the government's \$10 billion India.

#### 13. Santiniketan recommended for inclusion in UNESCO world heritage list

- **Santiniketan** the **abode** of Nobel Laureate poet **Rabindranath Tagore** has been recommended for inclusion in the **UNESCO World Heritage List** by an international advisory body.
- India has been striving for a long time to get a UNESCO tag for this cultural site in **West Bengal's Birbhum district**.

#### 14. Tungnath temple built by Pandavas declared national monument

- **Tungnath** is the highest of the five Panch Kedar temples in the district of **Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand**, and has now been declared as a **national monument**.

- The ancient temple which is located at an altitude of 12,106 feet is connected with the **Pandavas**.

#### 15. Varanasi International Airport becomes first in India to offer a reading lounge, free of cost

- The **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport** is the **first in India** to offer a **free reading lounge to the passengers**, with a collection of literature.
- The Airport Reading Lounge is a reflection of Kashi, for both traditionalists as well as the contemporary visitors and passengers, and for those who wish to seek further knowledge on the mystical heritage of this ancient city

#### 16. MoHUA's Mega Campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' launched

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**'s campaign titled, **'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar'**, is launched to champion the RRR's of waste management- **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**.
- Urban India is increasingly adopting the principles of making 'Wealth' from waste with citizens actively refurbishing old items for reuse.
- This nationwide campaign aims to highlight cities to setup 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres, one stop collection centres, for citizens to contribute clothes, shoes, old books, toys and used plastic to be reused or recycled.

#### 17. Indian government launches CEIR tracking system for lost or stolen mobile phones

- The Indian government is rolling out a tracking system that will enable people to **block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones** across the country. The

**Centre for Department of Telematics (CDoT)**, a technology development body, has been running the pilot of the **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)** system in some telecom circles.

- The CEIR system is equipped with an in-built mechanism that allows it to detect the use of cloned mobile phones across all telecom networks, thereby aiding the government in preventing revenue loss to the exchequer.
- To this end, the government has mandated that the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number, a 15-digit unique numeric identifier, be disclosed prior to the sale of mobile devices in India.
- The mobile networks will have access to the list of approved IMEI numbers, which will check the entry of any unauthorised mobile phones on their network.

#### 18. MCA proposes time-bound approvals for M&As

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has notified **changes** to the **Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Amendment Rules, 2023**. The norms, which will be effective from **June 15**, aim to address the **issue of bureaucratic delays in corporate restructuring by putting in place specific timelines**.
- In cases of amalgamation or merger where no objection or suggestions are received from the Registrar of Companies and the official liquidator within 30 days of the receipt of a copy of the scheme, the Centre can issue a confirmation order within 15 days provided that the scheme is in the public interest or in the interest of creditors.

- If any objections or suggestions are received from the RoC and official liquidator and the Centre has found these objections to be unsustainable and the scheme is determined to be in the public interest, it may issue a confirmation order within 60 days. In cases where the merger or amalgamation is not beneficial to the public interest, the Centre can file an application before the Tribunal for a review.
- Further, where the Centre fails to issue a confirmation order within 60 days, the merger or amalgamation scheme will be deemed to be approved.

#### 19. Nippo battery maker forays into renewable energy, to set up a new subsidiary with Apollo Hospitals

- **Indo-National Ltd (INL)** will set up a new subsidiary '**Nippo Green Energy Pvt Ltd**' as a joint venture with **Apollo Hospitals Enterprises**.
- INL will hold 74 per cent of equity share capital while the remaining 26 per cent paid-up equity share capital will be held by Apollo Hospitals Enterprises.
- Meanwhile, the company unveiled a new Nippo brand logo to celebrate 50 years.
- Incorporated in 1972 as a joint venture between late entrepreneur P Obul Reddy and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd of Japan, INL is into manufacturing and marketing dry cell batteries under the brand 'Nippo'. The company has a dry-cell battery manufacturing facility located at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. It has also set up a 4.6 megawatt solar power plant in Polepally village, Telangana.

## 20. IT hardware PLI 2.0: Centre approves revised PLI scheme with Rs 17,000 cr outlay

- The **Union Cabinet** cleared a revised **production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware with an outlay of Rs 17,000 crore**, more than **doubling the budget** for the scheme that was first cleared in 2021. The scheme will be implemented **from July 1**, with a cap on maximum incentives available to participating companies.
- The tenure of the new scheme has been fixed for six years and the Centre is expecting an investment of over Rs 2,430 crore as part of it.
- The expected incremental production value could touch Rs 3.35 lakh crore, and the scheme could generate 75,000 direct jobs – in total, the employment figure could touch 2 lakh when accounted for indirect jobs.

## 21. PM inaugurates International Museum Expo 2023

- The Prime Minister, Shri **Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**. He also unveiled the plan for **one of the world's largest museums, Yuge Yugeen Bharat**, which will capture 5,000 years of India's history and replace the existing one.
- The **Mascot** of the International Museum Expo is a contemporized version of the **Dancing Girl made of wood in the Chennapatnam art style**.

## 22. Bhopal becomes first Indian city to track progress towards meeting SDGs

- **Bhopal** in Madhya Pradesh has become the **first city in India to adopt the localisation of the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDG)**. MP's capital city will now have voluntary local reviews (VLR)

demonstrate local government's capacity and commitments.

- Bhopal's VLR is the result of a collaboration between the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, UN-Habitat and a collective of over 23 local stakeholders to measurably demonstrate the city's aspirations for a sustainable and inclusive urban transformation

## 23. 8th National Pension Adalat was inaugurated in Delhi by Union Minister Jitendra Singh

- Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi**, where chronic cases will be taken up and resolved.
- The Adalat is aimed at addressing chronic pension-related cases and ensuring their swift resolution.
- The **concept of pension adalats was introduced** on an experimental basis in **2017** by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare. In **2018**, a **national pension adalat was held**.
- In the 7 Adalats held so far 24218 cases have been taken up and 17235 cases have been resolved.
- The 50th PRC (Pre-Retirement Counselling) Workshop was also held. It was conducted by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and this PRC was organized for 1200 officers of all Ministries/Departments who are going to retire in the next 6 months. In line with the *Government's objective of transparency, digitization, and service delivery*, the *Bhavishya platform* introduced by this *Department* has ensured *End-to-*

*End digitization of Pension processing and payment.*

- The Bhavishya system has got the 3rd rank among all the *Central Government e-Governance Service Delivery Portals* as per the *NeSDA Assessment 2021*.

#### 24. Chemicals & Petrochemicals demand in India expected to nearly triple and reach \$1 trillion by 2040: HS Puri

- The demand for chemicals and petrochemicals in India is expected to nearly triple, reaching a staggering \$1 trillion by 2040, said Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri at the Asian Petrochemical Industry Conference in New Delhi.
- India offers an investment opportunity of USD 30 billion in the petrochemical sector over the next decade. **Current market size of the Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector stands at \$190 bn.**

#### 25. G-20 disaster risk reduction working group to convene in Mumbai to address escalating global disaster risks

- The **G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG)** is poised to hold its **second meeting in Mumbai** from 23-25 May, 2023, as the world grapples with an alarming surge in disasters and climate change-related risks.
- The meeting assumes great significance against the backdrop of a growing number of disasters that are posing significant economic challenges.
- With the aim of exploring innovative approaches to managing disaster risk and financing sustainable development, the gathering will bring together government officials, industry experts, private sector representatives,

and stakeholders from over twenty countries.

#### 26. Government Cuts FAME-II Subsidy On Electric Two-Wheelers From June 2023

- The government has **reduced the subsidy** provided under **Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles** in India scheme applicable on electric two-wheelers registered on or after June, 2023.
- For electric two-wheelers, the demand incentive will be Rs 10,000 per kWh
- The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers will be 15% of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40%
- The **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles India** scheme commenced on **April 1, 2019**, for a period of three years, which was further **extended for a period of two years up to March 31, 2024**.

#### 27. ITI Bags Rs 3,889 Crore Advance Purchase Order From BSNL For 4G Services

- State-owned telecom gear maker **ITI** has bagged an advance purchase order worth **Rs 3,889 crore from BSNL for deploying 23,633 sites for 4G services.**
- The supply period for the 4G telecom gear is 18-24 months under the contract.
- BSNL has issued an Advance Purchase Order for reservation quota order in the West Zone to ITI.

#### 28. India makes tests mandatory for cough syrup export from June 1

- India will now allow the **export of cough syrups only after the samples are tested** in a government laboratory, the government said in a notice. This order comes after India-made cough syrups were found to be contaminated, and were linked to the deaths of



dozens of children in Gambia and Uzbekistan.

- Exporters will be required to get their cough syrups tested **from June 1 onwards**.
- Last year, cough syrups made by two companies based near New Delhi were linked to the deaths of at least 70 children in Gambia and 19 in Uzbekistan. The cough syrups exported by manufacturers Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Marion Biotech contained lethal toxins. Both the companies had denied the allegations, and are being investigated.
- More recently, in April, the World Health Organisation (WHO) flagged contaminated cough syrups made by Punjab-based QP Pharmachem Ltd, that were found in Marshall Islands and Micronesia. The cough syrups were marketed by Hyderabad-based Trillium Pharma.

### 29. Shri Giriraj Singh launches SAMARTH campaign to promote digital transactions at Gram Panchayat Level

- **Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh**, officially launched the '**SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats**' under the Amrit Mahotsav in **Lucknow**.
- This campaign, which will continue until August 15, 2023, is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and aims to promote digital transactions in rural areas.

### 30. Ministry Of Finance Launches Special Rs 75 Coin To Celebrate Launch Of The New Parliament Building

- The Ministry of Finance announced that a Rs 75 coin will be launched to

commemorate the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

- The ministry's notification states that the circular Rs 75 coin will have a **44mm diameter**. It also announced that the coin will **feature 'Parliament Complex'** as inscription along with the new Parliament building's image on it.

### 31. PM Modi inaugurates new Parliament building, installs sengol in Lok Sabha chamber

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28 inaugurated the new Parliament building in the heart of Delhi, with the ceremony marked by the installation of the sengol, a sceptre, in the new Lok Sabha chamber next to the Speaker's chair.
- The new Lok Sabha chamber, designed along the peacock theme, can seat 888 members, while the Rajya Sabha, built around the lotus theme, can accommodate 300 members.
- This is the same Sengol that **was accepted by the first Prime Minister of India Nehru at his residence on the night of 14th August**, in the presence of several leaders.
- On this night Jawaharlal Nehru received the 'Sengol' from the Adheenams (Priests) of the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam (Mutt) in Tamil Nadu, who had specially arrived for the occasion.
- The Prime Minister took a decision to adopt the Sengol as a national symbol of the Amrit Kaal.
- The Sengol is profound in meaning, which is **derived from the Tamil word "Semmai", meaning "Righteousness"**.
- It is **blessed by the high priests of a leading Dharmic Mutt in Tamil Nadu**.

- The Nandi, with its unyielding gaze as the beholder of “Nyaya”, is hand-carved at the top.
- Most importantly, the recipient of the Sengol has the “order” (“Aanai” in Tamil) to rule justly and fairly.

### 32. PM Modi chairs 8th governing council meeting of Niti Aayog

- The eighth governing council meeting of Niti Aayog was held in **New Delhi**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The meeting discussed issues related to skill development, health, infrastructure, women's empowerment and aimed to make India a developed nation by 2047.
- The meeting also **focused on implementing 'Gati Shakti'** for area development and social infrastructure.
- As the chairman of NITI Aayog, PM Modi presided over the meeting, which deliberated on issues related to health, skill development, women empowerment and infrastructure development, with an aim to make India a developed nation by 2047.

### 33. Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1 specifically designed for helicopter routes

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched **UDAN 5.1** to further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve **last-mile connectivity through helicopters**.
- This follows four successful rounds of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) and with version 5.0 of the fifth round underway.
- The main features of the 5.1 include -- an increase in the scope of operations for operators wherein the scheme will

now allow routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area. Earlier both points had to be in priority areas.

### 34. PM Modi flags off Northeast's first Vande Bharat Express

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Northeast India's first Vande Bharat Express train via video-conferencing and added that it will boost tourism, and enhance connectivity.
- **Connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri**, the train will help save about an hour of journey time, when compared with the current fastest train connecting the two places.
- Vande Bharat will cover the journey in 5 hrs 30 mins, while the current fastest train takes 6 hrs 30 mins to cover the same journey.

### 35. Government Signs Agreement With Six States To Start Digital Crop Survey

- The government signed an agreement with six states -- **Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** -- to begin the digital crop survey. The agreement was signed at a workshop organised by the Union agriculture ministry to discuss with state governments the implementation plan of the digital crop survey.
- Digital crop survey is part of the government's Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA) that has been under development since 2020.

### 36. DGCA approves for night landing facility at Kalaburagi Airport

- Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the night landing facility at Kalaburagi Airport, Karnataka.

- The Kalaburagi Airport was inaugurated on November 22, 2019, by the then Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri B S Yediyurappa. It has a runway of 09-27 (3175m x 45m) and an apron suitable to park 03 aircraft.
- There has been a demand for providing night landing facilities to the airport for a long time. With the approval by DGCA for the night landing facility the Aerodrome License for the airport has been **amended from VFR (Visual flight rules) to IFR (Instrumental flight rules) for All Weather Operations.**

### 37. 8th International Convention of Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music among Youth - SPIC MACAY inaugurated in Nagpur

- In Nagpur, the 8th International Convention of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music among Youth -SPIC MACAY was inaugurated at **Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology -VNIT in Nagpur.**
- This cultural convention is being jointly organized till the 4th of next month, by the Union Ministry of Culture, and Incredible India.

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## International

### 1. G7 nations agree on 'risk-based' artificial intelligence regulation

- The Group of Seven advanced nations agreed to adopt 'risk-based' regulation on artificial intelligence, as European lawmakers hurry to introduce an AI Act to enforce rules on emerging tools such as ChatGPT.
- G7 Members: Canada, Italy, France, United States, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan

### 2. International Apparel & Textile Fair kicks off in Dubai featuring 90 Indian participants

- The International Apparel & Textile Fair (IATF) has returned to Dubai in 2023, for its **15th edition**.
- The fair is known as the premier platform for sourcing apparels, fashion fabrics, prints, clothing accessories, home textiles, footwear and more in the UAE.
- This year's event will showcase the **Spring Summer Collections & Autumn Winter Highlights of 2023-2024**
- With over 200 exhibitors from 22 countries, IATF aims to expand with each exhibitor becoming a major influence in UAE's Fashion scene.
- The event attracts a wide range of Textile Mills, Garments Manufacturers, Accessories/ Trim Suppliers, Print Designers, and major Footwear manufacturers.

### 3. G-20 Disaster Working Group Meet To Be Held In Mumbai

- The second meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group will be held in Mumbai from May 23 to 25.
- More than 120 members will attend this meeting and on the sidelines of

this meeting, representatives of the Working Group will visit BMC headquarters too.

### 4. Kaladan project: India flags off shipment for Sittwe Port in Myanmar

- A vessel containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement was flagged off from the **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata** to officially kick-start the operation of Sittwe Port in Myanmar.
- The project is part of the **\$484-million Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)**, and has been built under grant assistance from India.
- The primary aim of the project has been to create an alternative route to connect northeast and mainland India.

### 5. Italy To Pull Out Of China's Belt And Road Initiative Deal

- As per Reuters report, Italy is highly unlikely to renew China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) deal, set to expire early next year.
- In 2019, Italy signed up to the BRI 'China's massive infrastructure and investment plan aimed at boosting its influence across the world.
- When Mario Draghi took power in 2021, the agreement was frozen. Italy's Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni.
- Italy is the only Group of Seven country that signed up to the infrastructure plan. The deal agreed to in 2019 under then-leader Giuseppe Conte has not led to deeper integration between Italy and China compared to other EU nations. But the stakes in quitting are both economic and diplomatic, with the risk of Chinese retaliation.



## 6. WHO Declares End To Covid-19 Global Health Emergency

- The World Health Organisation on May 5th declared that Covid-19 is no longer a global public health emergency.
- This represents a major step towards ending the pandemic & comes **3 years after it first declared its highest level of alert over the virus.**
- However, that does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat as it claimed a life every 3 minutes last week.

## 7. World Food Programme to suspend aid to Palestinians due to funding shortage

- The World Food Programme (WFP) will suspend food aid to over 200,000 Palestinians from next month (June) due to a "severe" shortage of funds.
- The United Nations agency offers impoverished Palestinians both monthly vouchers with a value of \$10.30 per person and food baskets.
- **The World Food Programme Headquarters- Rome, Italy**

## 8. GJEPC launches India Jewellery Exposition 2023 in Dubai to promote 'Made in India' gems and jewellery

- The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council unveiled India Jewellery Exposition 2023 ( IJEX 2023), the first of its kind jewellery exposition centre in Dubai.
- IJEX 2023 is a Global Business Touchpoint, especially for GJEPC members to connect with international buyers.
- To celebrate the first anniversary of the India- UAE CEPA, GJEPC has launched the first-ever exhibition at IJEX in Dubai. **IJEX is a year round exhibition located opposite the Gold Souk in Deira Dubai.**

- IJEX is a one-stop destination for the world to source Indian jewellery in Dubai

## 9. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal receives the First Indian Cargo Ship at the Sittwe Port

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San jointly inaugurated the Sittwe Port in Myanmar and received the first Indian cargo ship.
- The cargo ship was flagged off from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.
- The Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) funded by the government of India. With the development of Sittwe Port, the cost and time of transportation of goods between Kolkata and Agartala and Aizawl will decrease by 50 per cent.

## 10. Mpox No Longer A Global Health Emergency: WHO

- The World Health Organization declared that mpox no longer constitutes a global health emergency , almost exactly a year after the disease formerly known as monkeypox started spreading globally.
- The announcement comes just a week after the UN agency also declared that Covid-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern , its highest level.

## 11. AWS launches skill development programme for quantum computing in India

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) has launched two skill development programmes for quantum computing in India.
- The company is collaborating with academic institutions and learning platforms to integrate Amazon Braket a

fully managed quantum computing service in the courses.

- AWS will be collaborating with QpiAI, an AI and quantum learning platform, to integrate Amazon Braket with the QpiAI Explorer platform an interactive learning platform for students, industry professionals, and researchers.

### 12. UK announces ban on Russian diamonds & metals ahead of G7 meeting in Japan

- The United Kingdom has announced ban on Russian diamonds alongside the military-industrial complex and metals in fresh round of sanctions ahead of G7 meeting in Japan.
- In a statement, UK government said, the ban has also been announced on imports of Russian-origin copper, aluminium and nickel.

### 13. China overtakes Japan as world's top car exporter

- China is now the world's leading auto exporter due to the growing demand for electric vehicles and higher shipments to Russia.
- China **exported 1.07 million automobiles between January and March, marking a 58 per cent rise since last year**, reports the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.
- In Q1, Japan exported 950,000 vehicles, marking a 6 per cent YoY increase per the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.
- **China overtook the United States** as the biggest market for new vehicles in **2009**, boosted by government support for the domestic EV industry through tax incentives, purchasing and charging infrastructure.
- China's move to electric cars has boosted its position as an auto

exporter, with Q1 exports of new energy vehicles surging 93 per cent to 380,000 units, of which 40 per cent were accounted for by EVs.

- Tesla China exported 90,000 units of new energy vehicles, making it the leading company in China, followed by SAIC Motor's passenger vehicle unit at 50,000 units and BYD at 30,000 vehicles.
- Chinese-made new energy vehicles were most popular in Belgium, Australia, and Thailand. This highlights the interest of Chinese automakers in building market share in Southeast Asia, a region where Japanese car companies have historically held control.
- China sent 140,000 vehicles to Russia in Q1 2021, more than triple the previous year, making Russia the primary export market for Chinese vehicles.
- Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 caused global carmakers like Toyota and Volkswagen to shut down their factories and exit the market, filled by Chinese automakers.

### 14. Indian Handicrafts Steal the Show at INDEX 2023 in Dubai World Trade Center

- INDEX Dubai 2023, the prestigious international exhibition celebrating its 30th year, commenced at the Dubai World Trade Center.
- This highly acclaimed event showcases the latest trends and innovations in the interior furnishings world.
- The remarkable presence of Indian Handicrafts at INDEX 2023 in Dubai World Trade Center solidifies their status as showstoppers, captivating the attention and admiration of International businesses and visitors

from around the globe. INDEX 2023 will conclude on May 25th.

### 15. WMO approves a global tracker for greenhouse gas emissions

- The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative in a landmark decision, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a press note.
- The initiative supports urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases, which are fuelling temperature increases.
- The new global GHG watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework.

- The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof.

### 16. Ireland signs law requiring cancer warnings on all alcoholic beverages

- Ireland is on track to become the **first country to enforce mandatory health advisories on alcohol products**.
- The Irish Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, has approved the new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026.
- This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the new public health guidelines.

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## Sports

### 1. Ding Liren beats Ian Nepomniachtchi to crown World Chess Championship

- Ding Liren became **China's first world chess champion** after a rapid-play tie-break victory over Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in Kazakhstan.
- Ding, takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign.

### 2. Sergio Perez wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023

- **Red Bull driver Sergio Perez** held off defending Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen to win the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023 at the Baku City Circuit.
- Sergio Perez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the win in the Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday, adding it to the sprint he won the day before, as Red Bull kept up its winning start to 2023.

### 3. Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon win Gold for India in ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Cairo, Egypt

- The seasoned Mairaj Ahmad Khan and youngster Ganemat Sekhon, combined effectively to give India their first medal, a Gold in the ongoing ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Cairo, Egypt.
- The Indian mixed doubles pair defeated Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez 6-0 in the final of the Skeet Mixed Team event on day four of the tournament.

### 4. Neeraj Chopra Wins Doha Diamond League With A World Leading Throw Of 88.76m

- Tokyo 2020 Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra started his season by winning the Doha Diamond League 2023 with a world-leading effort of **88.67m on his first attempt** at the Qatar Sports Club.
- Athletes competing in Diamond League are awarded points instead of medals and top eight athletes at the end of the Diamond League series qualify for the Diamond League final. His personal best and national javelin record is 89.94m.
- Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, the Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, wasn't far behind and hit a season-best 88.63m in his second attempt. Reigning world javelin champion Anderson Peters from Grenada logged 85.88 to come third. His throw also came off the first attempt.

### 5. Logo, mascot of 3rd Khelo India University Games launched in Lucknow; 12-day Games to begin on 23rd May

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the game's mascot **Jitu the Barasingha**, an incredible mammal, along with Shakti (the official torch), logo, anthem and jersey.
- The games Anthem titled '**Khelo India 'Har Dil Mein Desh'** is composed and sung by renowned singer **Palash Sen**. The opening ceremony is slated for May 25, 2023 in Lucknow.

### 6. Nepal join India, Pakistan for Asia Cup 2023 after winning ACC Men's Premier Cup

- Nepal have qualified for the Asia Cup 2023 after winning the ACC Men's Premier Cup. The team, led by Rohit



Paudel defeated the United Arab Emirates by 7 wickets in the final that was played across two days at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur.

- Nepal, therefore, joined India and Pakistan in Group A of the Asia Cup to be played in September.

#### 7. Luca Brecel beats Mark Selby to become snooker world champion for the first time

- **Belgium's Luca Brecel** became the **first player from mainland Europe to win the snooker world title** resisting English player Mark Selby's fightback to win 18-15 at The Crucible, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.
- World Snooker Championship along with the UK Championship and the invitational Masters make up snooker's Triple Crown Series.
- Joe Davis, an English snooker player, won this tournament 15 times from 1927 to 1946.

#### 8. Asian Weightlifting Championships: Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins silver medal at Jinju, Korea

- In the Asian Weightlifting Championships, India's weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a silver medal at Jinju, Korea.
- The 20-year-old won medal in the snatch event with a lift of 141 kg in the **67 kg weight class**

#### 9. Bindyarani Devi clinches silver medal in 55kg category at Asian Weightlifting C'ships

- In Weightlifting, India's Bindyarani Devi has clinched a silver medal in the women's 55kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Jinju, South Korea.
- Sorokhaibam Bindyarani Devi registered a combined lift of 194 kg to finish second on the podium.

- China's Chen Guan Ling won the gold medal with a combined lift of 204 kg.

#### 10. Praveen Chithravel sets national record in triple jump in Cuba

- Indian triple jumper Praveen Chithravel set a new national record with an effort of **17.37 metres** on his way to winning a gold medal in the Prueba de confrontacion 2023 athletics meet in Havana, Cuba.
- Chithravel **improved on the previous men's triple jump national record of 17.30m** set by Renjith Maheswary at the third Indian Grand Prix in Bangalore in 2016.

