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English Medium

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Coverage from 26th DEC.2022 to 25th JAN.2023

Current Affairs



PADMA AWARDS
PADMA AWARDS 2023

The Union ministry of home affairs announced **106** Padma Awards for the year 2023.



108th Indian Science Congress

108th Indian Science Congress was held at **R.T.M. Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra** from Jan 3-7, 2023.



Henley Passport Index 2023

India Ranks **85th** in the Index; Japan Tops



MV Ganga Vilas

PM Modi launched the **world's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas'** in Varanasi.



Chris Hipkins

Chris Hipkins sworn in as the **41st Prime Minister** of New Zealand. He succeeds Jacinda Ardern.



Cyclone - I

The first joint exercise between the **special forces of the Indian and the Egyptian Army, 'Exercise Cyclone - I'** held at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from January 14 to 27.



INS Vagir

Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari class submarines '**INS Vagir**' was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on **23 Jan 2023** at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai.



Golden Globe Awards 2023

'**Naatu Naatu**' song from '**RRR**' movie wins