#### 11. ISSF World Cup: India's Rhythm Sangwan wins bronze medal in Women's 10 metre air pistol event in Baku

- India's Rhythm Sangwan has won the bronze medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 for rifle and pistol shooters in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- It was **Sangwan's first individual senior medal at the shooting World Cup**.
- She scored 219.1 in the final to finish third behind Anna 2016 Rio Olympic champion Anna Korakaki of Greece and 2004 Athens Olympics gold medallist Olena Kostevych of Ukraine.

#### 12. Indian boxers secure historic three medals at World Boxing Championships

- Indian boxers have ensured three medals at the World Boxing Championships for the first time as they advanced to the semifinals in Tashkent.
- India created history when **Deepak Bhoria at 51kg, Mohammed Hussamuddin at 57kg, and Nishant Dev at 71kg** emerged victorious in their respective quarterfinal bouts.

- This is for the **first time Indian men's boxers will bring home three medals home from a World Championships.**

### 13. ICC Rankings: India slips to 3rd spot, Australia remain world No 1 in ODIs

- India dropped to third position behind Pakistan and three points adrift of world number one Australia in the latest ICC ODI men's Team rankings.
- Five-time world champion Australia improved its rating from 113 to 118 following the annual update, maintaining a slender lead over Pakistan (116 points) and India (115 points).

### 14. AIPA to organise third National Ranking Pickleball Tournament in Margao

- The third National Ranking Pickleball Tournament will be organised by the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) from May 19 to 21.
- AIPA will conduct the tournament in association with the Goa Pickleball Association and Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Goa.

### 15. India's Divya and Sarabjot win mixed team pistol gold at Baku World Cup

- India's Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh emerged third-time lucky as a pair, winning gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup.
- Shooting on competition day two, the Indian pair who had finished fifth in two earlier World Cup stages in Cairo and Bhopal respectively, broke through with a fine 581 to top the 55-team qualification.

### 16. Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra bag silver medals in 10-meter air rifle event at ISSF World Cup 2023

- Indian shooters Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra have bagged silver

medals in the men's and women's 10 meter air rifle events, at the ongoing ISSF World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- It was the first-ever ISSF World Cup medal for 21-year-old Hriday Hazarika as well as 19-year-old Nancy Mandhotra.
- Hazarika made it to the men's 10m air rifle final.

### 17. National football federation declares P.K. Banerjee's birthday as 'AIFF Grassroots Day'

- The All India Football Federation has declared June 23, the birthday of Indian football icon Pradip Kumar Banerjee, as the 'AIFF Grassroots Day'.
- Popularly known as P.K., the late Mr. Banerjee **captained the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics** and enjoyed a stellar career as a player before taking up coaching, where he also tasted plenty of success.

### 18. India bags 16 gold medals at the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023

- The 3-day international event South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championship 2023 concluded in **Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Indian contingent bagged all gold medals that were on offer, here on the final day of the event at the Dorjee Khandu Indoor Stadium.
- **In the Under-19 Boys singles, Ankur Bhattacharjee defeated Payas Jain.**
- **Suhana Saini won the Under-19 Girls singles.**
- In this event more than 100 athletes and officials from six countries Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal participated.

### 19. V. Praneeth becomes India's 82nd Grandmaster

- V.Praneeth became **Telangana's sixth and India's 82nd Grandmaster** when he outwitted GM Hans Niemann of US in the penultimate round of Baku Open 2023.
- 15-year-old Praneeth earned his first GM-norm at First Saturday GM March 2022 where he also became an IM & his second GM-norm at Biel MTO in July 2022. He earned his final GM-norm at 2nd Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2023.

### 20. Adidas to be Team India's kit sponsor until March, 2028

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that the Indian national cricket team had secured a new kit sponsorship deal with the renowned German sportswear powerhouse, Adidas.
- The association between the BCCI and MPL Sports concluded earlier than anticipated, prompting an interim sponsorship deal with the makers of the renowned clothing brand Killer Jeans.

### 21. Neeraj Chopra creates history, becomes world number 1 in men's javelin throw rankings

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time, which is a major career milestone for him.
- Neeraj Chopra has **topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters**.

### 22. Indian athlete Shaili Singh bags bronze medal at Golden Grand Prix 2023 athletics meet in Japan

- Indian athlete Shaili Singh clinched a bronze medal at the Golden Grand Prix 2023 athletics meet in the women's long jump event in Yokohama, Japan.
- Germany's Maryse Luzolo won the gold medal with an effort of 6.79 meter while Australia's Brooke Buschkuehl bagged the silver medal with a 6.77 meter leap.
- Two years back, Shaili Singh had won a silver medal at the World Athletics UNDER-20 Championships in Nairobi.

### 23. Slovenia Open: Sameer Verma Wins Gold; Rohan Kapoor-Sikki Reddy Bag Silver

- Indian shuttler Sameer Verma has won gold in the Slovenia Open Badminton Tournament being held in Maribor, Slovenia.
- In the men's singles final, he beat Taiwan's Su Li Yang. While the duo of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy bagged silver in the mixed doubles

### 24. Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar wins gold; Jeswin Aldrin takes silver at International Jumping Meeting in Greece

- Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won gold while compatriot Jeswin Aldrin finished bagged silver at the International Jumping Meeting at Kallithea in Greece.
- Successfully defending his title in the Men's long jump event, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sreeshankar registered his season-best **jump of 8.18 meter**.

### 25. CSK vs GT IPL 2023 Final: CSK wins their fifth IPL title in last ball thriller

- CSK skipper MS Dhoni received the winning cheque of Rs.20 crore for winning the IPL 2023 tournament.
- GT skipper Hardik Pandya received the runners-up trophy and a prize money of Rs.12.5 crores.

- With magnificent 890 runs, Shubman Gill won the Orange Cap for the IPL 2023 season
- Shubman Gill won the most valuable player of the season award for the IPL 2023 season.
- CSK opener Devon Conway won the player of the match award for his solid performance in IPL finals 2023.

***Here are all the honours from the IPL 2023 season.***

- **IPL 2023 champions:** Chennai Super Kings
- **Emerging player of the season:** Yashasvi Jaiswal
- **Super striker of the season:** Glenn Maxwell (strike rate of 183.49)
- **Game changer of the season:** Shubman Gill
- **Perfect catch of the season:** Rashid Khan
- **Purple cap:** Mohammed Shami (28 wickets)
- **Orange cap:** Shubman Gill (890 runs)
- **Most valuable player of the season:** Shubman Gill
- **Fair Play award:** Delhi Capitals

#### **26. Uttar Pradesh Hockey wins 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023**

- Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023 after **defeating the Hockey Association of Odisha** in the Final at the iconic Birs Munda Hockey Stadium, Odisha.
- Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh to finish third in the competition

#### **27. India clinches title of CAVA Women's Challenge Cup 2023**

- India has won the title of NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup held in Kathmandu.
- India won the title **by defeating Kazakhstan** in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in **Tripureshwor, Kathmandu.**
- The event was organised by the Nepal Volleyball Association and is supported by the NSC, eight nations participated in it.
- In the competition, Kazakhstan became the runner-up, Nepal third, Uzbekistan fourth, Sri Lanka fifth, Kyrgyzstan sixth, Maldives seventh, and Bangladesh eighth.

#### **28. India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy clinches Malaysia Masters badminton title**

- India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy has clinched the Malaysia Masters badminton title.
- He defeated Weng Hong Yang of China 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 in men's singles final in Kuala Lumpur this evening.
- Facing off for the first time, Prannoy and Weng saw a close battle in the first game, with the former taking a slender 11-10 lead at the mid-way interval.

#### **29. Savitribai Phule Pune University clinches first Gold medal with win over Osmania University in women's tennis event**

- In Khelo India University games, Savitribai Phule Pune University conquered their final quest with a 2-0 victory over defending champions Osmania University to clinch their first Gold medal in the women's tennis **event in Ekana International Tennis Stadium Lucknow.**
- Meanwhile, women tennis players of Jain University outdid the University of Madras 2-0 to clinch the bronze medal.



### 30. MS Dhoni becomes first Indian to record 300 dismissals with Gill stumping in IPL 2023 final

- Chennai Super Kings captain **MS Dhoni** became the **first Indian to record 300 dismissals in T20 cricket** during the IPL 2023 final against Chennai Super Kings at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- Dhoni recorded the feat when **he stumped GT opener Shubman Gill** off Ravindra Jadeja's bowling. Dhoni's reaction time was clocked at a staggering 0.1 seconds.

### 31. Jyothi Yarraji clinches gold medal at T-Meeting 2023

- Jyothi Yarraji bagged the gold medal in the **women's 100m hurdles event** in the T-Meeting 2023 athletics meet, in **Tilburg, the Netherlands**.
- In the category E World Ranking competition the 23-year-old **clocked 13.20s in the final** to secure victory in the event.
- Jyothi Yarraji topped the **heats with a time of 13.08s** as she made her way to the final
- **Angel Agwazie of Belgium clinched the silver medal** as she clocked 13.64s. While the Dutch athlete Mira Groot clocked 13.78s to bag the bronze.



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## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Reliance Consumer ties up with Ceylon Beverage for Campa

- Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL) has entered into a strategic partnership with Ceylon Beverage International, one of the largest beverage can and filling companies in Sri Lanka promoted by former cricketer Muthiah Muralitharan, to co-pack and manufacture its Campa soft drinks cans.
- Ceylon Beverage International will co-pack cans for the Campa soft drinks portfolio in India

### 2. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs signs MoU with RITES as Technical Support Agency for Swachhata

- Focusing on accelerating Solid Waste and Used Water Management, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES Limited, for technical assistance for Solid Waste Management (SWM) & UWM under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
- The Technical Support Unit (TSU) of RITES will assist SBM-U for a period of 3 years.
- Under UWM, RITES will provide technical support for standards & specification in the field of sewage and faecal sludge management and reuse, engineering design and process of waste water treatment units.
- RITES will further assist with preparation of model tender document and procurement in the field of sewage, wastewater management and Solid Waste Management.

### 3. Airtel Payments Bank and NPCI roll out face authentication for Aadhaar-enabled payment system

- Airtel Payments Bank collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to roll out Face Authentication for AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment System) at its 500,000 banking points.
- Airtel Payments Bank is amongst the first four banks to offer Face Authentication for AePS in the country.
- NPCI's AePS allows customers to carry out financial and non-financial transactions at any banking point using their Aadhaar number or virtual ID to access their Aadhaar-linked bank account.

### 4. India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation

- India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on industrial research and development cooperation, marking a significant milestone in their scientific and technological partnership, the Ministry of Science & Technology.
- The collaboration aims to enable joint industrial research and development projects in various high-tech fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum and semiconductors, synthetic biology, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy, and agriculture, among others.
- The MoU will be implemented through specific projects agreed upon by both parties and monitored by a Joint Steering Committee led by the heads of CSIR and DDR&D.

### 5. India, Israel sign MoU to further collaboration in high technology areas

- In order to further collaboration in high technology areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum and semiconductors, synthetic biology, etc.,
- India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation.
- CSIR of India and Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) of Israel signed the MoU.

### 6. BEL signs MoU with Emjay Control Systems to develop electro-mechanical bollards

- Bharat Electronics Ltd(BEL) has signed an MoU with Emjay Control Systems to jointly manufacture and develop business for electro-mechanical bollards for use in various defence, homeland security, paramilitary, and export projects.
- The bollards are envisaged to safeguard vital installations by pre-empting the unauthorised entry of heavy vehicles.
- **They are built to withstand the impact of IED-laden vehicles weighing from 24,000 to 1,50,000 kg and coming in at alarming speeds of 80 to 100 km/h.**

### 7. MoHUA and MoR jointly ink MoU with JICA for Project SMART

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for '**Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail**' (Project-SMART).
- Project-SMART envisages to develop surrounding areas of Mumbai -

Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

- The project would facilitate and enhance institutional capacity of State Governments, Municipal Corporations and Urban Development Authorities to plan, develop and manage surrounding areas of MAHSR stations.
- **The MoU was inked for four High Speed Rail Stations- Sabarmati, Surat in Gujarat and Virar and Thane in Maharashtra; out of 12 stations in-route.**
- Surat, Virar and Thane are Green fields while Sabarmati is a Brown field development.

### 8. JSW Energy signs 25-year PPA for 300 MW wind projects with SECI at Rs 2.94/kWh tariff

- JSW Energy has signed a power purchase agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) for wind projects totaling 300 MW.
- The PPA is signed for the supply of power for a period of 25 years with a tariff of Rs 2.94 per kilowatt (KWh).
- **The projects are located in Maharashtra** and are expected to be commissioned in the next 24 months. Suman Sharma, Managing Director (MD) of Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) is a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

### 9. India Post signs MoU with CAIT and Tripta Technologies for logistics services

- India Post has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Confederation

of All India Traders (CAIT) and Tripta Technologies for logistics service.

- **The MoU will benefit small and medium traders as they will be able to use India Post as a logistics service provider across the country.**
- The partnership between India Post, CAIT and Tripta Technologies will provide shipping and the last mile delivery services to CAIT's strong trader base and small and medium business in the unorganised sector.
- The MoU marks a significant milestone for taking e-commerce to small towns and rural areas and is expected to benefit thousands of traders.

#### 10. PTC India inks MoU with Brookfield for 100 MW solar power in Rajasthan

- Power trading solution provider PTC India announced that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brookfield Renewables to purchase 100 MW of solar power on a long-term basis.
- Brookfield Renewables is developing a 400 MW solar power project in Bikaner solar park in Rajasthan.
- The agreement includes an option to increase the power capacity to 200 MW at the time of project commissioning based on mutual confirmation by the two parties.
- Under this arrangement, PTC India will provide Brookfield Renewables with an assured tariff and payment security.

#### 11. MakeMyTrip collaborates with Microsoft to introduce voice assisted booking in Indian languages

- MakeMyTrip has collaborated with Microsoft to make travel planning more 'inclusive' and 'accessible' by introducing voice assisted booking in Indian languages.

- The new, in-platform tech stack **powered by Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service** and Azure Cognitive Services, will converse with the user to offer personalized travel recommendations based on their preferences.

#### 12. MyGov, in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, launches 'YUVA PRATIBHA' Singing Talent Hunt

- With an aim to promote Indian music at the grassroots level on a national scale by identifying and recognising the new and young talent in various singing genres, MyGov in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture is launching a YUVA PRATIBHA Singing Talent Hunt.
- The initial submission for the competition will be open for a period of one and half months.
- Singing Talent Hunt is a unique opportunity for citizens across India to display their singing talent and skills and to gain national recognition.
- If one wishes to be New India's emerging artist singer, or musician, then he/she can participate in the YUVA PRATIBHA 'Singing Talent Hunt and lend the melodic voice in the various genres:
  - *Folk Songs*
  - *Patriotic Songs*
  - *Contemporary Songs*

#### 13. Mastercard replaces BharatPe as global sponsor of ICC

- The American multinational financial services corporation, Mastercard has replaced BharatPe as the global sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The sponsorship pact between ICC & Mastercard is a multi-year arrangement and will cover the upcoming 4 years.



- ICC primarily helms a three-year sponsorship and its partnership with BharatPe was kicked off in June 2021.
- For the past year, Mastercard has been aiming to bag some lucrative sponsorship deals as it also secured title sponsorship rights of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) international and domestic home fixtures from Paytm.

#### **14. Ministry of Ayush and ICMR sign an MoU to promote and collaborate on integrative health research**

- In a significant development a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research to promote and collaborate on integrative health research.
- This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific.

#### **15. IBM partners with NASA to monitor natural disasters and climate change using AI**

- Tech major IBM has partnered with US space agency NASA to design a new geospatial foundation model to track climate change on Earth.
- The new geospatial foundation model, which is part of IBM's Space Act Agreement with NASA, converts the space agency's satellite observations into customised maps of natural disasters and other environmental changes.
- The first-ever foundation model for analysing geospatial data will help to estimate climate-related risks to crops, buildings, and other infrastructure, valuing and monitoring forests for carbon-offset programmes, and also to

developing predictive models to help enterprises create strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

#### **16. 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.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishing semiconductor supply chain and innovation partnership under the framework of IndiaUS Commercial Dialogue was signed by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal during the Commercial Dialogue.
- The MoU seeks to establish a collaborative mechanism between the two governments on semiconductor supply chain resiliency and diversification in view of US's CHIPS and Science Act and India's Semiconductor Mission.
- According to a joint statement, both sides have agreed to set up a semiconductor sub-committee, led by the Department of Commerce for the US side and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the Indian side.
- The committee will convene its first engagement in mid-year to review recommendations from the joint industry-led task force launched in connection with the iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies).

### 17. Zomato inks partnership with ICICI Bank to launch its own UPI offering

- Food and grocery delivery company Zomato has rolled out its own unified payments interface (UPI) offering, called **Zomato UPI**, which it has launched in partnership with ICICI Bank.
- Zomato UPI is only a pilot of sorts and depending on the adoption rate and customer stickiness, the company will either approach more banks or go slow with the rollout.

### 18. India and European Union agree to coordinate their policies in strategic semiconductor sector

- India and the European Union will coordinate their policies with regards to the strategic semiconductor sector, with the aim of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding by Sept 2023.
- According to joint statement issued after the **first India - EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting held in Brussels**, the two sides will work towards bridging the digital skills gaps.

### 19. Union Government approves signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between DHR & WHO on Assistive Technology

- The Union Government has approved signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Health Research and the World Health Organization on Assistive Technology.
- This collaboration aims at working towards drawing global attention toward access to assistive technology, fostering research and innovation and developing and disseminating appropriate programs.

- The Union Cabinet **also gave its approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives.**
- ICAI and CA Maldives aim to establish mutual co-operation for the advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development, Advancing the interests of their respective members and positively contributing to the development of the Accountancy Profession in the Maldives and India.

### 20. MoUs for two projects to be implemented under GoI grant assistance aims at improving quality of life for people in Nepal

- The Embassy of India, Kathmandu, and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal signed Memorandums of Understanding for undertaking two High Impact Community Development Projects in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India - one each in health care and education sectors, at a total estimated **cost of NRs. 80.33 million.**
- The construction of Malagiri Shanti Yogashram, Ramechhap District, and Kedar Jyotipunjya Multiple Campus, Doti District of Nepal shall be implemented through Ramechhap Municipality and Badikedar Rural Municipality, respectively.

### 21. Cabinet approves MoU between CCI India and Egyptian Competition Authority

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Competition

Commission of India (CCI) and Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA).

- The MoU envisages promotion and strengthening of cooperation in competition law and policy through exchange of information, sharing of best practices as well as through various capacity building initiatives.

## **22. Israel ties up with IIT-M to set up water technology centre**

- The Government of Israel is partnering with India through Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) to establish an India-Israel Center of Water Technology (CoWT) in water resources management and water technologies at IIT-M.

## **23. TCS Led Consortium Bags Over Rs 15,000 Crore Order From BSNL For 4G Deployment Across India**

- The consortium led by Tata Consultancy Services Limited has received an Advance Purchase Order valued over Rs 15,000 crore from BSNL, a 100 per cent Govt. of India owned Public Sector Undertaking, for the deployment of a 4G network across India,.
- The BSNL 4G services will be started all over India within 18-24 months after placing the purchase order.
- The government has also reserved spectrum in the 600 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands for BSNL for providing 5G services, which would be provided after roll out of 4G services all over India.

## **24. NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and HPCL Mittal Energy Ltd. (HMEL) sign MoU; HMEL to source 250 MW Renewable Energy from NGEL**

- The MoU envisages to collaborate in the field of Renewable Energy through

sourcing of 250 MW RE-RTC (Round-The-Clock) power to meet the requirement of HMEL and also exploring opportunities in the Green Hydrogen business & its derivatives (Green Ammonia & Green Methanol).

- HPCL Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL), is a Joint Venture between HPCL & Mittal Energy Investments Pvt Ltd.
- NTPC is India's largest Power Utility with core business of power generation having a total installed capacity of 72 GW (including JVs and subsidiaries).

## **25. India and Australia sign agreements in the field of migration, mobility partnership and Green Hydrogen**

- India and Australia signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force.
- The Memorandum of Understandings were exchanged after a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Sydney

## **26. Goa Signs MoU with Uttarakhand to Strengthen Tourism Cooperation**

- The officials of the Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate towards enhancing the tourism landscape of both Goa and Uttarakhand.
- The signing of this MoU between the officials of the two states marks a significant step towards promoting tourism in Goa and Uttarakhand and showcasing India's rich cultural diversity to the world, aligned with the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative

launched by the honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **27. Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Minority Affairs Join Hands for the Development Unani Medicine System**

- The Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Minority Affairs have jointly taken a significant step to promote and develop the Unani system of medicine in India.
- **The Ministry of Minorities Affairs has approved a grant of Rs. 45.34 Crore under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS).**
- With support of this scheme Unani Medicine facilities **will be upgraded at Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Silchar and Bengaluru locations.**

### **28. HDFC Bank partners Manipal Global to build up a talent pipeline**

- Merger-bound HDFC Bank has partnered with Manipal Global Academy of BFSI to launch its **Future Banker 2.0 programme** to groom young graduates into banking professionals within a year.
- The nationwide recruitment initiative seeks to establish a talent pipeline for the bank's retail banking division to man its expanded network post-Merger.

### **29. TCS Expands Partnership With Google Cloud, Launches Generative AI**

- Tata Consultancy Services announced an expanded partnership with Google Cloud and the launch of its new offering, TCS Generative AI which leverages Google Cloud's generative AI services, to design and deploy custom-tailored business solutions.
- Building on its domain knowledge across multiple verticals and

investments, TCS has developed a large portfolio of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered solutions and intellectual property in the areas of AIOps, Algo Retail, smart manufacturing, digital twins and robotics.

### **30. EDII Partners With SBI Foundation For Skill Development Of 750 People With Disabilities Under Project Swavlamban**

- The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has partnered with the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) for the skill development and training of 750 persons with disabilities (PwDs) under SBI's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project - **Swavlamban.**
- **EDII will implement the project in Anand, Kheda, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, and Aravalli districts of Gujarat**
- The main objective of the project is to help PwD entrepreneurs expand their market reach and ensure an increase in their incomes.
- Under the project, EDII will provide enterprise promotion training to 750 differently-abled people which includes 500 individual entrepreneurs and 250 Member Based Organisations (MBOs) entrepreneurs.
- Ten MBOs will be formed for 250 differently-abled entrepreneurs as a cooperative or Self Help Group (SHG). These MBOs will be provided mentoring and support for network-building, increasing market reach and finance.
- EDII partners with governments and corporates to implement innovation-led projects for inclusive growth. So far, the institute has worked in over 23 states and 138 districts and impacted



68,950 lives through various projects and initiatives.

### 31. CCI clears deal involving Acko Technology, CPPIB

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the deal involving the acquisition of securities of Acko Technology & Services by a Canada Pension Plan Investment Board's subsidiary and another entity.
- CPP Investment Board Private Holdings (4) Inc is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB).

### 32. India, ADB Sign \$141.12 Million Loan For Industrial Corridor Development In Andhra Pradesh

- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$141.12 million loan to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh

### 33. Reliance Retail inks partnership with General Mills for western snacks

- Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), the fast moving consumer goods arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), announced its entry into the western snacking category with the launch of **General Mills' Alan's Bugles brand of chips in India** in a move that is set to give competition to PepsiCo and ITC.

### 34. IIT Guwahati, NHIDCL Sign MoU For R&D In Civil Engineering, Road Construction

- National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and IIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate

for research and development in the areas of civil engineering, road construction, planning and design.

- IIT Guwahati is known for its R&D in civil engineering, road construction, planning, and design and will help NHIDCL innovate in space

### 35. Viacom18 inks multi-year content deal with NBC Universal

- Viacom18 owned streaming service JioCinema has inked a multi-year content deal with NBCUniversal (NBCU) to bolster its premium content library.
- As part of the partnership, JioCinema will get access to thousands of hours of NBCU films and TV series to India.

### 36. Yubi partners with Indian Bank to provide digital supply chain financing for SMEs

- Yubi, an online debt marketplace that connects borrowers and lenders for various credit products, today announced its partnership with Indian Bank to extend digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).
- **The partnership is expected to disburse Rs.1,500 crore within the first year.**
- The Chennai-based fintech unicorn said Indian Bank will leverage Yubi's technology and platform to digitally enable and scale its supply chain financing book through vendor and dealer financing, targeting large corporations and their SME counterparties.

### 37. Razorpay launches 'Turbo UPI' payment service

- Razorpay has announced the launch of 'Turbo UPI' that allows customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly without getting

redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout.

- According to the company, the new feature streamlines the payment process and helps businesses in successful completion of UPI payments.
- Turbo UPI also offers insights into the end-users' drop-off pattern and enables merchants to control the entire payment experience of their customers, end-to-end.

### 38. Air India, Vistara sign interline partnership; to help domestic, global flyers

- Air India said that it has entered into an interline partnership with full-service carrier, Vistara, enabling passengers to travel between the two airlines' network seamlessly.
- This will allow Air India's customers to access Vistara's domestic network and also give Vistara's flyers to access over 80 points of Air India's extensive domestic and global network.



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## Schemes

### 1. Government Decides To Extend Smart Cities Mission Deadline Till June 2024

- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has decided to extend the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till June 2024, following requests from some cities that sought more time to complete their ongoing projects.
- **The existing deadline of the Mission was June 2023.**
- The Narendra Modi government launched its flagship Smart Cities Mission (SCM) on June 25, 2015 and 100 cities were selected for redevelopment through a two-stage competition from January 2016 to June 2018.

### 2. ISRO to start online training programme for PG and final-year UG students

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a new introductory-level online training programme called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).
- **START is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.**
- The programme will cover various domains of Space Science, including Astronomy and Astrophysics, Heliophysics and Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.

### 3. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad

- Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad.

- Jan Aushadhi Kendras provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth.
- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi scheme has been launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at low cost.

### 4. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and APY complete 8 years

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana completed eight years.
- These schemes are playing an instrumental role in providing social security net and affordable insurance to the people.
- **These three schemes were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 from Kolkata in West Bengal.**
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason. The scheme provides life cover of two lakh rupees in case of death due to any reason against a premium of 436 rupees per annum.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to an accident. The scheme provides accidental death cum disability cover of two lakh rupees against a premium of 20 rupees per annum.

- Under the Atal Pension Yojana, the subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension ranging from one thousand to five thousand after the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber.

#### 5. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Gets Exempted From TDS On Interest Earnings

- The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme, which encourages women to invest, won't charge any tax on the interest earnings. The Union Ministry of Finance has included this scheme under sub-clause (c) of clause (i) of sub-section (3) of section 194A in the Income-tax Act, 1961. **Thus TDS on interest up to Rs 40,000 is exempted.**
- **About MSSC**
  - This scheme allows women to open an MSSC account for themselves or on behalf of a minor girl, with the deadline for account opening set as March 31, 2025. Under this investment scheme, a minimum of Rs 1,000 must be invested. The maximum investment limit is set at Rs 2 lakh, and the deposited amount earns interest at a rate of 7.5 per cent per annum, compounded quarterly.
  - The maturity period of the scheme is two years from the deposit date.
  - Additionally, after the first year, but before maturity, the account holder can withdraw up to 40 per cent of the balance by submitting Form-3.
  - Closure of the account before maturity is only permitted in special cases, such as the

account holder's death or on compassionate grounds, such as medical emergencies or the guardian's death.

#### 6. Health Ministry launches '75/25' initiative for people with hypertension, diabetes

- In a significant move to combat the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the Union Health Ministry of India unveiled the ambitious "75/25" initiative.
- The program aims to ensure that **75 million individuals suffering from hypertension and diabetes receive standardised care by 2025**, primarily through Primary Health Centers (PHCs).
- Under the initiative, the government plans to train approximately 40,000 Primary Health Care Medical Officers on the Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs.
- This training will be facilitated through the Shashakt Portal, enabling healthcare professionals to provide improved services at the community level.

#### 7. Govt to set up 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organizations(FPOs) in cooperative sector

- The Ministry of Cooperation said these additional 1100 FPOs have been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under FPOs' Scheme.
- Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assistance of 25 lakh rupees per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organizations.
- Since February 2021, the agriculture ministry is implementing a central sector scheme titled '**Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer**



### Organisations (FPOs) with a budgetary provision of Rs 6,865 crore.

- According to the cooperation ministry, primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) --- which have a member base of around 13 crore farmers and are primarily engaged in short-term credit and distribution of seeds and fertilisers -- will now be able to undertake other economic activities as well.
- Integration of PACS in the FPO scheme will enable them to expand their business in the areas of supply of production inputs; agricultural equipment like cultivator, tiller and harvester, and processing, it said.
- PACS will also be able to undertake high income generating activities like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, and others.

### 8. Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1, specifically designed for helicopter routes

- Following four successful rounds of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) and with the version 5.0 of the fifth round underway, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1 to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters.
- **For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.**
- The latest round of UDAN scheme is a testament to two emerging phenomenon in Indian civil aviation - one, a deeper democratisation of air travel with a focus on last-mile connectivity.
- Second, a growing appetite for helicopters in aiding tourism. Greater helicopter penetration through such efforts will help boost tourism, hospitality, and thus, our local economies.



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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Mahindra Holidays & Resorts chairman Arun Nanda announces his retirement

- Mahindra Holidays & Resorts (MHRIL) chairman **Arun Nanda** and a key member of Mahindra group for 50 years, notified the Board that he will not seek reappointment, consistent with the age limit for non-executive roles, and will retire at the upcoming AGM on July 25, 2023.

### 2. Qantas appoints Vanessa Hudson as its first female CEO as Alan Joyce steps down

- Australian airline Qantas Group Chief Financial Officer **Vanessa Hudson** will become its next chief executive and managing director, replacing **Alan Joyce** in November.
- Hudson has been with the airline in various roles for 28 years.
- Joyce was appointed Qantas CEO in 2008 and agreed in 2020 to remain at the helm through the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3. Bank Of Baroda Appoints Debadatta Chand As New CEO From July 1

- **Bank of Baroda** has appointed **Debadatta Chand** as the new managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office on or after July 1
- He was appointed executive director of the Bank of Baroda and assumed charge on March 10, 2021.

### 4. Ajay Banga Selected As Next World Bank President

- The Executive Directors of the **World Bank** selected **Ajay Banga** as President for a five-year term beginning June 2.
- In February, President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. would be

nominating Banga to lead the World Bank because he is "well equipped" to lead the global institution at "this critical moment in history"

- Banga recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organisation with nearly 24,000 employees.

### 5. UK Appoints Harjinder Kang As New Trade Commissioner, Deputy Envoy To India

- **Harjinder Kang**, Britain's Chief Negotiator for the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) was named as the country's new Trade Commissioner to South Asia and Deputy High Commissioner for Western India.
- Harjinder Kang, who will succeed Alan Gemmell as Deputy High Commissioner, will play a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the FTA expected to bring huge opportunities for UK businesses.
- India and the UK have held nine rounds of discussions since the FTA talks began over a year ago in January 2022, with a goal towards a comprehensive pact that is expected to significantly enhance the bilateral trading relationship worth an estimated GBP 34 billion last year.

### 6. PM Prasad to be next Coal India chief

- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) recommended Central Coalfields CMD Polavarapu **Mallikharjuna Prasad** as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL).
- Prasad is expected to take the charge of India's largest coal miner accounting for almost 80 per cent of the mined commodity from July 1.

### 7. Ajay Vij appointed Accenture India country managing director, Rekha Menon to retire

- Global IT and consulting major Accenture said that **Ajay Vij** has been appointed to the newly created role of country managing director India.
- After a 20-year career at Accenture, Rekha M Menon, senior managing director and chairperson for Accenture in India will retire on June 30.

### 8. Delhi High Court appoints Justice P Krishna Bhat as administrator of Basketball Federation of India

- The Delhi High Court appointed former Karnataka High Court judge, Justice P Krishna Bhat as the administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) to conduct its elections in compliance with the National Sports Code and Model Election Guidelines (MEG).
- **Dr. K Govindaraj, current President of the Basketball Federation of India.**

### 9. Parminder Chopra, first woman to lead India's largest NBFC

- The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of Parminder Chopra to succeed as the next CMD of India's largest NBFC by networth (all reserves), Power Finance Corporation (PFC).
- **Chopra will be the first woman to be appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Maharatna company.**

### 10. Puma India head Abhishek Ganguly, CFO, head of sales resign; will start own venture

- PUMA's India & South East Asia MD Abhishek Ganguly has resigned after serving over 17 years with the German footwear and apparel multinational.
- **PUMA sales in India are now more than the combined sales of three rival**

**multinationals - Adidas, Nike and Reebok.**

- According to the sources, in 2023 PUMA India may cross Rs 4,000 crore turnover.
- PUMA announced the appointment of Karthik Balagopalan as the new Managing Director of PUMA India and he is set to lead PUMA's operations in the country.

### 11. Marico re-appoints Saugata Gupta as MD & CEO for two years

- **FMCG major Marico re-appointed Saugata Gupta** as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years with effect from 1 April, 2024 to 31 March, 2026.
- He joined Marico in 2004 as the Head of Marketing and was elevated to CEO of India business in 2007.
- In 2014, he took over as Managing Director of the company.

### 12. L&T names S N Subrahmanyam as CMD; A M Naik to be Chairman Emeritus

- **Larsen & Toubro said its Non-Executive Chairman A M Naik** has decided to step down from the post and will become the **Chairman Emeritus.**
- S N Subrahmanyam, who is the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, has been re-designated as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company with effect from October 1, 2023, according to a regulatory filing.

### 13. Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta confirmed by US Senate as Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in State Department

- Indian American Geeta Rao Gupta has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global



Women's Issues in the State Department.

- Gupta was confirmed by the US Senate by 51 to 47 votes.

#### 14. Praveen Sood appointed new CBI Director for a period of two years

- **Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood** has been appointed as the next Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director for the next two years.
- The CBI Director is selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, CJI and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha for a fixed tenure of two years. The tenure can be extended up to five years.
- Praveen Sood will take over from current chief Subodh Kumar Jaiswal.

#### 15. Pramod Bhasin appointed chairman of Data Security Council of India

- **Genpact founder Pramod Bhasin** has been appointed the new chairman of the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), effective April 1, 2023, the organisation announced Wednesday. Bhasin is currently also the chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
- He succeeds Rajendra S Pawar, the chairman and cofounder of NIIT Group. DSCI CEO Vinayak Godse.

#### 16. Senior Advocate KV Viswanathan's Name Recommended By Collegium, In Line To Become 58th CJI

- Senior advocate KV Viswanathan, whose name was recommended by the collegium for judgeship in the Supreme Court, will become the **58th Chief Justice of India in August 2030 for a period of over nine months if the Centre gives the nod.**

- If the recommendation goes through, Viswanathan will join the elite list of lawyers who went on to become the CJI after being directly elevated.
- **Justice SM Sikri was the first CJI**, who was directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar. Justice UU Lalit was second in the list. Sitting apex court judge Justice PS Narasimha will become the third CJI who was directly elevated from the Bar.
- On the retirement of **Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala on August 11, 2030**, Viswanathan would be in line to assume office as the Chief Justice of India till his retirement on May 25, 2031.
- The collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, in its meeting recommended two names -- **Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Viswanathan -- to regain its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.**
- Justice MR Shah and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari demitted office within a span of last two days, bringing the strength of the top court to 32 judges.

#### 17. Supreme Court Gets 2 New Judges, Gains Full Strength For Brief Period

- The Supreme Court of India got two new judges as Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, the chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, and senior lawyer Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan, were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India DY Chadrachud.
- The Supreme Court has **regained its full strength of 34 judges, including the CJI, for a brief period as three judges -- Justice KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi, and Justice V**



**Ramasubramanian -- are demitting office during the summer vacation itself.**

- Justice Viswanathan will become the Chief Justice of India upon the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030, and remain in the post till May 25, 2031.
- The collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices SK Kaul, KM Joseph, Ajay Rastogi, and Sanjiv Khanna considered that there was only one member from the bar directly appointed to the Supreme Court bench while making the recommendation.

#### **18. Manoj Soni takes oath as UPSC chairman**

- Eminent educationist Manoj Soni took oath as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Soni, who joined the Commission as member on June 28, 2017, has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman, UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, senior most member in the Commission.
- **About UPSC:**
  - The UPSC conducts civil services examination to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others.
  - The Commission is headed by a chairman and it can have a maximum of 10 members. There is still a vacancy of five members in the UPSC.

#### **19. Paytm elevates Bhavesh Gupta as COO and President**

- One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns Paytm, has elevated Bhavesh Gupta as the company's Chief Operating Officer and President.
- Gupta, who was previously Paytm's senior vice-president, will now be responsible to lead verticals on insurance, lending, payments 'online and offline, and consumer payments as well as drive key initiatives.
- Paytm's managing director and CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

#### **20. IDBI Bank appoints Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director**

- The Board of Directors of IDBI Bank approved the appointment of Jayakumar S. Pillai as Deputy Managing Director on the Bank's Board for 3 years.
- Pillai's appointment is with effect from the date of his taking charge as specified in the RBI approval received in this regard.
- Pillai is presently working as Chief General Manager and Circle Head in Canara Bank, Mumbai.

#### **21. Indian-Origin Sikh Becomes First Turban-Wearing Lord Mayor of UK City Coventry**

- Jaswant Singh Birdi, an Indian-origin Sikh councillor was appointed as the new Lord Mayor of Coventry, a city in the West Midlands of the UK.
- After assuming the role of Lord Mayor, Birdi will become the chairman of the City Council. As the city of Coventry's first citizen, he will be the non-political, ceremonial head of the city.

#### **22. Dr K. Govindaraj Elected As New President of Basketball Federation of India.**

- Dr K. Govindaraj elected as the President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia.

- **This is the first time that an Indian has been nominated as the President of FIBA Asia.**
- The nomination was ratified at the FIBA Asia Congress making Govindaraj, the first Indian to lead the International Basketball Federation in Asia, which includes 44 countries.

### **23. Sourav Ganguly appointed brand ambassador of Tripura tourism**

- Cricket icon Sourav Ganguly was appointed the brand ambassador of Tripura tourism.
- As the brand ambassador of Tripura tourism, his participation in the campaigns would give an impetus to the state's tourism sector.

### **24. CII elects new office bearers, TVS' R Dinesh is president**

- The National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected new office-bearers for the year 2023-24 on May 25. R Dinesh, Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been elected as the new CII president.
- **Sanjiv Puri of ITC Limited has assumed the position of president-designate, and Rajiv Memani has been appointed as the vice president.**
- TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice Chairman R. Dinesh assumed office as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for 2023-24 while ITC Managing Director Sanjiv Puri named President-designate.

### **25. Karnataka Bank names Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO**

- Karnataka Bank announced the appointment of Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as the bank's new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

- In a regulatory filing, the bank said, 'The appointment is effective from the date of his assuming charge and will last for a period of three years.'

### **26. Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI nod to re-appoint Vijay Shekhar as part-time chairman for a year**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval to Paytm Payments Bank for the re-appointment of Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma as part-time chairman for a year, according to a regulatory statement by the fintech firm to the stock exchanges.

### **27. Praveen Kumar Srivastava sworn in as Central Vigilance Commissioner**

- Praveen Kumar Srivastava was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Mr. Srivastava is a 1988-batch retired Indian Administrative Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

### **28. CAG Girish Chandra Murmu re-elected External Auditor of WHO for four year term**

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CAG, Girish Chandra Murmu has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.
- The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

### **29. Recep Tayyip Erdogan claims victory in Turkey's historical Presidential runoff**

- In the historical runoff to the presidential elections, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared victory in the polls that posed the biggest challenge to his 20 years of transformative but divisive rule.

- The official Anadolu state news agency showed the Islamic-rooted leader ahead of his secular opposition rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu by four percentage points.

### 30. Justice Ramesh Dhanuka sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, to serve for tenure of 3 days

- Justice Ramesh Devkinandan Dhanuka was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- Justice Dhanuka is due to demit office on May 30, upon attaining the age of 62, and will have a tenure as chief justice of three days, possibly the shortest.

### 31. Justice Augustine George Masih sworn in as Chief Justice of Rajasthan HC

- Justice Augustine George Masih was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.
- Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office to Masih at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.
- The post of chief justice fell vacant after Justice Pankaj Mithal was appointed as the Supreme Court judge in February this year, after which Justice M M Srivastava was working as the acting chief justice of the high court.



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## Awards

### 1. UK-Based Sanskrit Scholar MN Nandakumara Awarded Honorary MBE by King Charles

- A well-known UK-based Sanskrit scholar and the Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in London has been conferred an honorary MBE by King Charles III for services to Indian classical arts in Britain.
- Dr M.N. Nandakumara, who hails from the village of Mattur in Karnataka, has been associated with the Bhavan for 46 years.
- The honorary award, approved by the British monarch for foreign nationals for their contribution to public life, was confirmed by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) earlier this month and will be formally awarded at a ceremony at a later date.
- **The honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) has been conferred “for services to the teaching, performance and accessibility of Indian classical arts in the UK”.**
- The centre, registered as the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan with the Charity Commission in England, operates a series of classes including Yoga, Indian languages, dance and music. Before the COVID pandemic it had 900 students enrolled for its classes and while that number has since dipped somewhat due to a switch to online classes, its chief is confident of a boost in the coming months as he sees a growing interest among the youth in learning about Indian arts and culture.

### 2. 2023 Pulitzer Prizes: Winners Include Hernan Diaz, New York Times And AP

- This year's Pulitzer winners include Associated Press, the New York Times and authors Barbara Kingsolver and Hernan Diaz.
- **The Associated Press won two Pulitzer prizes for journalism, in public service and breaking news photography, for coverage of the Ukraine war that included images of Russia's siege of Mariupol. Omar by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels, won the Pulitzer for music.**
- The New York Times was also honored with an international reporting award for its coverage of Russian killings in the Ukrainian town of Bucha. Additional Pulitzers were given for work surrounding the US supreme court's decision overturning the Roe v Wade abortion standard, the government's policy of child separation at the border and welfare spending in Mississippi.
- The Washington Post's Caroline Kitchener won for “unflinching reporting” on the consequences of the abortion decision, including the story of a Texas teenager who gave birth to twins after new restrictions denied her an abortion. The Post's Eli Saslow won for feature writing.
- The Los Angeles Times won for breaking news for its stories revealing a secretly recorded conversation with city officials making racist comments. The newspaper's Christina House won for feature photography, for her images of a 22-year-old pregnant woman living on the street.



- The Pulitzer prize for fiction was awarded to two class-conscious novels: Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver's modern recasting of the Dickens classic David Copperfield, and Hernan Diaz's Trust, an innovative narrative of wealth and deceit set in 1920s New York.
- Beverly Gage's G-Man, her widely acclaimed book on longtime FBI leader J Edgar Hoover, was given the Pulitzer for biography. His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice, by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, won for general nonfiction.
- Sanaz Toossi's play English won for drama and Jefferson Cowie's Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power was honored for history.
- The Pulitzer for memoir or autobiography was given to Hua Hsu's coming-of-age story Stay True. One of the country's most highly regarded poets, Carl Phillips, won in poetry for Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020.
- The public service prize winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$15,000. The prizes were established in the will of the newspaper publisher **Joseph Pulitzer and first awarded in 1917.**

### 3. Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar gets the first Astronomical Society of India Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award in Pune

- Jayant Narlikar, astronomer, the founding director of Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune and also a past president of the Astronomical Society of India

(ASI) was awarded the first ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award .

- Though the award was announced earlier this year at the 41st meeting of the ASI held at IIT Indore, Prof. Narlikar was unable to travel to receive it. The President of the ASI, Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, was in Pune to personally hand over the award to Prof. Narlikar and felicitate him.
- **The award is named in honour of Prof. Govind Swarup (1929-2020), widely regarded to be the founder of radio astronomy in the country.**

### 4. Cochin Port bags Sagar Shreshta Award of Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways for best performance

- Cochin Port has bagged Sagar Shreshta Award of Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways for best performance among all Indian Major Ports for best turnaround time in non-container port category, during the year 2022-23.
- The award is in recognition of the excellent performance of Cochin Port in handling dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo vessels.

### 5. Nigerian Author Arinze Ifeakandu Wins the 2023 Dylan Thomas Prize

- Nigerian writer Arinze Ifeakandu has won the 2023 Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize, one of the world's largest literary prizes for young writers.
- **The winning work was his debut short story collection celebrating queer love in Nigeria titled God's Children Are Little Broken Things (2022).**
- The Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize was launched in 2006 with the aim of celebrating and nurturing international literary excellence.
- It is named after the Swansea-born writer Dylan Thomas and is awarded

for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

#### 6. PM Sh. Narendra Modi conferred with Papua New Guinea, Fiji's highest honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred **Fiji's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Fiji**, in recognition of his global leadership. He has also been accorded the **Companion of the Order of Logohu** by Papua New Guinea.
- Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka presented PM Modi with a medallion for the title when the two leaders met in Papua New Guinea.

#### 7. Goan writer Damodar Mauzo gets Jnanpith Award

- Panaji, May 28 (PTI) Goan writer Damodar Mauzo Goa has received the prestigious Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour, from state Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai.
- Addressing a gathering after presenting the award, the governor said Mauzo is the 'epitome of the Konkani literary culture.'
- Mauzo's famous novel 'Karmelin' received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983. The novel, published in 1981, has been translated in Hindi, Marathi, English, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Odia and Maithili languages.
- Mauzo is the second Goan to receive the Jnanpith Award. Earlier, Ravindra Kelekar from the coastal state got the award in 2008.

#### 9. Hrithik Roshan and Alia Bhatt win the award for best actor at IIFA 2023.

- Hrithik Roshan won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (male) at the

International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi. Alia Bhatt also won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her role in the movie Gangubai Kathiawadi. for her role in the film Gangubai Kathiawadi.

- **Here's a list of all the award winners at IIFA 2023:** Best Film: Drishyam 2 Best Director: R Madhavan for Rocketry: The Nambi Effect Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): Hrithik Roshan for Vikram Vedha Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): Mouni Roy for Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Anil Kapoor for Jugg Jugg Jeeyo Outstanding Achievement for Fashion in Cinema: Manish Malhotra Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema: Kamal Haasan Best Adapted Story: Aamil Keeyan Khan and Abhishek Pathak for Drishyam 2 Best Original Story: Perveen Sheikh and Jasmeet Reen for Darlings Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema: Marathi film Ved directed by Riteish Deshmukh Best Debut (Male): Shantanu Maheshwari for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Babil Khan for Qala Best Debut (Female): Khushali Kumar for Dhoka Around the Corner Best Playback Singer (Female): Shreya Ghoshal for the song Rasiya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva Best Playback Singer (Male): Arijit Singh for the song Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva Best Music Direction: Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva

## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Future of Jobs Report 2023: Up to a Quarter of Jobs Expected to Change in Next Five Years

- Around a quarter of jobs are set to change in the next five years, according to a survey of employers published recently by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the organization known for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Some 69 million jobs will be created and 83 million eliminated by 2027, it said, resulting in a net decrease of 2% of current employment, according to the Future of Jobs report.
- As per the report, Technology and digitalisation is both the driver of job creation and of destruction. "Advancing technology adoption and increasing digitization will also cause significant labour market churn.
- The job churn in India is seen to be largely in line with the global trend, with 22% job changes expected in the country by the employer-companies compared with global average of 23%.

### 2. Wayanad tops Swachh Bharat's ODF Plus rankings

- Wayanad has become the first district in the country to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus.
- Wayanad district has come first in the ODF Plus rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission in three-star category, **followed by Mancheriyal district in Maharashtra and Anupur in Madhya Pradesh.**
- While Wayanad scored 100 points in the ODF ranking, Manchaeriyal and Anupur got 90.45 and 88.79 points

respectively, The ODF Plus scores of panchayats and districts were calculated on the basis of the ODF Plus progress report submitted by the villages till October 1, 2022.

### 3. India's ranking in World Press Freedom Index falls to 161 out of 180 nations

- India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- **In 2022, India was ranked at 150.**
- The World Press Freedom Index evaluates countries based on five sub-indicators: Political, Economic, Legislative, Social, and Security indicators.
- India's rank in the Security indicator category is particularly concerning, as it has dropped to 172 out of 180 countries.
- This indicates that India ranks worse than all but eight countries when it comes to ensuring the safety of journalists.
- The countries that rank worse than India in terms of journalist safety are China, Mexico, Iran, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Ukraine, and Myanmar, in that order, with Myanmar at the bottom.

### 4. India's Green Financing Requirement Estimated At 2.5% Of GDP: RBI Study

- India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least 2.5% of GDP annually till 2030, a Reserve Bank report said.
- The Reserve Bank of India's report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2022-23 covers four major dimensions

of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India.

- The country aims to achieve net zero emissions target by 2070.
- The areas are the unprecedented scale and pace of climate change; its macroeconomic effects; implications for financial stability; and policy options to mitigate climate risks.
- The country's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070 would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by around 5% annually and a significant improvement in its energy-mix in favour of renewables to around 80% by 2070-71.

#### 5. Karnataka ranked the most 'innovative' State by the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey

- A survey on the degree of innovation among manufacturing firms found that **Karnataka, overall, is the most 'innovative' State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.**
- Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.10% and 31.90%, respectively.
- Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.
- The findings are part of the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India.

#### 6. Fintech sector to become \$1.5 trillion industry by 2030, Asia-Pacific to outpace US at 27% CAGR, says report

- The fintech sector, which currently holds a 2 per cent share of the global financial services revenue of \$12.5 trillion, is estimated to grow up to 7 per cent, of which banking fintechs are estimated to constitute almost 25 per cent of all banking valuations worldwide by 2030, said a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and QED Investors
- Revenues in the financial technology sector are projected to grow sixfold from \$245 billion to \$1.5 trillion by 2030.

#### 7. Everest Annual ITS rankings: Accenture tops the list for the seventh year in a row

- Accenture takes the number one spot for the seventh straight year in the Everest 2023 PEAK Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for Information Technology(IT) services.
- The ranking of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini, and Wipro has risen to take the number 2, 3, and 4 spots, respectively.**
- Everest Group the global research firm focused on strategic IT, business services, engineering services, and sourcing announced the awards for large IT service provider with over \$2 billion in annual revenue. The awards, now in their eighth year, recognise IT service providers who have demonstrated superior capabilities and service strategies.

#### 8. Shipping ministry ranked second in Data Governance Quality Index among ministries

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has been ranked second among 66 ministries** in the



Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) assessment for the December quarter (Q3) of FY23.

- The ministry secured a score of 4.7 out of 5, highlighting its commitment to excellence in data governance.
- Conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, the DGQI survey aims to measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in decision-making of various ministries and departments on the implementation of central sector schemes and centrally-sponsored schemes.

#### 9. Nearly 30% of married Indian women face domestic violence, shows data

- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), 2019-2021, **29.3 per cent of married Indian women between the ages of 18 and 49 have experienced domestic/sexual violence; 3.1 per cent of pregnant women aged 18 to 49 have suffered physical violence during their pregnancy.'**
- In 2021, just 507 instances were registered across India under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, whereas 136,000 complaints were registered under Indian Penal Code Section 498A (cruelty by husband or his relatives).
- According to NFHS data, 87 per cent of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help.
- The United Nations defines gender-based violence as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,

whether occurring in public or in private life”.

- The National Commission for Women said in 2020-21, it received 26,513 complaints from women, an increase of 25.09 per cent, compared with the 20,309 complaints registered in 2019-20, testifying to the global trend that during the pandemic, more women were victims of domestic violence than before.

#### 10. Mumbai Ranks Sixth In Annual Housing Price Growth Among 46 Cities Globally: Knight Frank

- Mumbai ranks **sixth among 46 cities globally** in terms of annual price growth of high-end residential properties **with appreciation of 5.5%**, according to Knight Frank. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India in its report 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023' said that Mumbai, **Bengaluru and New Delhi have registered an increase in average annual prices in January-March 2023.**
- **Dubai clinched the top position globally with an increase of 44.2% in prime residential properties values.**
- The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 46 cities worldwide. The index tracks nominal prices in local currency.

#### 11. Next five years are expected to be warmest period on record : UN

- The United Nations has warned that the next five years are expected to be the warmest period on record. The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the combined effect of El Nino and

greenhouse gases will cause temperatures to soar. **The World Meteorological Organization said, global temperatures are more likely to surpass 1.5 Celsius of warming by 2027.**

- It predicted that there is a 98-percent likelihood that at least one of the next five years will set a new record for warmth, with the entire period of 2023-2027 expected to be the warmest ever recorded. WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said, a warming El Niño is expected to develop in the coming months, and this will combine with human-induced climate change to push global temperatures into uncharted territory.
- Global temperatures are soon set to exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris climate accords, with a two-thirds chance that one of the next five years will do so, the UN's weather body added. The hottest eight years ever recorded were all between 2015 and 2022 -- but temperatures are forecast to increase further as climate change accelerates.
- The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at 'well below' two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 -- and 1.5 Celsius if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 Celsius above the 1850-1900 average.

#### 12. Uttar Pradesh govt top buyer of goods and services from GeM portal in FY23

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** and its agencies procured goods and services worth **Rs 12,152 crore** from the union commerce ministry's platform

Government e-marketplace (GeM) during last fiscal year.

- It was **followed by Gujarat (Rs 7,964 crore), Maharashtra (Rs 4,130 crore), Jammu and Kashmir (Rs 1,999 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs 1,983 crore).**
- Overall procurement of goods and services from GeM has crossed Rs 2 lakh crore this fiscal year on account of an increase in buying activities by different ministries, departments and states.
- The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016 for online purchases of goods and services by all the central government ministries and departments.
- GeM has over 63,000 government buyer organisations, over 6 crore sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services.
- Among central government ministries, the power ministry was the top buyer in 2022-23 from the platform.
- The ministry procured goods and services worth Rs 30,572.9 crore . It was followed by the defence ministry (Rs 28,741.2 crore), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Rs 28,157.2 crore), steel ministry (Rs 12,527.3 crore), and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Rs 7,158.3 crore).
- South Korea's KONEPS is the largest such platform in the world. Currently, GeM stands at the third position after Singapore's GeBIZ.

#### 13. India Achieves 47 % growth in Coal Production during last Nine Years

- During the **last nine years, India's overall coal production has gone up by 47% to 893.08 Million Tonne (MT)** and supply has touched 877.74 Million tonne, recording 45.37% growth. Major

leap in coal production of 893.08 MT in FY 2023 is the highest in the history of the country.

- Coking coal is mainly used in manufacturing of steel through blast furnace route.
- 'Mission Coking Coal' has been launched by the Government in August 2021, to come up with a roadmap that would suggest ways to augment the production and utilization of domestic coking coal in India by 2030.
- Domestic coking coal is high ash coal (mostly between 18%-49%) and is not suitable for direct use in the blast furnace. Therefore, coking coal is washed to reduce the ash percentage and Indian Prime and Medium Coking Coal (<18 % ash) is blended with imported coking coal (<9% ash) before utilization in the blast furnace.

#### 14. 'AIRAWAT' ranks 75th in top 500 Supercomputing List

- The AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', installed at C-DAC, Pune has been ranked 75th in the world.
- It was declared so in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List yesterday at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.
- It puts India on top of AI Supercomputing nations worldwide.
- **USA's Frontier is the most powerful supercomputer on TOP500.**

#### 15. UPI transactions to account for 90% of retail digital payments by 2026-27: PwC India report

- Growing at a steady pace, **UPI transactions are likely to reach 1 billion per day by 2026-27, accounting for 90 per cent of the retail digital payments in the country**, said a PwC India report.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which is driving the digital payments revolution, accounted for about 75 per cent of the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23

#### 16. JioCinema breaks world record with over 3.2 cr viewers during IPL final

- JioCinema, the official digital streaming partner of IPL (Indian Premier League) 2023, has broken the world record for the most concurrent views to a live-streamed event on Monday as over 3.2 crore viewers witnessed the finale of this year IPL, featuring Chennai Super Kings versus Gujarat Titans.
- During Qualifier 2 of the IPL 2023, JioCinema recorded over 2.57 crore concurrent viewers witnessing the sensational century by Shubhman Gill in the first innings between Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians.
- Disney's Hotstar, the former digital streaming partner of the IPL, drew over 2.5 crore simultaneous viewers for a cricket match in July 2019, a record that stood unbroken for several years.

## Important Days

### 1. Maharashtra Day 2023

- Maharashtra Day, commonly known as Maharashtra Diwas, is celebrated annually on May 1 to commemorate the day on which the western Indian state, Maharashtra was created in the year 1960.
- On this day in 1960, the Bombay Reorganisation Act came into effect, creating Maharashtra, following many protests and demonstrations in support of the new state.
- The Act created two new states out of the erstwhile Bombay State -- Maharashtra, for the Marathi-speaking people, and Gujarat, for those whose mother tongue is Gujarati.

### 2. International Labour Day 2023 | 1st May

- May 1 is celebrated as a public holiday around the world to celebrate the contributions of workers on the International Labour Day.
- The day celebrates the struggles of workers around the world to create a workplace that recognises the dignity of labour.
- The first Labour Day was celebrated on May 1, 1889 as the International Workers Day. The celebrations were declared by an international federation of trade unions and socialist groups to commemorate the Haymarket Riot in Chicago.
- The riots are also known as the Haymarket Affair, which occurred in 1886. The riot started as a peaceful march that demanded an eight-hour workday but later turned into a violent clash between the protesters and the police forces.

### 3. Gujarat Day 2023 | 1st May

- May 1 is observed as Gujarat Day, which monumentalizes the formation of Gujarat state in India. It also marks the day on which the Gujarati-speaking region was separated from the Marathi speaking region.
- The current state of Gujarat was a part of the Bombay State prior to 1960, which included present day Maharashtra and parts of present day Gujarat.
- However, there were significant cultural, linguistic and political differences between the people of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Later on, the Bombay State was finally divided into two states on May 1, 1960 called Maharashtra and Gujarat after the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960.

### 4. World Portuguese Language Day | 5 May

- World Portuguese Language Day, celebrated on May 5 every year, is dedicated to highlighting the Portuguese language.
- It plays a role in bringing the Portuguese people together and in preserving their culture and identity
- Portuguese is one of the most widespread languages in the world.
- It has more than 265 million speakers across the globe and is the most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- This makes the Portuguese language the sixth most spoken language in the world.

### 5. International Firefighters' Day | 4 May

- It is observed on May 4th every year to honour the firefighters who put their lives at risk when they go out on a call.



- The main purpose of celebrating this day is to thank firefighters for the services they all provide

#### 6. World Athletics Day | 7 May

- World Athletics Day 2023 was celebrated on 7th May.
- The main objective of this day is to raise awareness about fitness among children and encourage young and school children to take up athletics.
- **The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is Athletics for All - A New Beginning.**

#### 7. World Thalassaemia Day | 8 May

- World Thalassaemia Day takes place on May 8 every year.
- It is dedicated to Thalassaemia patients who are battling an inherited disorder where the oxygen-carrying proteins in the blood are lesser than normal.
- In simpler words, the body fails to produce the required amount of haemoglobin.
- Hence, it is a day to create awareness regarding blood disease.
- In 1994, World Thalassaemia Day was established and organized by the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF), a non-profit organisation which was founded in 1986 by Mr Panos Englezos, Thalassaemia patients and their parents who represented the National Thalassaemia Association in the UK, USA, Greece, Italy and Cyprus. The day was first observed in memory of Mr Panos' son, George, who had died from the disease.

#### 8. World Red Cross Day | 8 May

- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of the Red Cross and the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Henry Dunant.

- He was born on 8th May 1828 in Geneva and was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- On this day the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement were celebrated.
- World Red Cross Day is also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
- It is dedicated to the people who suffer from the *shortage of food, several natural calamities, war as well as from and epidemic diseases.*

This year World Red Cross Day or Red Crescent Day will be celebrated on the theme "**Everything we do comes #fromtheheart**"

#### 9. WORLD LUPUS DAY | 10 May

- World Lupus Day is a global healthcare event commemorated every year on May 10th to raise awareness about this critical condition; that calls for an in-depth understanding and support for each individual who has been impacted in addition to increase the funds for more research.
- Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease caused when the immune system attacks its own tissue, resulting in pain and inflammation of the body tissues.
- There are four various types of lupus: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE), drug-induced lupus, and neonatal lupus, where SLE is the most common one.
- Lupus is often described as an "invisible disease" as its symptoms might fluctuate and mimic those of other medical conditions such as fever, joint pain, skin rashes, and internal organ issues (kidney, heart, lungs and brain),

leading to misdiagnosis of lupus condition.

#### 10. National Technology Day | 11 May

- National Technology Day is celebrated every year on May 11.
- This day commemorates India's successful nuclear tests that were conducted on May 11th, 1998, at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Indian scientists and engineers who have contributed to the development of technology in various fields
- Every year, the Technology Development Board (TDB) selects a theme for each year's event.
- **This year the theme of the National Technology Day 2023 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'**

#### 11. International Nurses Day | 12 May

- International Nurses Day, recognised on May 12 every year, is a global celebration that honours the invaluable contributions of nurses, promotes the nursing profession, and advocates for the well-being of nurses worldwide.
- It recognizes their dedication, compassion, and expertise in delivering quality healthcare services and shaping the future of healthcare.
- Every year, a specific theme is chosen, and for 2023, **the theme for this year is "Our Nurses. Our Future."**

#### 12. International Day of Families | 15 May

- International Day of Families is celebrated on May 15 to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society.
- The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while

also highlighting the issues faced by them.

- The United Nations adopted a resolution in 1994 establishing the International Day of Families.
- **The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'.**

#### 13. UN Global Road Safety Week | 15- 21 May

- WHO, in collaboration with partners, organize periodic UN Global Road Safety Weeks. The 7th UN Global Road Safety Week takes place from 15-21 May.
- **The theme is sustainable transport,** and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport. Road safety is both a prerequisite for this shift to happen and an outcome of it.
- **The slogan is #RethinkMobility. The day is observed biennially.**

#### 14. International Day of Living Together in Peace | 16 May

- In 2017, the UN General Assembly solidified its commitment to world peace by establishing May 16 as the International Day of Living Together in Peace, promoting inclusion, tolerance, solidarity.
- Every year the day is celebrated to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity among individuals and communities worldwide.

#### 15. International Day of Light | 16 May

- International Day of Light was first introduced by the European Physical Society in 2015.
- The main agenda to introduce this day was to celebrate the crucial role of

light-based technologies in our daily lives.

- Several organizations supported this proposal. It is observed every year to focus on the importance of light and its various applications.
- UNESCO took up the proposal and understood the importance of this day. It officially declared 16 May as the International Day of Light in 2017.
- This day was celebrated for the first time on 16 May 2018.
- **The theme for this year is "Light for the Future".**

#### 16. National Dengue Day | 16 May

- On 16 May each year, National Dengue Day is observed.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has officially announced the annual observance of National Dengue Day to create awareness and promote measures to prevent the disease.
- **The National Dengue Day theme for this year is "Fight Dengue, Save Lives".**
- Dengue fever is a viral disease which spreads through the bite of an infected mosquito. It is caused by the dengue virus (DENV).
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention around 4 billion people, about half of the world's population, live in regions where dengue is endemic.

#### 17. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day | 17 May

- World Telecommunication Day is celebrated on May 17 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The day highlights the impact of the Internet and other communication tools on society. The ITU attempts to bridge the internet gap. **The theme for 2023 is**

**'Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies'.**

- On May 17, 1969, World Telecommunications Day was first observed to mark the founding of the ITU, originally called the International Telegraph Union. The ITU was established by the signing of the very first International telegraph Convention, on May 17, 1865, in Paris. It changed its name to International Telecommunication Union in 1932 and eventually became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1947.
- The date, May 17, was also declared as World Information Society Day by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in a March 2006 resolution. In November of the same year, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference clubbed the two days collectively as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

#### 18. World Hypertension Day | 17 May

- World Hypertension Day is observed every May 17th in order to raise awareness and promote hypertension prevention, detection and control.
- World Hypertension League is an umbrella of organizations from 85 countries dealing with hypertension societies and leagues declared 17 May as the day.
- **The theme for 2023- 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer'.**
- High blood pressure is the main risk factor to develop cardiovascular disease.

#### 19. International Museum Day | 18 May

- Every year, since 1977, the International Council of Museums

(ICOM) has organized International Museum Day on 18 May raise awareness about the fact that, 'Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples. **The theme for 2023 'Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing'**

- Indian Museum, Kolkata, established in 1814, is the oldest and the largest museum in Asia.
- By size, The Louvre, in Paris, France is the largest museum on Earth, with nearly 73,000 square metres of exhibition space.
- Capitoline Museum, Rome, Italy is the world's oldest museum.

#### 20. National Endangered Species Day | 19 May

- The third Friday of May is observed as the National Endangered Species Day. This year the National Endangered Species Day 2023 theme is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- This day aims to raise awareness about the increasing number of animal species facing the risk of extinction. According to IUCN Red List India has a total of 199 critically endangered species.

#### 21. World Metrology Day - 20 May

- To commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875 in Paris, Metrology Day is celebrated each year.
- The Convention, also known as the Convention du Mtre, founded the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and a unified system of measurement.

- **This year's theme is: Advancing Measurement Technologies for Sustainable Development.**
- During the convention, the metric system was established and International Prototype of the Kilogramme (IPK) was chosen as the standard unit of mass. Also, International Prototype of the Metre (IPM) was chosen as the standard unit of length.

#### 22. World Bee Day | 20 May

- Every year, since 2018, May 20 has been celebrated as World Bee Day in **remembrance of Slovenian beekeeper Anton Jansa (1734-1773)**- who is regarded as the pioneer of modern beekeeping. Jansa was born on May 20, 1734.
- The main purpose behind the observance of World Bee Day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.
- **2023 theme: Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production**
- The idea for World Bee Day was proposed by the Government of Slovenia in 2016, supported by the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia). The day was given approval by United Nations Member States in 2017. The inaugural observance of World Bee Day took place in 2018.

#### 23. National Anti-Terrorism Day | May 21

- National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed in India on May 21 every year to raise awareness about the importance of combating terrorism and promoting peace and harmony in society.



- India observes National Anti-Terrorism Day on 21 May every year to commemorate the death of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Gandhi, the sixth PM of India, was assassinated by LTTE in 1991.**

#### 24. International Day for Biological Diversity | 22 May

- The International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated each year on May 22, aims to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- Although it was originally celebrated in late December, the UN General Assembly later decided to move the date to 22 May, which commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992.
- The theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity is **From agreement to action: build back biodiversity**

#### 25. International Day to End Obstetric Fistula | 23 May

- Every year on May 23, the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed.
- It is a day dedicated to raising awareness and gathering support for obstetric fistula, a birth-related injury that disproportionately affects women in low-income regions.
- It is a hole in the birth canal caused by protracted labour, lack of medical intervention, and other factors during childbirth. According to the United Nations Population Fund (U.N.F.P.A.), obstetric fistula is among the most grievous and tragic birth-related injuries. In 2013, the United Nations (U.N.) observed the holiday for the first time.

#### 26. WORLD TURTLE DAY | 23 May

- Every year on May 23, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit organisation, observes World Turtle Day.
- This event is intended to raise awareness about the need to maintain turtles, tortoises, and their increasingly disappearing habitats.
- This year's **World Turtle Day theme is 'I Love Turtles,'** emphasising the critical need to conserve these species.

#### 27. World Thyroid Day 2023 | 25 May

- World Thyroid Day is observed every year on May 25 to educate people on thyroid diseases and be aware of the symptoms.
- The butterfly-shaped thyroid gland is situated at the front of the neck, under the voice box. Diseases of the thyroid gland are among the most abundant endocrine disorders worldwide, second only to diabetes.
- World Thyroid Day was first observed in 2007 by the members of the Thyroid Federation International.
- This global healthcare day was created to honour European Thyroid Association (ETA) which was formed in the year 1965.

#### 28. International Missing Children's Day | 25 May

- International Missing Children's Day (IMCD), 25 May, is a day where people around the world commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still missing.
- The symbol for IMCD is the forget-me-not flower.

- The observance of May 25 as Missing Children's Day began in the United States in 1983. 25 May marks the anniversary of when six-year-old Etan Patz disappeared from a New York street corner on his way to school on 25 May 1979.

### 29. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers | 29 May

- The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is held annually on May 29.
- It is an opportunity to appreciate the invaluable contribution of the

uniformed and civilian personnel who work for the organization.

- The day honors over 4,000 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving under the U.N. flag since its inception in 1948.
- Officially established by the General Assembly of the U.N., the day marks the date when the first U.N. peacekeeping mission was named the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (U.N.T.S.O.) in 1948. It coincided with the year U.N.T.S.O. began operations in Palestine.



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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. China, Russia, Pakistan Foreign Ministers to attend May 4 SCO meet in Goa

- India will host the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations at a two-day conclave in Goa beginning amid an escalating confrontation between Russia and the West over the war in Ukraine and concerns over China's expansionist behaviour.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Russia's Sergey Lavrov and Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari are among those set to attend the meeting that will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

### 2. Dubai to host inaugural Global Chess League

- The world's largest and first franchise-based chess league will be held in Dubai from June 21-July 2.
- The inaugural Global Chess League will feature six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team.
- The six teams will compete in a round-robin format where each team will play 10 matches.

### 3. UAE govt launches 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit

- The UAE government launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit, one of the international conferences in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the whole region, taking place at the Museum of the Future in Dubai, in partnership between Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office and 'Machines Can See' company.

- The conference aims to bring together experts from around the world to discuss the future of AI and its potential in contributing to the UAE's vision of creating the next Silicon Valley.
- The summit was held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai and explored the current advancements of AI, its applications, and its future in the UAE and the rest of the world.

### 4. RBI, BIS launch global technology competition 'G20 TechSprint'

- Reserve Bank of India(RBI) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) have launched G20 TechSprint, a global technology competition. RBI and the BIS Innovation Hub have jointly announced the fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint.
- RBI said that the 2023 TechSprint will focus on developing innovative technology solutions for cross-border payments.

### 5. India hosted Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Goa

- Foreign ministers of eight member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in Goa on May 4-5. This meeting has set the stage for the SCO Leaders' Summit to be held in July in New Delhi.
- **The theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO in 2023 is 'SECURE-SCO'.**
- India became a member of the SCO in 2017
- SCO: HQ: Beijing, China; Secretary General: Zhang Ming.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an

intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.

- The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six “Dialogue Partners” (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
- In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of Iran to the SCO as a full member, and Egypt, Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia became dialogue partners.
- The official languages of the SCO are Chinese and Russian.

#### 6. Finance Minister Sitharaman represents as Governor India in ADB Annual Meetings

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman lead the Indian delegation to attend the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) along with Investor/ Bilateral and other associated meetings, in Incheon, the Republic of Korea from May 2-5.
- **ADB Annual Meeting theme: Rebounding Asia: Recover, Reconnect and Reform.**
- The engagements of Union Finance Minister consisted of the following components:
  - Interaction with Global Economists, Governors / Finance Ministers of the ADB member countries etc.
  - Bilateral engagements with countries and international organisations.
  - Interaction with global business leaders and investors in roundtables.

- Engagement with Community Diaspora
- **Tbilisi, Georgia will host the 57th Annual Meeting to be held from 2 to 5 May 2024. The theme for the 57th Annual Meeting will be “Bridge to the Future”.**

#### 7. Mumbai: First mining start-up summit to be held on 29th May

- The first mining start-up summit will be held on 29th May in Mumbai to encourage the participation of start-ups in the mineral and mining sector.
- Start-ups in the fields of exploration, virtual reality, automation, drone technology, and consultancy will participate in it.
- *The summit will be mainly focusing on innovation and techniques that will support and improve the performance, safety and help in building autonomy in the field of mining and metallurgy.* It will also be focusing on interaction with leading industries in the mineral exploration sector, financial institutions, and banks.

#### 8. Reserve Bank of India in collaboration with the GFIN invites firms to participate in Greenwashing TechSprint

- The Reserve Bank (RBI) invited interested Indian companies to participate in Greenwashing TechSprint.
- The application window is open and will close on 21st May 2023.
- The RBI is among 13 international regulators taking part in first ever Greenwashing TechSprint organised by Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)
- The GFIN is a group of over 80 international organisations committed to supporting financial innovation in the interest of consumers and it is



currently chaired by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### 9. MHA will organize 'G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse' in Gurugram

- The Ministry of Home Affairs will organize 'G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs (Non Fungible Tokens), AI and Metaverse' on 13th and 14th July, 2023 in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The two day event will be held in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of External Affairs, National Security Council Secretariat.

#### 10. AIIMS Delhi partners with WHO, Duke-NUS on patient safety and quality control

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS) has collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control.
- According to WHO, the current challenge in global public health is patient harm, which is a leading cause of avoidable mortality and morbidity.
- In this regard, a core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives across various departments.

#### 11. SCO members adopt India's proposal for digital public infrastructure

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) adopted India's proposal to support the development and adoption of the country's digital public infrastructure (DPI). The **proposal includes platforms such as Aadhaar, United Payments Interface (UPI), and DigiLocker.**

- The adoption of India's proposal by the SCO marks a significant step towards a more digitally connected and inclusive future for the region.
- The SCO is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising eight member countries, including India, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan.

#### 12. FSDC meeting discusses global financial turmoil and India's economic stability

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the **27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on 8th May 2023.
- This was the first meeting of the FSDC after the announcement of the Budget 2023-24.
- The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the Union Finance Minister.

#### 13. National Logistics Management Seminar, LOGISEM- 23, held in New Delhi

- National Logistics Management Seminar, LOGISEM - 23, on the theme '**Leverage Emerging Global Supply Chain to Enhance Logistics Capabilities While Absorbing Disruptions**', was held at New Delhi.
- Chief of the Air Staff inaugurated the Seminar and delivered the key-note address.

#### 14. Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya presided over the Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023

- The Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers' Association (CPMA) of India hosted the 41st edition of the Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 (APIC 2023) in New Delhi on 18-19 May.

- **The theme of the event was 'Ushering in a Sustainable Future'.**
- The APIC is a broad-based petrochemical industry conference with membership from 7 partner countries. **APIC partner countries are: India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.**
- Established 40 years ago in 1979 by Japan, Korea and Taiwan as the East Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference (EAPIC), it was rechristened as Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference (APIC) in 2000 with the inclusion of India, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. APIC is hosted annually on a rotational basis by the partner Country Associations.

#### 15. G7 Japan Hiroshima Summit 2023: May 19th -21st

- The **49th G7 summit** was held from 19 to 21 May 2023 in Hiroshima, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Japan's Hiroshima.
- He also **unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the Japanese city Hiroshima**, site of the world's first nuclear attack. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida invited Modi to the G-7 Summit as a guest.
- The **42-inch tall bronze bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar**. The bust site, adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is close to the iconic A-Bomb Dome that is visited by thousands of people - locals and tourists alike - every day.
- Modi also held bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart Kishida, focusing on ways to synergise efforts under G7

and G20 presidencies to deal with various global challenges.

- The G7 bloc comprises Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Italy, as well as the European Union.

#### 16. Ministry of Education and World Bank organise a one of its kind workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program

- The Ministry of Education and World Bank organised a one of its kind workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program in **Mumbai**.
- The workshop focussed on discussion on a **Skill Gap analysis of the six STARS States and Uttar Pradesh along with convergence of vocational and skill**.
- The workshop was attended by the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the six STARS states i.e. **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh** along with the State Project Directors of Samagra Shiksha, respective officers, and representatives from the World Bank.
- The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank (since 1994), for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing 'Education for All'. Prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than \$3 billion towards this goal.

#### 17. PM addresses 76th Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 76th Session of the

World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Shri Modi highlighted India's commitment to international cooperation and informed that the country shipped almost 300 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 100 countries including many countries from the Global South.
- **Theme of this year's Health Assembly is: WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.**

#### **18. Mandaviya to attend 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva**

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will represent India in the 76th World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland to be held from May 21-30.
- The health minister will deliver keynote address at side events for 'Heal in India and Heal by India', as well as 'Together we fight against TB' reiterating India's contribution in the field of Medical Value Travel.
- **India committed to eliminate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.**

#### **19. 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting to begin in Bengaluru**

- The Second Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting will begin in Bengaluru under G20 India Presidency.
- The three days event will be attended by 75 delegates from G20 countries, invitee countries and regional and international organisations.
- The first Trade and Investment Working Group meeting was held in Mumbai.

#### **20. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba inaugurates International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals at New Delhi**

- During India's presidency of G20, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organising B20 engagement on International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals: Sustainable Transitions through Greentech & Digitalization on 24th May 2023, New Delhi, India.
- The Business20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.
- The B20 acts as a platform for dialogue among policymakers, the civil society and businesses at international level.
- It aims to deliver concrete actionable policy recommendations on priority to spur economic growth and development.
- The aim of the Conference is to improve the safety and sustainable ecosystem for chemicals and petrochemicals industry across the four pillars of De-carbonization, Circular Economy, Biodiversity and Water Conservation.
- The conference will facilitate in identifying potential opportunities, exchange of knowledge amongst G20 countries on sustainability and circularity.

#### **21. The Second Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) meeting of the G-20 concludes in Mumbai**

- G-20 Council's Second Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) meeting came to an end in Mumbai, with the technical and functional level officials coming to an understanding of

the importance of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Financing for Disaster Risk Reduction as the central theme of any discussion on Disaster Risk Reduction.

- The delegates deliberated that an institutional framework that supports investments in infrastructure projects, avoids fragmentation, and promotes execution of such infrastructure projects is desirable and should be encouraged in the national legal framework of G-20 countries.
- Additionally, the role of social protection systems in mitigating the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable population groups was a key topic of discussion.

## **22. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba to inaugurate International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals at New Delhi**

- During India's presidency of G20, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized B20 engagement at the International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals: Sustainable Transitions through Greentech & Digitalization in New Delhi, India.
- The aim of the Conference is to improve the safety and sustainable ecosystem for chemicals and petrochemicals industry across the **four pillars of De-carbonization, Circular Economy, Biodiversity and Water Conservation**.
- The conference is an effort to promote sustainable development in chemical and petrochemical sector and to deliberate upon sustainable solutions of various issues being faced by the industry.

## **23. India's National Climate Research Agenda Released At Climate Research Conclave**

- India's National Climate Research Agenda was unveiled at the start of the two-day International Climate Research Conclave (ICRC-2023) at DST's Centre of Excellence in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay, paving the way for coordinating national efforts towards understanding and addressing climate change in 2030 and beyond.

## **24. The 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8) meetings will be held in Goa in July this year**

- The 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8) meetings will be held in Goa in July this year.
- **The theme of these meetings is 'Advancing Clean Energy Together'.**
- Scheduled on the margins of the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting, these meetings will bring together governments, international organisations, private sector, academia, innovators, civil society, early career researchers and policy-makers featuring high-level ministerial dialogues, global initiative launches, award announcements, minister-CEO roundtables and a wide array of side-events cutting across diverse themes of clean energy transition.

## **25. Three day Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency concludes at Tehri**

- The three day Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency concluded at Tehri, Uttarakhand.



- The delegates agreed on three high-level principles to prevent and combat corruption.

## 26. ICAI Dubai Organises Conclave on Emerging Standards on Auditing, Public Policy, and Crypto in Dubai

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently organized a

noteworthy conclave in Dubai, focusing on emerging standards in auditing, public policy, and the crypto industry.

- The event brought together experts, professionals, and policymakers to discuss and exchange insights on these crucial topics.




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## Science & Technology

### 1. First test launch of new low-cost star sensor developed from off-the-shelf components successfully conducted

- A new low-cost star sensor developed by astronomers from off-the-shelf components was recently launched by ISRO on board PSLV C-55.
- In its first-ever space test, the sensor, which is **mounted on the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)**, is performing well, and the initial data has now validated its design as well as its function.
- This novel low-cost sensor designed to quickly calculate where the satellite is pointing is being tested in space for the very first time.

### 2. World's First Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine Gets FDA Nod

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on May 3, 2023, approved the world's first respiratory syncytial virus vaccine **called Arexvy manufactured by British pharmaceutical company GSK**.
- Arexvy is an adjuvanted respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, which means that it has an adjuvant, or an ingredient that helps create a stronger immune response to vaccination.
- It has been approved for use in individuals aged 60 years and above in the United States.

### 3. NeGD organises 36th CISO Deep-Dive Training Programme Under Cyber Surakshit Bharat

- National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme, organised 36th CISO Deep-Dive training programme under cyber surakshit bharat from 8th-12th May 2023 with 24 participants from Central

Line Ministries and States/UTs at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat is the initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, which was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace. Organisations need to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks.
- The deep-dive training specifically aims at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks comprehensively and thoroughly, get necessary exposure in latest technologies of safeguard, and translate the benefits of a resilient e-infrastructure to individual organisations and citizens at large.

### 4. IIT Madras, DRDO Develop Cutting-Edge Underwater Sensor Technology

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have partnered with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists to develop cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications, which will be advantageous to defence applications, especially in the Indian Navy.
- The indigenous development of this technology enables the nation to fabricate the devices at a relatively lower cost than the internationally-

available foundries where the cost of fabrication is high and the number of foundries is also limited.

- The '**Piezoelectric MEMS technology**' is required to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo thin film' into state-of-the-art futuristic naval sensors and devices for underwater applications.

#### 5. India's First Commercial Flight Powered By Indigenous Sustainable Aviation Fuel Flies From Pune To Delhi

- India's first commercial passenger flight using indigenously produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blend was successfully flown.
- An Air Asia flight powered by SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF) flew from Pune to Delhi.
- The special flight was received by Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the airport.
- The SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF) was produced by **Praj Industries Ltd** by using indigenous feedstock, supplied by **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** and used by **Air Asia**.
- This would be the First domestic commercial passenger flight with SAF blending up to 1 per cent as demonstration mode".
- "By 2025, if we target to blend 1 per cent SAF blending in Jet fuel, India would require around 14 crore litre of SAF/annum. More ambitiously, if we target for 5 per cent SAF blend, India required around 70 crore litre of SAF/ annum".

#### 6. Infosys launches Topaz, an AI-first set of services, solutions, and platforms

- IT services major Infosys Ltd launched Infosys Topaz, an artificial intelligence-first set of services, solutions and

platforms using generative AI technologies.

- Infosys said Infosys Topaz converges the power of Infosys Cobalt cloud, and data analytics to "deliver cognitive solutions and intuitive experiences that revitalise growth.

#### 7. Microsoft brings Bing to ChatGPT as default search engine

- Microsoft has announced the integration of Bing Search into OpenAI's ChatGPT in order to provide more relevant and potentially new responses.
- Bing will serve as the "default search experience", allowing ChatGPT to retrieve answers from the internet and provide citations.

#### 8. ISRO to launch NVS-01 navigation satellite to strengthen NavIC system

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the navigation satellite 'NVS-01' onboard its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh by the end of the month.
- **NVS-01 is the first of the second-generation satellites envisaged for the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) services**
- NavIC is India's own indigenous satellite navigation system similar to the prominent Global Positioning System (GPS), which belongs to the United States. According to ISRO, the NVS series of satellites will sustain and augment the NavIC with enhanced features.



### 9. India's AI Push: Microsoft launches 'Jugalbandi', AI-based multilingual chatbot for rural India

- Microsoft unveiled Jugalbandi, a multilingual chatbot powered by generative AI, which can be accessed through the popular messaging platform WhatsApp.
- The chatbot has been specifically designed to serve rural areas in India that have limited media access and lack information about government welfare activities.
- **Developed in collaboration with AI4Bharat and IIT Madras, Jugalbandi aims to provide personalized assistance by understanding user queries in multiple languages, whether spoken or typed.**
- The chatbot retrieves information from relevant programs, which are often

available only in English, and presents it back to users in their local language.

- **The chatbot was launched in April and has undergone testing in Biwan, a village near New Delhi, India's capital city**

### 10. ISRO successfully launches its next-generation navigational satellite - NVS-1 from Sriharikota

- ISRO's GSLV f 12 rocket with NVS - 01 satellite was successfully launched at 10.42 from Sriharikota .
- **The rocket lifted off from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre and injected NVS -01 satellite in its geosynchronous orbit.**
- ISRO Chairmam -Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- The satellite weighing 2232 kilograms is the first of the second-generation satellites envisaged for the Navigation with Indian Constellation series.

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## Defence

### 1. DRDO & Indian Navy conduct successful maiden test trial of indigenous Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150'

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'ADC-150' from IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- **ADC-150' is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with 150 kg payload capacity.**
- The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick response to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships (under distress), which are deployed more than 2,000 kms from the coast.
- It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.

### 2. BRO organizes a Multi-modal Expedition 'EKTA EVAM SHRADHANJALI ABHIYAAN' as part of 64th BRO Day celebrations

- To commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karmyogis in nation building, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) organised 'Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan', a multi modal expedition as a part of 64th BRO Day Celebrations.
- Expedition team comprises of Motor Cycles and Motor cars which started from North East and Northern part of the country.
- Expedition members from 18 Projects have collected Soil, Water and Saplings from 108 remote border locations and the same will be planted at BRO Alma Mater, BRO School and Centre, Pune.

### 3. Maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise starts in Singapore

- Two frontline warships of the Indian Navy INS Satpura and INS Delhi arrived in Singapore to participate in the inaugural edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise.
- The ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) will provide an opportunity to the Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work closely with each other and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.
- With AIME-2023 India becomes the 4th ASEAN dialogue partner, after Russia, China and the US to hold the ASEAN+1 maritime exercise in which navies of the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Brunei, will be participating.

### 4. Army holds 'Buland Bharat' exercise in Arunachal to test synergy in simulated war conditions

- The armed forces have carried out an integrated surveillance and firepower training exercise known as Buland Bharat to test 'simulated war conditions in high altitude area' at the **Mandala High Altitude Firing Ranges in Arunachal Pradesh** even as tensions continue to prevail along the Line of Actual Control with China.
- The exercise validated plans for bringing down integrated firepower by orchestrating synchronised firing by artillery guns and fire support components of the infantry, aimed toward the destruction of designated targets.

### 5. Air force receives first batch of indigenous VTOL loitering munition

- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) delivered the first indigenously designed and developed loitering munitions to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The **ALS 50, also known as the "suicide drone," is a unique Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) weapon** that can operate in any terrain, including high-altitude areas, to take down targets at a range of over 50 km.
- TASL's young engineering team has successfully demonstrated the ALS 50's capabilities during trials and testing, and the system can be scaled up to increase its firepower and targeting distance.
- The weapon is controlled from a ground control station, allowing real-time targeting that can be controlled either by the operator or autonomously, with a high degree of accuracy, thanks to testing that revealed the system's precision was tested to be less than two meters.

### 6. First Airbus C295 for India successfully completes its maiden flight

- The **first C295 for India** successfully completed its maiden flight, marking a significant milestone towards its delivery by the second half of 2023. **The tactical aircraft took off from Seville, Spain, on the 5th May.**
- India acquired 56 C295 aircraft in September 2021 to replace the (IAF) legacy AVRO fleet. The first 16 aircraft will be assembled in Seville, Spain.
- The following 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

- The C295 Final Assembly Line being built in Gujarat is the first concrete, large-scale Make-in-India defence programme in the private sector that will unlock the industrial value chain of design, manufacturing, assembly, testing, delivery and maintenance of the complete lifecycle of the aircraft.

### 7. 35TH EDITION OF INDO-THAI COORDINATED PATROL (CORPAT)

- The 35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 03 - 10 May 2023.
- The 35th Indo-Thai CORPAT is another step towards enhancing the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate interoperability and forge strong bonds of friendship between India and Thailand.
- As part of the Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with the countries in the Indian Ocean Region towards enhancing regional maritime security.

### 8. India-Indonesia bilateral exercise 'Samudra Shakti-23'

- INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the **4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23** from 14-19 May 23.
- Samudra Shakti -23 will showcase the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment towards peace and stability in the region.

- An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter is also participating.
- The Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter.

#### 9. Govt imposes import ban on 928 defence items in self-reliance push

- With the aim of promoting *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance) in weaponry and defence equipment and minimise imports by defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) promulgated a list of **928 strategically important spares and components that would face curbs on their import.**
- This so-called **4th Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** will include **Rs 715 crore worth** of high-end materials and spares, the import of which will be permitted only until a date specified for each. After each one's import deadline elapses, it will have to be procured from the Indian industry.
- This fourth PIL list follows the earlier PILs, which restricted the import of a range of line-replaceable units (LRUs), sub-systems, assemblies, spares, and components of defence systems.
- The 1st PIL comprising 101 items, was promulgated in August 2020. The 2nd PIL comprising 108 items, was promulgated in May 2021. The 3rd PIL comprising 101 items, was promulgated in April 2022.
- The MoD has also notified three PILs as regards DPSUs, comprising 3,738 major LRUs, sub-systems, assemblies, spares, and components, each with an embargo on their import from defined timelines.

- Further, more than 26,000 defence items have been uploaded on MoD's Srijan defence portal and offered to the industry for indigenisation. So far, 7,031 items have been indigenised, catering to domestic and global markets.

#### 10. iDEX-DIO signs 250th contract, first under Mission DefSpace & 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract

- Innovations for Defence Excellence, the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence, has reached a milestone with the signing of its 250th contract - first under Mission DefSpace - and 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract in New Delhi. The iDEX framework was launched by the Prime Minister in 2018 with the objective to provide the platform of co-creation & co-development in defence.
- **Mission DefSpace contract**
- The first iDEX contract of Mission DefSpace was exchanged between Additional Secretary (Defence Production) & CEO Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) Shri T Natarajan and CEO, InspeCity Shri Arindrajit Chowdhary, one of the winners of the challenge 'Micropropulsion system for cubesats'. This challenge is being led by the Defence Space Agency.
- Cubesats are a class of smallsats, which are modular; low-cost; easy to manufacture, integrate, and launch; and form a critical component for launch-on-demand capabilities. For imagery/Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance/communication purposes, cubesats need to be precisely aligned, hence there is a requirement of a compact micropropulsion system for precise manoeuvring and orbit correction.

InspeCity is developing a gas-based system for this purpose. This technology, once developed, can be integrated with other satellites, including the cubesat swarm being developed under Mission DefSpace.

- Recognising the strategic significance of the space domain, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched Mission DefSpace with 75 Defence Space Challenges to be addressed by the private sector during DefExpo at Gandhinagar in October 2022. It aims to nurture the Indian Private Space industry through challenges addressing every stage of a space mission – from mission planning to satellite data analytics.
- **100th SPRINT (Navy) contract**
- The 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract was exchanged between AS (DP) & CEO-DIO and CEO, Siliconia Technologies Pvt Ltd Shri Sushil Eknath Ghule. Siliconia Technologies Pvt Ltd is the winner of the Challenge which envisaged the development of a prototype that is a lightweight ASIC (Application-Specific Integrated Circuit) based communication system using software defined antenna for Low Earth Orbit, Medium Earth Orbit and Geostationary satellite communication. The solution by Siliconia can provide multiple independent receiver/transmitter sources that are essential in phased-array radars, typically used in satellite tracking.
- It may be recalled that under the 'SPRINT' initiative, a total of 75 Challenge statements for the Indian industry were unveiled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation

Organisation (NIIO) seminar

'Swavlamban' on July 18, 2022. The initiative aims at inducting at least 75 technologies/products into the Indian Navy by August 2023 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

- The iDEX achieved the milestone of signing its 1st and 50th iDEX SPRINT contracts under DISC-7 in October 2022 and January 2023 respectively and within a few months the 100th SPRINT (Navy) contract was exchanged.
- **About iDEX**
- The iDEX is working at a path-breaking pace to ensure that its agreements with the start-ups and innovators reach logical conclusions timely, eventually opening a myriad of options for the budding, soon to be unicorns and at the same time addressing the requirement of Services.
- The iDEX framework was launched by the Prime Minister in 2018 with the objective to provide the platform of co-creation & co-development in the defence sector. It aims to engage start-ups to contribute to the defence sector and develop defence and aerospace setup in the country. iDEX is being implemented by DIO, established under the Department of Defence Production, MoD.

### 11. Supersonic Cruise Missile 'Brahmos' Successfully Test-Fired From INS Mormugao

- A BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao.
- BrahMos is an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. It flies at a speed of 2.8



Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

#### 12. Indian Army conducts Flood Relief Exercise Jal Rahat in Assam

- Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army conducted a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, Assam to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.
- SSB, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives took part.

#### 13. Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari Class Submarine, Vaghsheer commences sea trials

- The Indian Navy's sixth and final Kalvari class submarine, Vaghsheer, has begun its sea trials. Vaghsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after completion of these trials.
- The submarine was launched on 20th April 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The commissioning of the submarine, *built under Project-75*, is set to enhance the Navy's combat capability at a time when China has been increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean region. Project - 75 includes indigenous construction of 6 submarines.

#### 14. Defence production crosses one lakh crore rupees mark for the first time ever in Financial Year 2022-23

- The value **currently stands Rs 1,06,800 crore** and it will go further up once the data is received from the remaining private defence industries.
- The current value of defence production in FY 2022-23 is a rise of more than 12 per cent over FY 2021-22, when the figure was Rs 95,000 crore.

#### 15. Indian Navy and ISRO join hands for Gaganyaan Recovery Training plan

- Ahead of the highly-anticipated Gaganyaan mission expected to take place later this year, Indian Navy along with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released a Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan.
- This was released at the state of the art Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) INS Garuda, Kochi
- The aim of the Gaganyaan mission is to send Indian astronauts to space for the first time – to low earth orbit (LEO) for a week and they will be on board a spacecraft Gaganyaan.

#### 16. Hrithik Roshan and Alia Bhatt win the award for best actor at IIFA 2023.

Hrithik Roshan won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (male) for **his role in Vikram Vedha** at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi. Alia Bhatt also won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her role in the movie **Gangubai Kathiawadi**.

## Obituary

### 1. 2016 Olympic Gold Medallist Tori Bowie Dies At 32

- Tori Bowie, an American sprinter and long jumper who won **three Olympic medals** and two world titles in the sport, died at the age of 32.
- Bowie, who also won an Olympic 200m bronze and gold in the 4x100m relay at the Rio Games.
- She also bagged the gold medal in the 100-meter race and the 4x100-meter relay at the 2017 World Championships

### 2. SP Hinduja, billionaire head of Britain's richest family, dies at 87

- Srichand Parmanand Hinduja the chairman of the Hinduja Group, passed away in London.
- According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, SP Hinduja had an estimated net worth of about \$3.6 billion.
- In 2022, SP Hinduja and his younger brother Gopichand topped The Sunday Times Rich List for the fourth time, with an estimated net worth of 28.5 billion (\$36 billion).

### 3. Industrialist Karumuttu T Kannan passes away

- Industrialist Karumuttu T Kannan (70), chairman of Tamil Nadu-based Thiagarajar Mills and an independent member of TVS Motor's board of directors, died in Madurai in Tamil Nadu.
- Kannan, the son of the late industrialist and philanthropist Karumuttu Thiagarajan Chettiar, who founded the Thiagarajar Mills in 1936.

### 4. 'Queen of Rock' Tina Turner Dies Aged 83

- Tina Turner, widely known as the 'Queen of Rock 'n' Roll' died on May 24 at the age of 83.
- The US-born, Swiss-naturalised singer passed away in her home near Zurich after a long illness.
- She was among the biggest recording artists of all time.
- Among her biggest hits were 'What's Love Got to Do with It' and '(Simply) The Best.'




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## Person in news

### 1. Cristiano Ronaldo tops Forbes highest-paid athletes list in 2023 after Saudi move

- Cristiano Ronaldo became the **world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr** nearly doubled his annual playing salary while Paris St Germain duo **Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe round off the top three, according to Forbes.**
- Ronaldo, who joined the Saudi soccer club on a deal until 2025 after leaving Manchester United last year, earned \$136 million. Ronaldo signed with Al Nassr until 2025 on a reported \$200 million per year contract.
- *Forbes* reported that the 38-year-old Ronaldo earned \$136 million, with his annual playing salary going up to an estimated \$75 million.
- PSG forward Messi, 35, was next on the list after bringing home a combined \$130 million while club teammate and France captain Mbappe – the youngest on the list at 24 – earned \$120 million to sit third.
- Los Angeles Lakers player and NBA great LeBron James (\$119.5 million) and Mexican boxer Saul "Canelo" Alvarez (\$110 million) rounded out the top five.
- *Forbes* said its on-field earnings figures include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned in the past 12 months while off-field earnings are an estimate of sponsorship deals, appearance fees, licensing income and cash returns from businesses they operate.

### 2. Korean brand Laneige ropes in Athiya Shetty as brand ambassador

- Laneige, Korean skincare brand, has roped in bollywood actress Athiya Shetty as its first brand face in India.
- As part of the association, Shetty will represent Laneige's line of skincare products, including its water sleeping mask, lip sleeping mask, water bank collection and more.

### 3. Alia Bhatt named the first Indian Global Ambassador for Gucci

- Alia Bhatt has been named the first Indian global ambassador for Gucci, the Italian luxury house.
- The actor, producer and entrepreneur will make her first public appearance as Gucci's ambassador at the Gucci Cruise 2024 runway show at the Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul.

### 4. Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Conferred With France's Highest Civilian Award

- Tata Sons Chairman **Natarajan Chandrasekaran was conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour)** by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna.
- N Chandrasekaran was felicitated with the highest French civilian award for his contribution in strengthening and building business between India and France.
- Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) in partnership with Business France, held the 5th edition of its flagship event, the Indo-French Business Awards (IFBA) and Grand Prix VIE in the presence of H.E. Mr Édouard Philippe, former Prime Minister of-



France and Mayor, Le Havre as Guest of Honour.

#### 5. ICC suspends West Indies batsman Devon Thomas for alleged fixing in LPL(Lanka Premier League) 2021

- The International Cricket Council (ICC), on behalf of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), has charged West Indies player Devon Thomas with seven counts under their anti-corruption codes and he has been provisionally suspended with immediate effect.

#### 6. Mukesh Ambani named as member of advisory committee of COP28

- Mukesh Ambani, CEO of Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries, has been selected as a member of the international advisory committee for the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28).
- The **panel features 31 experts** from across the global south who are policy

makers, finance executives, and sustainability leaders, among others.

#### 7. PM Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker & various ministers pay floral tribute to Savarkar on his 140th birth anniversary

- On the 140th birth anniversary of Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, floral tributes were paid to VD Savarkar's portrait in the Central Hall of the old Parliament building. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, various Union ministers, and Members of Parliament were present.
- '**Savarkar Vichar Jagran Week**' has been organized by Maharashtra State Tourism Department at various places across the state **under 'Veerbhumi Parikrama'**. A National Memorial Walk and Light Festival has also been organized from Savarkar Sadan to Swatantryaveer Savarkar Memorial at Dadar.




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## India & World

### 1. India, Russia explore accepting RuPay and Mir cards for easy payments

- In the latest meeting of the Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), India and Russia have agreed to explore the possibility of accepting each other's payment cards, **RuPay (India) and Mir (Russia), for hassle-free payments between the two countries.**
- Mutual acceptance of RuPay and Mir cards will facilitate transactions in Indian rupees and Russian rubles, making it easier for citizens of both countries to carry out cross-border payments.
- Both countries also agreed to explore the adoption of the Russian financial messaging system, the Services Bureau of Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia, for cross-border payments.
- Currently, overseas payments from India and Russia are made through the SWIFT network, and exploring alternative payment options is necessary to minimize the impact of sanctions imposed on Russia by the West.

### 2. Australian High Commission in India announces its Government Grant for Project in Kargil

- For the first time in the history of Ladakh the Australian High Commission in India has announced its Government Grant for a Project in Kargil.
- This was announced during a Special Meeting at Srinagar chaired by the Australian high commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.

- The project "Return to Roots" aims to **integrate traditional knowledge with the current school science curriculum** in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy which includes increasing scientific engagement among school children of the tribal background.

### 3. India To Join International Climate Action In Civil Aviation From 2027

- India will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) **in 2027.**
- The ICAO has been tasked to reduce carbon emissions from international civil aviation as one of its focus areas.
- India committed to net zero by 2070 at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### 4. India's Exports To UAE May Reach \$50 Billion By 2026-27

- India's exports to the UAE are expected to reach \$50 billion by 2026-27 from \$31.3 billion at present on the back of the free trade agreement between the countries.
- The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on Feb. 18, 2022, officially came into force on May 1 last year.
- India's exports to the UAE in 2022-23 rose by 11.8% to \$31.3 billion, while imports grew by 18.8% to \$53.2 billion in the last fiscal.

### 5. India hands over two ships to Maldives, AN-32 propellers to SL

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over two ships to the Maldives a fast patrol ship and landing craft assault ship at function in the island nation.
- The fast patrol ship is capable of coastal and offshore surveillance at high speed. It was commissioned as a coast guard ship in the Maldives National Defence Forces.

### 6. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar In London For King's Coronation

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was accorded a warm welcome as he arrived in London to attend the majestic Coronation ceremony of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey.
- Dhankhar, accompanied by his wife Dr Sudesh Dhankhar, will join an estimated 100 Heads of State and government from around the world invited to the historic crowning of Britain's new monarch.

### 7. PM Modi To Be Guest Of Honour At France's Bastille Day Parade

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi will be the guest of honour at France's traditional military parade**, held during Bastille Day on July 14.
- PM Modi's visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the 'strategic partnership' between France and India.
- **Bastille Day is named after the fall of a fortress that symbolised the French revolution of 1789.**
- PM Modi will be **2nd Indian PM to be the guest of honour after Manmohan Singh in 2009.**
- French heads of state have been the Republic Day guests of honour five times since 1951.

### 8. Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin to Maldives flagged off at V.O. Chidambaranar Port.

- At a ceremony held, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur flagged off the vessel '**M.V. MSS Galena**' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port, as the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin to Maldives.
- *The rotation of this shipping service is Tuticorin 'Male' Tuticorin, and is scheduled to make 3 calls a month.*
- During the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Maldives in June 2019, Prime Minister of India & President of Maldives dwelt on the need to improve connectivity between India & Maldives through establishment of enabling infrastructure, which shall also give impetus to bilateral trade between two countries.

### 9. India leads as top source market for Sri Lanka's tourism sector for April 2023

- India led as the top source market for Sri Lanka's tourism sector for the month of April 2023.
- India **regained the top spot after six months** as almost 20,000 Indian tourists arrived in the island nation last month.
- Sri Lanka's Tourism Authority figures showed that 19,915 Indians had visited the island in April over 14,656 Russian tourist arrivals.

### 10. Border Haat between India and Bangladesh inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet

- A new border-haat between India and Bangladesh was inaugurated in Bholaganj under Companiganj upazila of Sylhet.

- This is the **fourth border-haat in Sylhet** division out of which three are currently functional.
- Three more border haats are planned to be opened in the Sylhet division.

#### 11. India, Canada trade pact to cover goods, services, investments, technical barriers

- The **India-Canada Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)** will cover goods, services, investment, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and dispute settlement.
- The two sides **relaunched negotiations** for a **trade pact in March last year** after a **10 year hiatus**.

#### 12. India & Bangladesh launch '50 Start-ups Exchange Programme'

- The first group of 10 start-up companies under the 50 start-ups exchange programme between India and Bangladesh returned to Dhaka.
- Under this program, **50 Start-ups from Bangladesh and 50 from India will exchange visits** to each other's countries for exploring partnerships, expanding business relations, sharing experience and expanding youth and entrepreneurial cooperation.

#### 13. World Bank Approves \$82 Million Loan For Controlling Zoonotic Diseases in India

- The World Bank has approved a \$ 82 million loan towards the adoption of global best practices for animal health management & to prevent, detect, & respond to endemic zoonotic diseases in India.
- The loan has a maturity of 11.5 years with a grace period of 4.5 years. It will strengthen India's One Health approach, which recognises people and animals are connected with nature.

- An infection or disease that is transmissible from animals to humans under natural conditions is called zoonotic.
- Animal disease outbreaks globally continue to pose risks to public health systems and have enormous economic costs.

#### 14. 1st India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting was held in Brussels

- The first ministerial-level meeting of the India-EU trade and technology council (TTC) took place on May 16 in **Brussels**.
- India and the European Union will cooperate on quantum and high-performance computing research and development projects to help address challenges including climate change.
- The **next ministerial meeting** is planned for **early 2024 in India**.

#### 15. India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development virtually launched

- The Ministry of Education, Government of India and US Department of State launched the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development in virtual mode, with the aim to *enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the field of education and skill development*.
- The establishment of the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development was announced by the leaders on the sidelines of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held between India and US in Washington DC on 11.04.2022.

#### 16. India's public sector Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam to develop second hydropower project Arun-4 worth Rs 4,900 cr in Nepal

- Nepal has decided to allow India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited

to develop a second hydropower project in the country.

- At present SJVN is developing a 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project, a run-of-river located on the Arun River in Eastern Nepal, scheduled to be completed in 2024
- A meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) chaired by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda approved the draft project development agreement (PDA) to be signed with India's state-owned SJVN **to develop the 669-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydropower project in eastern Nepal worth Rs.4900 crore.**

#### 17. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attends swearing-in ceremony of President-elect of Nigeria Mr Bola

- Rajnath Singh attended the swearing-in ceremony of the President-elect of

Nigeria Mr Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja.

- In addition to senior officials of the Ministry of Defence, the Raksha Mantri's delegation to Nigeria included top executives of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

#### 18. New Liberation War Gallery Inaugurated at the Indian Cultural Centre in Dhaka

- A new 1971 Liberation War Gallery was inaugurated at the Indian Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- A number of liberation war fighters, Bir Muktijoddhas, and distinguished guests, including a number of eminent personalities of Bangladesh, representatives from cultural and academic spheres of Bangladesh, youth took part in the inaugural programme.

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## Environment

### 1. National Green Tribunal Levies Rs 4,000 Crore Environmental Compensation On Bihar

- National Green Tribunal has levied Rs 4,000 crore in environmental compensation on Bihar **for failing to scientifically manage solid & liquid waste.**
- NGT noted that there was legacy waste of more than 11.74 lakh metric tonnes as well as unprocessed urban waste of 4072 metric tonnes per day, & the gap in liquid waste generation and treatment was 2,193 million litres per day.
- NGT: Chairperson:AK Goel; Principal Place of sitting New Delhi.
- The National Green Tribunal was established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

### 2. Cyclone 'Mocha' Intensifies Into Severe Cyclonic Storm

- Cyclonic storm Mocha intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and is very likely to turn into a very severe cyclonic storm over the central Bay of Bengal.
- The system is likely to move north-northeast wards and intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm during the next few hours over the Central Bay of Bengal, packing winds of up to 135 kmph.
- It made landfall on 14 May in Myanmar, near the border with Bangladesh.
- **Cyclone Mocha (pronounced Mokha) has been named by Yemen after its Red Sea port city.**

### 3. WRI India Evaluates Feasibility of Dual-Utility Autorickshaws for Commercial Deliveries in Latest Report

- WRI India has released a research paper titled 'Assessing the Viability of Using Autorickshaws for Urban Freight Delivery in India,' which highlights the potential benefits of utilizing autorickshaws for both passenger and goods transportation. World Resources Institute (WRI) was founded in 1982.
- WRI India has released a research paper titled '**Assessing the Viability of Using Autorickshaws for Urban Freight Delivery in India,**' which highlights the potential benefits of utilizing autorickshaws for both passenger and goods transportation.
- According to the paper, this dual utilization can address supply gaps in the freight ecosystem while providing an additional source of income for autorickshaw drivers.

- The demand for urban freight delivery in India is projected to grow by 40% annually until 2025.
- To ensure efficient delivery across different load ranges, there is a need for a vehicle category that can transport goods weighing between 30 kg and 350 kg. Currently, no such category exists.
- The research paper explores the Indian urban freight ecosystem and identifies autorickshaws as a versatile option for filling this market gap.
- Auto Rickshaws are well-suited for Indian roads, have a lower environmental impact compared to cargo vehicles, can complement passenger trips, and offer the potential for higher income generation.



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## Apps & Portals

### 1. UGC launches 'CU-Chayan', a unified faculty recruitment portal for central universities

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a new portal named **'CU-Chayan' for faculty appointments in central varsities**.
- The portal will offer a range of features including a consolidated listing of job openings across all participating universities.
- Applicants will have a single login for applying to any of the universities, and personalised dashboards to help manage the application process.
- The commission has also asked all CUs to deactivate their recruitment portal. The commission will be maintaining this portal for the benefit of all the CUs and is not a centralised recruitment process for all central universities.

### 2. Union Health Ministry launches SAKSHAM Learning Management Information System

- Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary launched the SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management), a **Learning Management Information System (LMIS)** of MoHFW.
- This digital learning platform has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi.
- **SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.**
- This digital learning platform will ensure inclusive capacity building of health professionals from primary health centres located in rural and

remote areas all the way up to tertiary care and corporate hospitals in metropolitan cities.

### 3. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launches mobile application Meri LiFE

- Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav launched a mobile application, called Meri LiFE (My life) in New Delhi.
- *This app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP 26, which emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption.*
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched by the Prime Minister in October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat and focuses on bringing about behaviour changes in individuals through simple easy to do actions.

### 4. UGC launches redesigned user-friendly website, two portals

- University Grants Commission(UGC) launched the redesigned UGC website, **UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) and POP (Professor of Practice Portal) portals**.
- UTSAH will serve as a comprehensive platform providing detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education. UGC: Chairman: M Jagadesh Kumar; HQ: New Delhi.
- The Professor of Practice Portal is an innovative initiative by UGC, aimed at bridging the gap between academia and industry.
- This portal will serve as a platform for industry professionals to interact with

faculty members and students, providing valuable insights and real-world knowledge.

- The Portal is expected to bring new perspectives and expertise into the academic sphere and help students gain practical knowledge and skills that are relevant to the industry.
- University Grants Commission is a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, in accordance to the UGC Act 1956 a

#### 5. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Sanchar Saathi Portal

- Union Minister for Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw launched a Citizen Centric Portal named Sanchar Saathi Portal at a function in New Delhi through which mobile users can now track and block their lost mobile phones.
- The **Sanchar Saathi Portal** is an initiative of the Department of Telecommunications.

- **3 modules have been added to the portal - CIER, Know Your Mobile and ASTR.**
- It empowers the citizens by allowing them to know the mobile connections issued in their names, get the connections not required by them disconnected and to block and trace the lost mobile phones.
- *The first module, Central Equipment Identity Register(CIER) has been introduced for blocking stolen or lost mobiles, the second module is Know your mobile connections and the third module – Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification(ASRR), will identify fraudulent subscribers.*
- Through the use of Sanchar Saathi portal, more than 40 Lakh fraudulent connections have been identified and more than 36 Lakh such connections have been disconnected so far.



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## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. BharatPe buys 51% stake in Trillion Loans

- Fintech firm BharatPe has completed the acquisition of a 51% stake in **Mumbai-based non-banking financial company Trillion Loans.**
- Post the acquisition, Trillion Loans will operate as an independent entity with its own team under the supervision of the Board.

### 2. JP Morgan Chase buys troubled First Republic from FDIC in \$10.6bn deal

- JP Morgan emerged as the winning bidder in a weekend effort to sell First Republic Bank, the latest US-based lender to fail.
- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) said JP Morgan had bought all of First Republic's deposits, and would take over the bank's 84 branches across the US.
- The seizure of First Republic resulted in the biggest bank failure since the 2008. As part of the transaction, JPMorgan was making a payment of \$10.6 billion to FDIC.
- JPMorgan is getting about \$92 billion in deposits in the deal, which includes the \$30 billion that it and other large banks put into First Republic last month.
- The bank is taking on \$173 billion in loans and \$30 billion in securities as well.
- **The seizure of First Republic resulted in the biggest bank failure since the 2008 financial crisis, when Washington Mutual imploded.** Back then, it was also JPMorgan that won the failed banks' assets.

### 3. Aditya Birla Fashion to acquire 51 per cent stake in TCNS Clothing for Rs 1,650 crore

- Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd.(ABFRL) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire majority stake in TCNS Clothing Co.
- ABFRL will shell out Rs 1,650 crore for acquisition of an aggregate 51% stake. Following the completion of the transaction, TCNS Clothing will be merged with ABFRL. TCNS Clothing is the owner of ethnic brands, including W, Aurelia, Wishful, Folksong etc.
- *TCNS Clothing is the owner of ethnic brands, including W, Aurelia, Wishful, Folksong and Elleven.*
- As part of the transaction, the retail arm of Aditya Birla Group will make an open offer to acquire up to 29% stake and the balance stake from the founding promoters of TCNS Clothing to reach 51%, according to an exchange filing.

### 4. Lupin acquires entire stake in French pharma company Medisol for 18 million euros

- **Lupin Ltd.'s Switzerland-based subsidiary, Lupin Atlantis Holding SA,** announced its acquisition of **French pharmaceutical company, Medisol Lifescience Pvt.**
- The company has agreed to pay a cash consideration of 18 million euros (approximately Rs 160 crore) to acquire the entire share capital of Lyon-headquartered Medisol.
- Vinita Gupta is the CEO of Lupin.
- Founded in 2011 and headquartered in Lyon, Medisol specialises in generic injectable products and is engaged in developing and commercialising its

products in France, both in pharmacies and hospitals.

#### 5. METRO completes Rs 2,850cr deal with Reliance Retail to sell its India Cash & Carry business

- METRO and RRVL in December 2022 announced a deal for the acquisition of German firm's wholesale operations in India by billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led firm for '2,850 crore. **German retailer METRO AG** announced the completion of the sale of its Indian cash & Carry business to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), which holds the retail empire of Reliance Industries Ltd.
- The deal includes all 31 wholesale stores operated by METRO Cash & Carry India and the entire real estate portfolio (6 store-occupied properties) to RRVL

#### 6. CCI approves proposed merger of Credit Suisse Group AG with UBS Group AG

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted approval for the proposed merger of Credit Suisse Group AG with UBS Group AG, **two prominent Swiss-based multinational investment banks** and financial services companies. The proposed combination entails UBS's proposed acquisition of Credit Suisse by way of an absorption merger with UBS being the surviving legal entity.
- The UBS Group AG (**UBS**) is a multinational investment bank and financial services company founded and based in Switzerland, and active globally. UBS' businesses comprise wealth management, asset management, investment banking services, and retail and corporate banking. In India, UBS' business is

primarily focused on brokerage services.

- Credit Suisse Group AG (**Credit Suisse**) is a multinational investment bank and financial services company founded and based in Switzerland. Credit Suisse is active globally and its businesses comprise wealth management, asset management, investment banking services, and retail and corporate banking. In India, Credit Suisse's businesses comprise wealth management and investment banking services.

#### 7. Blackstone Acquires International Gemological Institute For Over \$525 Million

- Global private equity giant Blackstone, announced the acquisition of International Gemological Institute (IGI) at an enterprise value of over \$525 million (Rs 4,352.54 crore).
- **IGI is headquartered in Antwerp, Belgium**, but counts on India, the largest diamond polisher in the world, for a majority of its revenues and profits.
- Blackstone has acquired 80% stake in the company from Shanghai Yuyuan Tourist Mart (Group) Co., a subsidiary of Fosun, and the remaining from Roland Lorie

#### 8. Back JSW Steel to acquire National Steel and Agro Industries for Rs 621 cr

- JSW Steel announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Steel Coated Products Limited (JSWSCPL) will complete the acquisition of National Steel and Agro Industries (NSAIL) for a total consideration of Rs 621 crore.
- JSW Steel Coated Products, wholly-owned subsidiary, got approval in respect to corporate insolvency resolution process of NSAIL.

### 9. SEBI approves HDFC Bank as new owner of HDFC AMC

- HDFC Asset Management Company has received the final approval for a change in control to HDFC Bank from Housing Development Finance Corporation.
- The change in majority control was part of the amalgamation of Housing Development Finance Corporation into HDFC Bank.
- The merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank is in the final stages and is expected to be completed in few months.

### 10. Reliance Retail Arm Completes Acquisition Of 51% Stake In Lotus Chocolate

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd's subsidiary on Thursday said that it has acquired 51 per cent controlling stake in Lotus Chocolate Company.
- The FMCG arm, Reliance Consumer Products Limited, is the wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited has acquired **Lotus Chocolate company from Prakash P Pai, Ananth P Pai** and other members of the current promoter and prom
- RCPL will acquire 65,48,935 equity shares of LOTUS representing 51% of the paid-up equity share capital of LOTUS from the current promoter and promoter group of LOTUS at a price per share of Rs. 113.00 aggregating to Rs.

74 crore," said Reliance Retail in its regulatory filing.

- It has also announced an open offer to the public shareholders of Lotus for 26 per cent.
- "RCPL would make a Public Announcement to the public shareholders of LOTUS to acquire up to 33,38,673 equity shares of LOTUS representing 26.00% of the equity share capital of LOTUS in accordance with the SEBI Takeover Regulations," the filing added.
- The capital infused will help drive the growth and expansion of LOTUS into a comprehensive confectionery, cocoa, chocolate derivatives and related products manufacturer across industrial and consumer market.

### 11. Sun Pharma Proposes To Fully Acquire Taro Pharmaceutical Industries

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. proposed to fully acquire Israel-based Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. through a reverse triangular merger.
- It has issued a letter to the Taro board with a proposal containing a non-binding indication of interest to acquire all of the outstanding ordinary shares for a purchase price of USD 38 per ordinary share in cash.
- Mumbai-based Sun Pharma **currently owns a 78.48% stake in Taro.**

## Agri-Business

### 1. Cabinet nod for Rs.1.08 lakh crore kharif fertilizer subsidy

- The Union Cabinet decided not to increase fertiliser rates and approved a crop-nutrient subsidy of Rs 1.08 lakh crore for the June-September kharif or summer-sown season. For 2023-24, the Union budget in February allocated Rs 1.75 lakh crore, but even though fertilizer rates have stabilized, actual full-year spending could cross Rs 2 lakh crore again.

### 2. India's fish production touches a record 162.48 lakh tons per annum in 2021-22: Shri Parshottam Rupala

- From a mere **7.5 lakh tons in 1950-51**, India's total fish production has reached a record **162.48 lakh tons per annum in 2021-22**, with a 10.34%

growth in fish production in 2021-22 in comparison to 2020-21.

- Today, India is the **3rd largest fish producing country** with about 8% share in global fish production.
- **It stands 2nd in aquaculture production.**
- The growth of inland fish production, predominantly propelled by aquaculture, has been even more spectacular. From mere 28.23 lakh tons per annum in 2000-01, the inland fish production stood at 121. 21 lakh tons per annum in 2021-22, a staggering 400 percent increase.
- In fact, the inland fisheries and aquaculture production of the country has almost doubled since 2014.



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## FinTech

### 1. Airtel Partners With Bridgepointe Tech Under Global Channel Partners Programme

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel announced a strategic partnership with tech advisory firm Bridgepointe Technologies, in a move that will enable U.S. enterprises keen on expanding into India and Africa to leverage Airtel's digital infrastructure solution.
- The partnership will enable US enterprises interested in expanding to India and Africa to leverage Airtel's digital infrastructure solution.
- Bridgepointe Technologies is a tech advisory firm that helps mid-market and enterprise companies bridge the gap between tech investments and business results.

### 2. Airtel to merge Sri Lanka ops with Dialog to make nation's largest telco

- Bharti Airtel announced the merger of operations of Bharti Airtel Lanka, with **Dialog, a subsidiary of Malaysian multinational telecommunications conglomerate Axiata Group Berhad.**
- Bharti Airtel Lanka is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, which began commercial operations in Sri Lanka in 2009.
- **Dialog is Sri Lanka's largest telecom provider**, and the merger is expected to give Airtel access to a much larger user base.
- The new entity is set to become the largest telecom provider in the country. Majority government-owned SLT-Mobitel is the second largest player in the market.

### 3. Zoom gets pan-India telecom licence

- Web conference company Zoom Video Communications (ZVC) has secured a pan-India telecom licence that **will enable it to offer telephone services as well to enterprise customers.**
- With these licences, the company will be able to offer its cloud-based private branch exchange (PBX) service 'Zoom Phone' to multinational corporations (MNCs) and businesses operating in India.

### 4. Visa launches CVV-free payments for tokenised credit, debit cards

- Card payments company Visa has launched a feature that allows users to carry out online transactions without the need to punch in the **cardholder verification value (CVV), if the card has been tokenised.**
- The CVV-free feature launched in India is **aimed at making the online transaction process smoother.**
- Tokenisation masks the card details with a unique code, making the transactions more secure.
- Tokenised transactions are two-factor authenticated, one at the time of tokenisation and later at the time of putting the OTP.

### 5. Paytm Payments Bank rolls out new features on Paytm UPI

- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) rolled out a slew of new features for Paytm UPI, including UPI Lite on iOS, RuPay Credit Card on UPI, Split Bill and alternate UPI ID with the Paytm app to hide mobile numbers, and more.
- PPBL was the first payments bank to go live with UPI Lite on the Paytm Super

App and has seen rapid adoption with about 60 lakh users.

- With RuPay Credit Card on UPI, PPBL has now enabled users to link their RuPay credit cards to an UPI ID on the Paytm app. Users can then simply pay by scanning the UPI-enabled QR code via the Paytm app, eliminating the need to carry cards at all times. Users do not have to wait for an OTP SMS, as they can just pay with their UPI PIN.
- Paytm UPI Lite enables lightning-fast UPI payments that never fail, even during peak transaction hours.
- With the new Split Bill feature, users can create friend groups on Paytm and share the bill in any group. Users can also tag the payments made on Paytm, with which they can view all payments made under a certain tag at any time.

#### 6. Google Pay launches RuPay credit cards support on UPI in India

- Google Pay in conjunction with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) rolled out support for RuPay credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The users can now **link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to pay at all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted.**
- The feature is now available to RuPay credit card holders of Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India.

#### 7. Paytm Money launches bonds platform, making investing easier for retail investors

- One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand said that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm

Money Limited has launched bonds platform for retail investors in India.

- The company is making bonds more accessible for retail investors by offering three distinct types: government bonds, corporate bonds and tax-free bonds.
- Bonds on the Paytm Money app presents investors with all relevant information in one place and convert everything to yield so that investors can analyse and understand the returns they can earn.

#### 8. CoinDCX launches decentralised finance wallet Okto

- Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX has announced the global launch of its **decentralised finance (DeFi) wallet app Okto**, which provides simplified and secure access to DeFi services.
- It has also introduced an AI-based multi-factor authentication to secure self-custodial DeFi wallets
- The wallet is designed to let users swap thousands of tokens and earn from vetted DeFi opportunities.

#### 9. Gupshup launches UPI payment for feature phone users

- Conversational engagement platform Gupshup has introduced UPI payments for people using feature phones via a native app called GSPay.
- The app, developed along with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will use SMS or even IVR based payments system, and do away with the need of data or internet connectivity.
- Gupshup said it was **leveraging UPI 123 Pay**, an instant payment system launched by the Reserve Bank of India and NPCI last year, to enable safe and

secure payments for feature phone users.

- The app will be available on latest models of Nokia 105 and Nokia 106 4G

feature phones, through partnership with HMD Global, which can be used for scanning QR codes to make payments.



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## PSUs

### 1. GRSE Launches Innovation Nurturing Scheme For Ideas In Ship Design, Construction

- In a bid to address challenges in the ship design and construction industry, defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. launched an innovation nurturing scheme that would help generate a large number of ideas.
- The GRSE **Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme 2023** is a two-stage process to help generate a large number of ideas.
- Embarking on a mission to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions towards technological advances in shipbuilding by startups, the Kolkata-based defence shipyard launched GAINS 2023 to

leverage the ecosystem that addresses present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry.

- Artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, as well as efficiency enhancement, are focus areas for GRSE and are the thematic areas of the "GAINS 2023" challenge.

### 2. BPCL develops ethanol-diesel blend to reduce emissions

- Public sector oil marketing company BPCL has developed an ethanol-diesel blend in a bid to reduce emissions.
- The move is in line with its net zero target of 2040. The oil marketing company has been diversifying its operations with focus on petrochemicals and sustainable aviation fuel among other products.



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## States/UT's

### Assam

#### 1. Assam bilingual Braille dictionary is world's largest lexicon

- The 21-volume Braille version of the Assamese-English dictionary **Hemkosh** has become the world's largest lexicon.
- The authorities of the Guinness World Records **handed over a certificate to Jayanta Baruah, the publisher.**
- *The 123-year-old dictionary is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese.*

### Chhattisgarh

#### 1. In A First In India, Chhattisgarh's Gevra Coal Mine Records 50 Million Tonne Production

- The Gevra Mega project in Chhattisgarh recently became the first mine in the country to achieve 50 Million Tonne (MT) of coal production annually.
- The feat is quite remarkable, considering the fact that no Indian mine, until now, has produced more than 50 million tonne of coal in a year.

### Himachal Pradesh

#### 1. World Bank Grant To Help Set Up Integrated Road Safety Enforcement System In Shimla, Nurgur

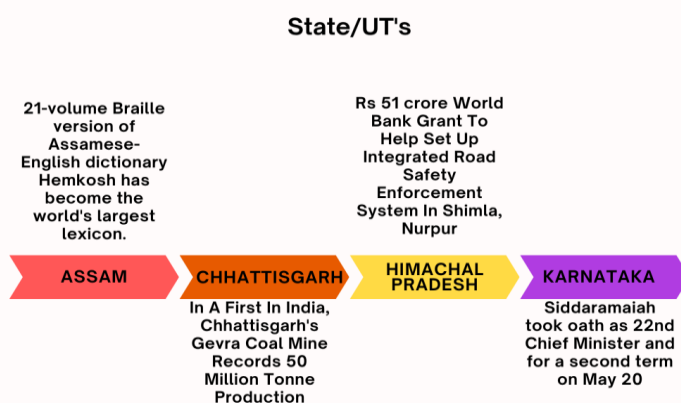
- The World Bank has approved a grant of **Rs 51 crore** to set up an integrated road safety enforcement system in Shimla and Nurgur police districts and develop the Palampur-Sheela chowk in Kangra as a 'safe corridor. For the first phase of the project, Shimla and Nurgur have been selected, and a sum of Rs 42 crore will be spent to strengthen their emergency response.
- The project envisages the establishment of a traffic enforcement

control room in Shimla and the allocation of funds for interceptors and patrol vehicles, an intelligent traffic management system, artificial intelligence (AI) cameras, and rescue equipment, they said.

### Karnataka

#### 1. Siddaramaiah to take oath as Chief Minister for a second term on May 20

- The Congress party formally named Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, along with DK Shivakumar as the Deputy CM.
- The swearing-in ceremony of CM designate was held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.
- He previously **led the government in 2013 for a full term becoming the third CM in the state's history to do so.**
- Siddaramaiah, became the **first CM of Karnataka to serve a complete five-year term between 2013 and 2018 in the last 40 years.** He was also only the third chief minister to do so in the state's history after Devaraj Urs and S Nijalingappa. *If Siddaramaiah completes a full five-year term for a second time he will create a record of becoming the longest-serving CM of Karnataka.*



## Kerala

### 1. Kerala launches KIRF; India's first state to launch its own institutional framework

- The Kerala government has launched its own ranking system for higher education institutes taking a cue from the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- A state-level methodology has been adopted to assess and rank higher education institutions, for which a **key parameter used would be 'Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook(STSO)'**.
- Besides “Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook (STSO)”, the performance parameters are organised into four other broad heads including Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR), Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE), Graduation Outcome (GO), and Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), officials said.

### 2. Kerala Becomes First State To Have Drone Surveillance In All Police Districts

- Kerala has become the first state in the country to have a drone surveillance system in all police districts in the state.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan distributed the drones to all police districts and the drone pilot licences to the specially trained drone pilots.
- *Kerala is the first state to develop a drone forensic lab and an anti-drone system at the state level.*

### 3. Kerala government approves ordinance amending Hospital Protection Act 2012, stringent penal provisions added

- Exactly a week after the murder of doctor Vandana Das, the State Cabinet approved the ordinance, amending the **Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions**

**(Prevention of Violence & Damage to Property) Act, 2012**, by including stringent penal provisions against the perpetrators of violence against hospitals & expanded definition of healthcare workers.

### 4. In a first, Kerala launches welfare fund for workers under employment guarantee scheme

- In a first in the country, the Kerala government launched a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme workers in the State. Launching the initiative, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the workers **who have completed the age of 60 will be entitled for pension under the fund which will also provide financial assistance for medical, education etc.**
- The welfare fund has been formed as per the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021.

### 5. Kerala to be first fully e-governed state

- Kerala is set to declare itself India's first 'total e-governed state'.
- The achievement, which comes decades after Kerala became the first fully-literate state and began its quest to become a fully e-literate society, has been realised through a set of policy initiatives of the government seeking to transform the state into a digitally-empowered society.



## Maharashtra

### 1. Sachin Tendulkar Appointed As 'Smile Ambassador'

- Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as Maharashtra's '**Smile Ambassador**' for the state's **Swachh Mukh Abhiyan**. Maharashtra records the highest number of oral cancer cases in the country.
- Sachin Tendulkar was appointed as "Smile Ambassador" for Maharashtra's Swachh Mukh Abhiyan (SMA), **Swachh Mukh Abhiyan is an initiative aimed at promoting oral hygiene across the state**, In the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the cricketing legend.

### 2. Maharashtra farmers to get Rs 6,000 per annum under new scheme approved by state cabinet

- The Maharashtra government has approved a new financial scheme under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be paid 6,000 rupees annually.
- The scheme, **Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana**, was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai

- The Maharashtra Cabinet also approved implementation of '**Gender Inclusive Tourism Policy** called '**Aai**' to empower women in the tourism sector. Similarly, approval was also given to start women's bike-taxi services at some tourist spots in the State.

## Rajasthan

### 1. New Lithium deposits discovered in Rajasthan after J-K

- After Jammu and Kashmir, lithium reserves have been traced in **Rajasthan's Degana**.
- It is said that lithium reserves are **higher than the ones recently found in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- This was the first significant mineral discovery in India, as previously only a small reserve had been discovered in Karnataka.
- Since lithium is a key component of batteries used in electric vehicles, the government is searching for rare metal reserves both within and outside the country.

## Tamil Nadu

### 1. Tamil Nadu Food Safety Department opens portal for grievances

- The Health minister of Tamil Nadu launched the mobile app '**Tamil Nadu Food Safety Consumer**' and website [www.foodsafety.tn.gov.in](http://www.foodsafety.tn.gov.in) where **consumers can find information on safe food and other details**.
- The website can be accessed in Tamil and English and also has a screen reader facility for ease of access for the differently-abled.

### 2. Tamil Nadu Signs Business Pacts For Rs 800 Crore With Japanese Firms

- A total of **six MoUs** envisaging **Rs 818.90 crore** investments in the fields



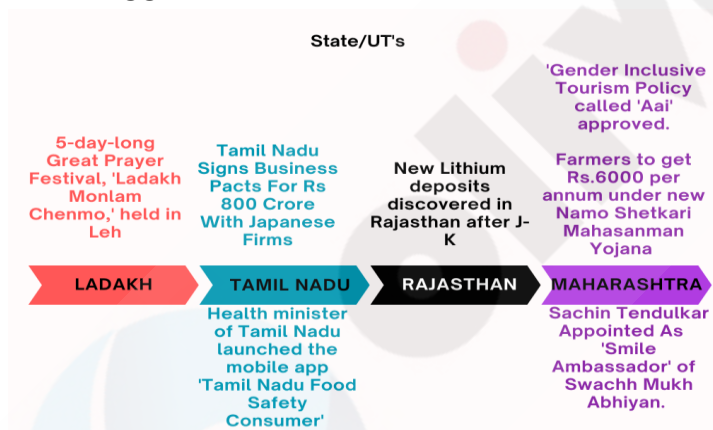
of automotive spares, metals used in space, defence and construction, as well as construction engineering were signed in Tokyo in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin.

- As part of the MoUs, the companies will invest in various parts of Tamil Nadu including in Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts.

## Ladakh

### 1. Ladakh annual festival 'Monlam Chenmo' begins in Leh

- The annual five-day-long Great Prayer Festival, 'Ladakh Monlam Chenmo,' a mass prayer camp by Buddhist monks and nuns for world peace and happiness started in Leh, Ladakh.
- Noteworthy to mention that the Festival falls on 21st to 25th days of the third month of the Tibetan lunar calendar and it has been held since 1991.



## Uttar Pradesh

### 1. Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to make digital health cards for children

- The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched 'School Health Program' making Uttar Pradesh the first state to make digital health cards for children.
- Under the pilot project, the School Health Program has been started by

Lucknow Smart City in three schools in Lucknow.

- A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project.
- Along with this, the benefit of health insurance worth Rs 25,000 is also being given to these children.
- The program is likely to be implemented in the state's other 9 smart cities also after the successful completion of the pilot project.

### 2. First Pharma Park To Be Established in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur District

- The Uttar Pradesh government has recently approved the establishment of the **state's first Pharma Park in the Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.**
- The government has allocated a budget of **Rs 1560 crore** for the development and provision of necessary facilities to investors in **Lalitpur Pharma Park.**
- In addition to the Pharma Park, the Uttar Pradesh government is also setting up a Medical Device Park on 350 acres of land at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YIDA) in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

### 3. Uttar Pradesh's First Land Port Set To Be Operational In Bahraich District, To Enhance Cross-Border Trade With Nepal

- The first land port in Uttar Pradesh, close to the Rupaidiha border in Bahraich, is gearing up for its inauguration.
- Situated around 184 km from Lucknow, the integrated check post has been developed to promote cross-border trade with Nepal and is set to welcome truckers and tourists frequenting the region.



**LUCKNOW SMART CITY**  
ART CITY TO SMART CITY

The Urban Development Department & Lucknow Smart City launched 'School Health Program' making Uttar Pradesh the first state to make digital health cards for children.

**UTTAR PRADESH NEWS**

First land port in Uttar Pradesh, close to the Rupaidiha border in Bahraich operational.

First Pharma Park To Be Established in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur District at Rs.1560 crore



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## Committees

### 1. Group constituted by Ministry of Power for 'Development of Electricity Market in India'

- India's electricity markets are set to undergo significant changes in the shift towards renewable energy. The Ministry of Power constituted a Group for 'Development of Electricity Market in India' under the **chairmanship of Shri Alok Kumar**, Secretary, Ministry of Power, with representation from Ministry of Power, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority.
- The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Grid Controller of India (Grid-India) along with State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu also have representation in the newly formed group.
- The Group for "Development of Electricity Market in India" has proposed comprehensive solutions to address key issues, including the dominance of inflexible long-term contracts, harnessing the inherent

diversity of a large and synchronous grid and the need for Resource Adequacy planning in Centre and States, reduction in system inefficiencies through lesser reliance on self-scheduling, increasing share of renewables in the overall energy mix, encouraging market participation for renewables, and firmness in procurement of ancillary services through well-developed ancillary services market. The solutions are aimed at creating an efficient, optimal, and reliable market framework to enable the energy transition and integration of renewable energy into the grid.

- According to the latest data for 2022-23, the total traded volume in the Indian electricity market was 1,02,276 MU, which represents only a small portion of the energy generated from all sources (including RE) of 16,24,465 MU. The peak demand for electricity in 2022-23 was 215.8 GW, and it is expected to increase to 335 GW by the year 2029-30.

## Important CA

### 1. IRDAI asks insurers to lay down social media norms for employees

- Regulator IRDAI has asked insurance companies to lay down social media guidelines for their employees to **ensure that no unverified or confidential information relating to the organization is disseminated to the public through these platforms.**
- The Information and Cyber Security Guidelines, which were issued by Irda to all insurers, have a specific section on '*Acceptable usage of social media*' -- which states that the employees should be refrained from disseminating any unverified and confidential information on "any Blogs/Chat forums/Discussion forums/Messenger sites/Social networking sites".

**Possible Question:** Which among the following regulatory agencies in India has recently issued social media guidelines for employees to ensure that no unverified or confidential information relating to the organization is disseminated in the public domain?

### 2. Badminton Asia Championships 2023, Highlights: Satwik-Chirag pair wins men's doubles gold medal

- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** scripted history by *becoming the first doubles pair to win a Gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships.* The World No. 6 pair defeated the 8th-ranked pairing of One Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi of Malaysia in a stunning 3-game battle at Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Indoor Hall, Al Nasr Club.

- Satwik and Chirag won India its only second gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships **after Dinesh Khanna's men's singles Gold medal in 1965.**

**Possible Question:** The Badminton Asia Championships 2023 was recently held in \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. BARC director Ajit Mohanty appointed chairman of Atomic Energy Commission

- The government has appointed director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- Mohanty will **replace outgoing secretary and chairman Dr Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas**, who has reached the age of retirement.
- The Department of Atomic Energy comes directly under the Prime Minister's Office, and since its inception in 1954, 'has been engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry and basic research.'

**Possible Question:** Who among the following has been appointed as the chairman of Atomic Energy Commission?

### 4. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited receives the status of Navratna from Centre

- The Department of Public Enterprises granted the status of Navratna to the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).
- In India, Navratna companies are those state-controlled firms that can **receive**

**investments up to a value of Rs 1,000 crore.**

- RVNL is a project-executing agency working for and on behalf of the Ministry of Railways (MoR).
- **India now has 15 Navratnas.**
- Pradeep Gaur: Chairman and Managing Director of RVNL.
- Other **14 Navratna** Companies in India 1. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) 2. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) 3. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) 4. Engineers India Limited (EIL) 5. National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) 6. Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL) 7. National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) 8. Oil India Limited (OIL) 9. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) 10. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) 11. National Aluminium Company (NALCO) 12. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) 13. NLC India Limited (NLCIL) 14. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

**Possible Question:** Recently, which among the following entities has been given the 'Navaratna' status by the Government of India?

### 5. India's green financing requirement estimated at 2.5% of GDP, says RBI Study

- The Reserve Bank of India's report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2022-23 covers **four major dimensions of climate change** to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India.
- The areas are the unprecedented scale and pace of climate change; its

macroeconomic effects; implications for financial stability; and policy options to mitigate climate risks.

- The country's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070 would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by around 5 percent annually and a significant improvement in its energy-mix in favour of renewables to around 80 percent by 2070-71.
- Citing the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the report said the cumulative total expenditure for adapting to climate change in India is estimated to be Rs 85.6 lakh crore (at 2011-12 prices) by the year 2030.
- According to the report, a balanced policy intervention with progress ensured across all policy levers will enable India to achieve its green transition targets by 2030, making the net zero goal by 2070 attainable. "Climate change is upon us".

**Possible Question:** The Reserve Bank of India's report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2022-23 covered how many major dimensions of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India?

### 6. RBI Imposes Rs 1.73 Crore Penalty On HSBC

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on HSBC for non-compliance with norms. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers, the Reserve Bank of



India said in a statement. HSBC Holdings plc is a British multinational universal bank.

- Besides, the RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 2 lakh on the Trichur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Thrissur, Kerala** for non-compliance with directions issued by the central bank on Management of Advances - UCBs.
- In a separate statement, the RBI said it has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1.25 lakh on Bhilai Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh)** for contravention of/non-compliance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.

**Possible Question:** The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on HSBC for non-compliance with norms.

### 7. Fakhar Zaman, Naruemol Chaiwai crowned ICC players of the month for April

- **Pakistan** batter Fakhar Zaman was named the ICC Men's Player of the month for April while **Thailand** skipper Naruemol Chaiwai was adjudged best in the women's section after both produced match-winning performances for their countries in the ODIs.
- Fakhar becomes the *first Pakistan player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen* in November 2022.

**Possible Question:** Who among the following was named as the ICC Men's Player of the month for April 2023?

### 8. Lionel Messi wins Laureus sportsman of the year, Argentina take best team award

- Argentina's World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi was named the Laureus

Sportsman of the Year at the awards ceremony in Paris.

- Messi also received an award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who were named World Team of the Year after their triumph at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
- **Sprint champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce bagged the top women's honour.**
- Messi has previously won the award once before, sharing it with Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton in 2020.
- Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.
- Tennis player *Carlos Alcaraz*, who won the 2022 U.S. Open and rose to number one in the ATP rankings, was named the **Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year.**
- *Christian Eriksen*, who recovered from the cardiac arrest he suffered at the European Championship in 2021 to return to Premier League football with Brentford and then Manchester United before competing at the World Cup with Denmark, received the **Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.**

**Possible Question:** Who among the following won Laureus Sportsman of the Year 2023?

### 9. DGTR Recommends Anti-Dumping Duty On Optical Fibre Imported From China, Korea, Indonesia

- The commerce ministry's arm, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies, has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of a certain type of optical fibre from China, Korea, and Indonesia **to protect the**

### domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments.

- The product is mainly applied to high-data-rate, long-distance, and access network transportation.
- DGTR has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of "dispersion unshifted single-mode optical fibre" from these countries.

**Possible Question:** Recently, the Director General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of a certain type of optical fibre from which of the following to protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments?

China

South Korea

Indonesia

Australia

### 10. Elon Musk hires ex-NBCUniversal ad chief Linda Yaccarino to be Twitter's CEO

- Twitter boss Elon Musk announced Linda Yaccarino as the new CEO of the micro-blogging social media platform.
- Yaccarino **has worked at NBCUniversal** for nearly 12 years ' with her team generating more than USD 100 billion in ad sales since 2011

**Possible Question:** Who among the following has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a microblogging platform, Twitter?

### 11. India's overall exports in April 2023 estimated at USD 65.02 billion; a positive growth of 2 percent.

- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April 2023 is estimated to be USD 65.02 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 2.00 per

cent over April 2022. Overall imports in April 2023 is estimated to be USD 66.40 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 7.92 per cent over April 2022.

- Merchandise exports in April 2023 were USD 34.66 Billion, as compared to USD 39.70 Billion in April 2022.
- Merchandise imports in April 2023 were USD 49.90 Billion, as compared to USD 58.06 Billion in April 2022.
- Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports in April 2023 were USD 25.76 Billion, compared to USD 28.37 Billion in April 2022.
- Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery (gold, silver & precious metals) imports in April 2023 were USD 31.49 Billion, compared to USD 36.00 Billion in April 2022.
- The estimated value of services export for April 2023\* is USD 30.36 Billion, as compared to USD 24.05 Billion in April 2022.
- The estimated value of services import for April 2023\* is USD 16.50 Billion as compared to USD 14.06 Billion in April 2022.
- Riding on the high exports base of April 2022 India's overall exports is projected to grow at 2 percent during April 2023.
- Under merchandise exports, **11 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth** in April 2023 as compared to the same period last year (April 2022). These include Oil Meals (95.14%), Electronic Goods (26.49%), Rice (24.01%), Oil Seeds (18.01%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (17.21%), Spices (14.44%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (10.45%), Fruits & Vegetables (9.96%), Tobacco (6.28%), Coffee (4.17%) and

Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (2.03%).

- Exports of Electronic goods increased by 26.49 percent during April 2023 at USD 2.11 Billion as compared to USD 1.67 Billion in April 2022.
- Textiles, Plastic & Linoleum exports continued to decline in April 2023 because of subdued demand due to recessionary effects in major economies.
- Under merchandise imports, **23 out of 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in April 2023.**
- Services exports remain robust and projected to grow at 26.24 percent during April 2023 over April 2022.

**Possible Question:** According to latest newspaper report, India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April 2023 is estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_.

## 12. Govt appoints AK Jain as new PNGRB Chairman

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of AK Jain as the new chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- He has been appointed as the Chairperson PNGRB "for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 65 years.
- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Bill, 2005 establishes the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to regulate downstream activities in the petroleum and natural gas sector.

**Possible Question:** In May 2023, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of who

among the following as the new chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)?

## 13. Centre Appoints Ravneet Kaur As Chairperson Of Competition Commission Of India

- The central government has appointed Ravneet Kaur, as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- She is the **first woman in India to be appointed to this position** and will serve for a period of five years or until reaching the age of 65.
- The Commission comprises a Chairperson and six Members who are appointed by the Central Government.
- The goals of the Competition Act, 2002 are aimed at being accomplished through the establishment of the CCI, which was set up by the Central Government on 14th October 2003.
- There has been no full-time Chairperson for the competition regulator since Ashok Kumar Gupta demitted office in October 2022. CCI Member Sangeeta Verma has been acting as the Chairperson since October last year.

**Possible Question:** In May 2023, The central government has appointed who among the following as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

## 14. RBI asks banks to ensure complete move away from LIBOR by July

- The Reserve Bank of India told banks and other regulated entities to ensure a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) **from July 1.**

- The complete transition from LIBOR is a significant event in the global financial markets which requires continued attention from all stakeholders to mitigate operational risks and ensure an orderly transitions.
- RBI advised institutions not to do new LIBOR-linked or the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR)-linked financial deals.
- **LIBOR is an average of the estimated interest rates submitted by leading UK banks. LIBOR is a benchmark rate against which global lenders mark their transactions.**
- On March 05, 2021, The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) of the United Kingdom (UK) announced that all LIBOR settings (interest rates) will either cease to be provided or no longer be representative.
- The FCA said the LIBOR will cease to exist after December 31, 2021, in the case of all Pound Sterling, Euro, Swiss Franc, and Japanese Yen settings, and the 1-week and 2-month US Dollar settings. The remaining US Dollar settings would cease to exist after June 30, 2023.
- The RBI has offered **options like the SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate), which is linked to US treasury market transactions, and the Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR). SOFR is considered a more accurate and more secure pricing benchmark.**
- SOFR is a broad measure of the cost of borrowing cash overnight, collateralised by (US) treasury securities in the repo market. It is based on the actual market activity and

is not dependent on a few firms to set the rates.

- Banks use benchmark rates like LIBOR to price international transactions while issuing financial instruments. Banks will have to work on updating their systems and agreements.

**Possible Question:** The Reserve Bank of India told banks and other regulated entities to ensure a complete transition away from the LIBOR from July 1. L in LIBOR stands for

**15. Indian Economy expected to grow by 5.8% in 2023 & 6.7% in 2024, says World Economic Situation & Prospects report released by UN**

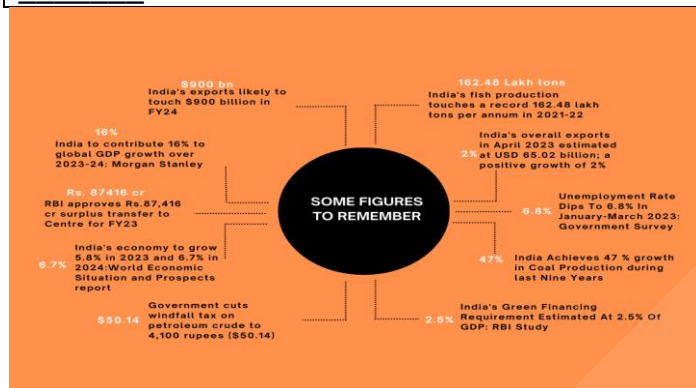
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations has reposed its faith in the Indian economy. The report said that India is expected to grow by **5.8 percent in 2023 and 6.7 percent in 2024**. With this, India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world. The growth will be supported by resilient domestic demand.
- The UN report said that India remains a bright spot amid global economic uncertainty.
- It said that inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5 percent in 2023 with the moderation of global commodity prices and slower currency depreciation.
- The report said that economic growth in India is expected to remain strong while the prospects for other South Asian nations are more challenging.
- Since India's inflation is about 5.5 percent, India will have significant room for both fiscal expansion and



monetary accommodation to support the domestic demand.

- The report said the **world economy is projected to grow by 2.3 percent in 2023 and 2.5 percent in 2024.**

**Possible Question:** The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023, released by UN, said India's economy, is expected to expand by \_\_\_\_\_ in 2023 and \_\_\_\_\_ in 2024



## 16. Union Cabinet Reshuffle: Arjun Meghwal New Law Minister, Kiren Rijiju Given Charge Of Earth Sciences Ministry

- Arjun Ram Meghwal, who has been the minister of state for Culture, has been assigned the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice in addition to his existing portfolios, in place of Shri Kiren Rijiju, the President's Secretariat said in a statement.
- Rijiju took over as the Law and Justice Minister on July 8, 2021.
- Prior to this, he served as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Youth Affairs and Sports from May 2019 to July 2021.
- Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State has been assigned as Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in place of Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

**Possible Question:** In May 2023, Arjun Ram Meghwal was assigned the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of

Law and Justice, he replaced who among the following?

## 17. RBI to withdraw 2,000 rupee notes from circulation; To remain as legal tender

- In pursuance of the 'Clean Note Policy' of the Reserve Bank of India has said it will withdraw **Rs.2,000 notes from circulation and people can exchange or deposit them in their bank accounts by September 30.**
- RBI's 19 regional offices and other banks will start taking Rs.2,000 notes for exchange with lower denomination one from May 23.
- They will remain legal tender.
- The **Rs.2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of RBI Act, 1934**, primarily to meet the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after the withdrawal of legal tender status of all Rs.500 and Rs.1000 banknotes in circulation at that time. The objective of introducing Rs 2,000 banknotes was met once banknotes in other denominations became available in adequate quantities. Therefore, printing of Rs 2000 banknotes was stopped in 2018- 19.

**Possible Question:** In pursuance of the 'Clean Note Policy', the Reserve Bank of India has said it will withdraw Rs.2,000 notes from circulation. Which of the following is/are true regarding the same? People can exchange or deposit the Rs.2000 notes in their bank accounts by September 30.

Rs.2000 notes will not be a legal tender from October 1, 2023.

The Rs.2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016

### 18. Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov wins International Booker Prize for 'Time Shelter'

- 'Time Shelter' penned by Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov and translated by Angela Rodel, has become the 1st book, written in Bulgarian to bag the International Booker Prize.
- A 50,000 pound prize is awarded yearly to any outstanding work of fiction (novel or short story collection) that has been translated into English. It is split equally between the author and the translator.
- Time Shelter has also won Italy's Strega European Prize for literature in Italian translation.
- The International Booker Prize is awarded yearly to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland.
- Last year's winners were Indian writer **Geetanjali Shree** and American translator **Daisy Rockwell** for Tomb of Sand.

**Possible Question:** Who among the following has won the International Booker Prize for 'Time Shelter'?

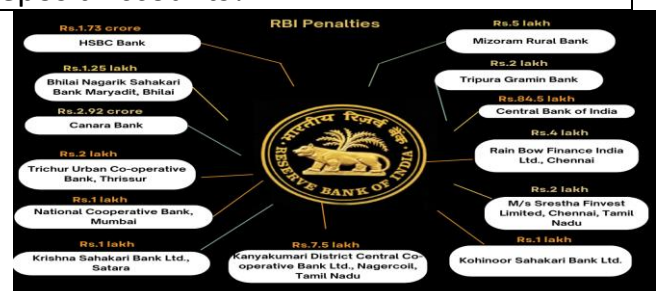
### 19. RBI imposes monetary penalty on The National Cooperative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.1.00 lakh** on **The National Cooperative Bank Ltd., Mumbai** (the bank) for contravention of directions issued by RBI on Maintenance of Deposit Accounts.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of **Section 47 A (1) (c)** read with **Section 46 (4) (i)** and **Section**

### 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 1.00 lakh (Rupees One lakh only)** on **Krishna Sahakari Bank Ltd., Satara (the bank)**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 4.00 lakh (Rupees Four lakh only)** on **Rain Bow Finance India Ltd., Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 2.00 lakh (Rupees Two lakh only)** on **M/s Srestha Finvest Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (the company)**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 7.50 lakh (Rupees Seven lakh Fifty thousand only)** on **The Kanyakumari District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu**.

**Possible Question:** Which of the following Acts empower the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to impose monetary penalty on banking entities in India for contravention of directions issued by the RBI on maintenance of Deposit Accounts?



### 20. Dream11 CEO Harsh Jain To Be New Chief Of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)

- Dream Sports Chief Executive Officer Harsh Jain has been appointed as the new chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India Jain has

replaced Sanjay Gupta, vice president and country manager at Google India.

- The council will be in power for a two-year term, from 2023 to 2025.
- **Rajesh Magow**, co-founder and group CEO of MakeMyTrip has been **elected vice chairman**. Anupam Mittal, CEO of People Group, was the first chairperson of the IAMAI in 2006 - 2007.
- Other top Indian startup and tech executive names that will be a part of the four-member executive council are Rajesh Magow, co-founder and group chief executive officer of MakeMyTrip, and Satyan Gajwani, vice chairman of Times Internet.

**Possible Question:** Who among the following has been appointed as the chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25?

## 21. Unemployment Rate Dips To 6.8% In January-March 2023: Government Survey

- The **unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas** declined to **6.8% during January-March 2023 from 8.2% a year ago**, the National Sample Survey showed. Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- In January-March 2022, the unemployment rate was 8.2%.
- Joblessness was high in January-March 2022, mainly due to the staggering impact of Covid-related restrictions in the country. The unemployment rate in July-September 2022 and October-December 2022 was 7.2% only. It was 7.6% in April-June 2022.
- The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in April-June

2022 was 7.6% in urban areas, the 18th Periodic Labour Force Survey showed.

**Possible Question:** According to recent data by National Sample Survey, In India, the unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to \_\_\_\_\_ during January-March 2023.

## 22. World No Tobacco Day 2023 | 31st May

- On **31 May 2023**, WHO and public health champions around the world come together to celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**. This year's theme is "**We need food, not tobacco**". The 2023 global campaign aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops.
- In **1987**, the World Health Organization state members established "World No Tobacco Day" to raise awareness about the devastating effects (deaths and disease) of tobacco usage on public health around the world. The World Health Assembly declared April 7, 1988, "a world no-smoking day" in 1987. In 1988, Resolution was enacted, designating May 31 as World No Tobacco Day.

**Possible Question:** The 'World No Tobacco Day' is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise awareness about the devastating effects (deaths and disease) of tobacco usage on public health around the world.



## MAY 2023

### Some Important Events

NAV RATNA STATUS TO RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED	UNION CABINET RESHUFFLE: ARJUN MEGHWAL NEW LAW MINISTER, KIREN RIJITU GIVEN CHARGE OF EARTH SCIENCES MINISTRY
RBI TO WITHDRAW 2,000 RUPEE NOTES FROM CIRCULATION; TO REMAIN AS LEGAL TENDER	DEFENCE MINISTRY RELEASES 4TH POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST OF 928 ITEMS WHICH WILL HELP THE GOVERNMENT AVOID IMPORTS WORTH ₹715 CRORE.
CABINET NOD FOR RS 1.08 LAKH CRORE KHARIF FERTILIZER SUBSIDY	CYCLONE MOCHA HITS COASTLINE OF MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL LEVIES RS 4,000 CRORE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPENSATION ON BIHAR	DEFENCE PRODUCTION CROSSES ONE LAKH CRORE RUPEES MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23
ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES ITS NEXT-GENERATION NAVIGATIONAL SATELLITE - NVS-1 FROM SRIHARIKOTA	INDIA'S AI PUSH: MICROSOFT LAUNCHES 'JUGALBANDI', AI- BASED MULTILINGUAL CHATBOT FOR RURAL INDIA
INDIA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHT POWERED BY INDIGENOUS SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL FLIES FROM PUNE TO DELHI	THE US APPROVED THE WORLD'S FIRST RSV VACCINE THAT IS MEANT FOR OLDER ADULTS.
JIOCINEMA BREAKS WORLD RECORD WITH OVER 3.2 CR VIEWERS DURING IPL FINAL	PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA, PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA AND APY COMPLETE 8 YEARS
INDIAN RAILWAYS HAS CREATED HISTORY BY BUILDING THE WORLD'S HIGHEST CHENAB RAILWAY BRIDGE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.	THE ANJI-KHAD RAIL BRIDGE, INDIA'S FIRST CABLE-STAYED RAIL BRIDGE, IS READY.

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SBI & IBPS PO 2023

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Live Sessions



400+ Tests with  
Performance Report



Covers High-Level DI,  
Puzzles, and RC for  
Mains

Coverage of Banking, Financial Awareness +  
Current Affairs & Economy

**View Details**





## 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
Arun Nanda	Chairman of Mahindra Holidays and Resorts
Vanessa Hudson	Chief Financial Officer of Australian airline Qantas Group
Debadatta Chand	Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda
Ajay Banga	President of World Bank
Harjinder Kang	Trade Commissioner to South Asia and Deputy High Commissioner for Western India
Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad	Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL)
Ajay Vij	Country Managing Director of Accenture India
P Krishna Bhat	Administrator of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI)
Parminder Chopra	Chairman and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation
Saugata Gupta	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico
S N Subrahmanyam	Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Larsen & Toubro
Geeta Rao Gupta	Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department
Praveen Sood	Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
Pramod Bhasin	Chairman of the Data Security Council of India (DSCI)
Prashant Kumar Mishra	Judges of Supreme Court
Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan	Judges of Supreme Court
Manoj Soni	Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
Jayakumar S. Pillai	Deputy Managing Director of IBDI Bank
Jaswant Singh Birdi	Lord Mayor of Coventry, UK
Dr K. Govindaraj	President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
Sourav Ganguly	Ambassador of Tripura tourism
R Dinesh	President of CII
Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank
Vijay Shekhar Sharma	Part Time Chairman of Paytm Payments Bank
Praveen Kumar Srivastava	Central Vigilance Commissioner

<b>Girish Chandra Murmu</b>	External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO)
<b>Recep Tayyip Erdogan</b>	President of Turkey
<b>Justice Ramesh Devkinandan Dhanuka</b>	Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court
<b>Justice Augustine George Masih</b>	Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court
<b>Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty</b>	Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy
<b>AK Jain</b>	Chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)
<b>Siddaramaiah</b>	Chief Minister of Karnataka
<b>DK Shivakumar</b>	Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
<b>Ravneet Kaur</b>	Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)
<b>Arjun Ram Meghwal</b>	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Minister of Earth Sciences

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Maharashtra Day	
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	International Labour Day	
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Gujarat Day	
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	International Firefighters Day	
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	World Portuguese Language Day	
<b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	World Athletics Day	Athletics for All – A New Beginning
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	World Thalassaemia Day	
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	World Red Cross	Everything we do comes #fromtheheart
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	World Lupus Day	
<b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b>	National Technology Day	School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate
<b>May 12<sup>th</sup></b>	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Families	Demographic Trends and Families
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup></b>	UN Global Road Safety Week	
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Living Together in Peace	
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Light	Light for the Future
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	National Dengue Day	Fight Dengue, Save Lives
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	World Telecommunication Day	Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer

<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	International Museum Day	Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing
<b>May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	National Endangered Species Day	
<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	World Metrology Day	Measurements supporting the global food system
<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	World Bee Day	Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	National Anti-Terrorism Day	
<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	International Day for Biological Diversity	From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	World Turtles Day	I love turtles
<b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	World Thyroid Day	
<b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b>	International Missing Children's Day	
<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	
<b>May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	World No Tobacco Day	We need food, not tobacco

## SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
<b>Ding Liren</b>	Chess
<b>Ian Nepomniachtchi</b>	Chess
<b>Sergio Perez</b>	Car racing
<b>Max Verstappen</b>	Car racing
<b>Mairaj Ahmad Khan</b>	Shooting
<b>Ganemat Sekhon</b>	Shooting
<b>Neeraj Chopra</b>	Javelin throw
<b>Jakub Vadlejch</b>	Javelin throw
<b>Luca Brecel</b>	Snooker
<b>Joe Davis</b>	Snooker
<b>Jeremy Lalrinnunga</b>	Weightlifting
<b>Bindyarani Devi</b>	Weightlifting
<b>Chen Guan Ling</b>	Weightlifting
<b>Praveen Chithravel</b>	Triple Jump
<b>Rhythm Sangwan</b>	Shooting
<b>Deepak Bhorla</b>	Boxing
<b>Mohammed Hussamuddin</b>	Boxing
<b>Nishant Dev</b>	Boxing
<b>Divya TS</b>	Shooting
<b>Sarabjot Singh</b>	Shooting
<b>Hriday Hazarika</b>	Shooting

Nancy Mandhotra	Shooting
Pradip Kumar Banerjee	Football
Suhana Saini	Tennis
Ankur Bhattacharjee	Tennis
Payas Jain	Tennis
V.Praneeth	Chess
Shaili Singh	Long Jump
Sameer Verma	Badminton
Murali Sreeshankar	Long Jump
MS Dhoni	Cricket
Hardik Pandya	Cricket
Shubman Gill	Cricket
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Cricket
Glenn Maxwell	Cricket
Shubman Gill	Cricket
Rashid Khan	Cricket
Mohammed Shami	Cricket
HS Prannoy	Badminton
Jyothi Yarraji	Hurdles
Cristiano Ronaldo	Football
Devon Thomas	Cricket
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
Fakhar Zaman	Cricket
Naruemol Chaiwai	Cricket
Lionel Messi	Football

## SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
Smart Cities Mission	Redevelopment of Cities
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana	Accident Insurance Scheme
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana	Life Insurance Scheme
Atal Pension Yojana	Pension Scheme
Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme	Promote investment among women
"75/25" initiative	Combat rising burden of Non- communicable diseases
Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)	Regional Connectivity Scheme
Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram	Address development deficits in the identified minority concentration areas
Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi scheme	Promotion of Generic Medicine



<b>Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana (Maharashtra)</b>	One crore farmers in Maharashtra to be paid 6,000 rupees annually
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### Agreements & MOU's

<b>ENTITIES INVOLVED</b>	<b>MOU THEME</b>
<b>Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL) and Ceylon Beverage International</b>	Co-pack and manufacture its Campa soft drinks cans
<b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and RITES Limited</b>	Technical assistance for Solid Waste Management (SWM) & UWM under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
<b>Airtel Payments Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)</b>	Face Authentication for AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment System)
<b>India and Israel</b>	Industrial research and development cooperation
<b>Bharat Electronics Ltd(BEL) and Emjay Control Systems</b>	Manufacture and develop business for electro-mechanical bollards for use in various defence, homeland security, paramilitary, and export projects.
<b>Ministry of Housing &amp; Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways</b>	'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART).
<b>JSW Energy and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)</b>	Power Purchasing Agreement for Wind Energy Project
<b>India Post with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Tripta Technologies</b>	Logistic Service
<b>PTC India and Brookfield Renewables</b>	Purchase 100 MW of solar power on a long-term basis
<b>MakeMyTrip and Microsoft</b>	Introducing voice assisted booking in Indian languages
<b>MyGov and Ministry of Culture</b>	Launching a YUVA PRATIBHA Singing Talent Hunt
<b>Yubi and Indian Bank</b>	Extend digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs)
<b>National Highways &amp; Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and IIT Guwahati</b>	Collaborate for research and development in the areas of civil engineering, road construction, planning and design.
<b>India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	Support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh
<b>Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF)</b>	Skill Development
<b>Tata Consultancy Services and Google Cloud</b>	AI technology
<b>HDFC Bank and Manipal Global Academy of BFSI</b>	Groom young graduates into banking professionals
<b>Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of</b>	Promote and develop Unani system of medicine in India

<b>Minority Affairs</b>	
<b>Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand</b>	To collaborate towards enhancing the tourism landscape of both Goa and Uttarakhand
<b>India and Australia</b>	Migration and Mobility Partnership
<b>Government of Israel and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)</b>	Establish water resources management and water technologies
<b>Zomato and ICICI Bank</b>	Zomato Unified Payment System
<b>India and the European Union</b>	Policies regarding Semi-conductor sector
<b>India and the US</b>	Build resilient supply chain in semiconductor sector
<b>IBM and NASA</b>	Design a new geospatial foundation model to track climate change on Earth
<b>Ministry of Ayush and the Indian Council of Medical Research</b>	Promote and collaborate on integrative health research
<b>AirIndia and Vistara</b>	Interline partnership enabling passengers to travel between the two airlines' network seamlessly.

## DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
<b>Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan</b>	Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
<b>1st ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)</b>	Indian and ASEAN navies
<b>Buland Bharat</b>	Indian Army (held in Arunachal Pradesh)
<b>35th India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)</b>	India and Thailand
<b>4th Samudra Shakti</b>	India and Indonesia
<b>Jal Rahat Flood Relief Exercise</b>	Indian Army in Assam

## INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
<b>India and Russia</b>	RuPay and Mir card payment possibility
<b>India and Australia</b>	Australian Government Grant for a Project in Kargil.
<b>India and UAE</b>	FTA to reach \$50 bn by 2026-27
<b>India and Maldives</b>	Defence and Shipping service
<b>India and Bangladesh</b>	Border Haat and start-ups exchange programme
<b>India and Canada</b>	Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)
<b>India and World Bank</b>	Loan for Zoonotic disease control
<b>India and EU</b>	Quantum and high-performance computing research and development
<b>India and USA</b>	Education and Skill Development
<b>India and Nepal</b>	Hydropower

## ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY
BharatPe	Trillion Loans
JP Morgan Chase	First Republic Bank
Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd.(ABFRL)	TCNS Clothing Co.
Lupin Ltd	Medisol Lifescience Pvt
Reliance Retail	Metro
Credit Suisse Group AG (merger with)	UBS Group AG
Blackstone	International Gemological Institute
JSW Steel Coated Products Limited	National Steel and Agro Industries (NSAIL)
HDFC AMC (merger with)	HDFC Bank
Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd	Lotus Chocolate Company
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd	Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd
Bharti Airtel Lanka (merger with)	Dialog

## BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	SEBI in news	IRDAI in news
RBI mandates rupee-only settlement of fees for certain cards	SEBI Slaps Rs 10 Lakh Fine On Angel Broking For Flouting Regulatory Norms	IRDAI asks insurers to lay down social media norms for employees
RBI cancels certificate of registration of 7 NBFCs, 14 surrender permits	Leading drone maker ideaForge gets Sebi nod for IPO	
RBI approves '87,416 cr surplus transfer to Centre for FY23	SEBI Introduces Legal Identifier System For Issuers With Listed NCDs, Securitised Debt	
RBI asks banks to ensure complete move away from LIBOR by July	Sebi allows FPIs direct access to exchange-traded commodity derivatives	
RBI to withdraw 2,000 rupee notes from circulation; To remain as legal tender	SEBI proposes 4 key revamps to strengthen corporate governance in securities market	
	Sebi proposes expanding definition of Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) for debt market	

**AWARDS**

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
<b>Dr M.N. Nandakumara</b> (for services to Indian classical arts in Britain)	Honorary MBE	Order of the British Empire
<b>Barbara Kingsolver for Demon Copperhead, Hernan Diaz for Trust</b>	2023 Pulitzer Prize - Fiction	Award administered by Columbia University for achievements in newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature, and musical composition within the United States.
<b>Associated Press</b>	2023 Pulitzer Prize - Journalism(public service and breaking news photography)	
<b>Omar by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels</b>	2023 Pulitzer Prize - Music	
<b>Jayant Narlikar</b>	Astronomical Society of India's Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award	Astronomy
<b>Cochin Port</b>	Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award - for best turnaround time in non-container port category.	Ports
<b>Deendayal Port</b>	Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award - Absolute Performance for the year 2022-23 for handling highest cargo of 137.56 MMT	
<b>Arinze Ifeakandu</b>	2023 Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize	Literature
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Companion of the Order of Fiji and Companion of the Order of Logohu by Papua New Guinea.	Highest honour of respective nations
<b>Damodar Mauzo</b>	57th Jnanpith Award	Literature
<b>Lionel Messi</b>	Laureus Sportsman of the Year	Sports
<b>Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce</b>	Laureus Sportswoman of the Year	
<b>Fakhar Zaman(Pakistan)</b>	ICC Men's Player of the Month for April	
<b>Naruemol Chaiwai (Thailand)</b>	ICC Women's Player of the Month for April	



<b>Bulgarian Author Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel for Time Shelter</b>	International Booker Prize	Literature
<b>Hrithik Roshan</b>	2023 IIFA - Best Actor (male)	Entertainment
<b>Alia Bhatt</b>	2023 IIFA - Best Actor (female)	
<b>Natarajan Chandrasekaran</b>	Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour)	France's highest civilian award

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
<b>SCO Foreign Ministers Council meeting</b>		Panaji, Goa
<b>Global Chess League in June-July 2023</b>		Dubai
<b>Machines Can See 2023 by UAE</b>		Dubai
<b>56th Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	Rebounding Asia: Recover, Reconnect and Reform	Incheon, South Korea
<b>1st Mining Start-up Summit</b>		Mumbai
<b>G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs (Non Fungible Tokens), AI and Metaverse in July</b>		Gurugram
<b>27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)</b>		New Delhi
<b>National Logistics Management Seminar, LOGISEM - 23</b>	Leverage Emerging Global Supply Chain to Enhance Logistics Capabilities While Absorbing Disruptions	New Delhi
<b>Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 (APIC 2023)</b>	Ushering in a Sustainable Future	New Delhi
<b>49th G7 summit</b>		Hiroshima, Japan
<b>76th World Health Assembly</b>	WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all	Geneva, Switzerland
<b>G20: 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting</b>		Bengaluru
<b>International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals</b>		New Delhi
<b>G20: 2nd Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting</b>		Mumbai

International Climate Research Conclave (ICRC-2023)		IIT Bombay
14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI8) meetings in July	Advancing Clean Energy Together	Goa
G20:Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting		Tehri, Uttarakhand
Conclave on Emerging Standards on Auditing, Public Policy, and Crypto		Dubai
1st India-EU trade and technology council (TTC) meeting		Brussels, Belgium

## COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
Development of Electricity Market in India	Union Power Ministry	Alok Kumar

## RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Future of Jobs Report 2023	World Economic Forum		
ODF Plus Rankings	Swachh Bharat Mission	Wayanad in Kerala - tops	
2023 World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)	161	Norway
National Manufacturing Innovation Survey 2021-22	Department of Science and Technology	Karnataka	
2023 PEAK Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for IT services.	Everest Group	Accenture	
Data Governance Quality Index for Q3 of FY23	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	
Prime Global Cities	Knight Frank	Mumbai - 6th/46	Dubai

Index Q1 2023			
Top buyer from GeM portal in FY23	Union Commerce Ministry	Uttar Pradesh	
61st Top 500 Global Supercomputing List	Released at International Supercomputing Conference 2023	AIRAWAT at C-DAC, Pune - 75th	Frontier System, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Tori Bowie	Sprinter and Long Jumper- Olympian
Srichand Parmanand Hinduja	Chairman of the Hinduja Group
Karumuttu T Kannan	Industrialist
Tina Turner	Singer



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## IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose



## UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

## UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj

<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Earth Sciences
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
<b>Arjun Meghwal</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice




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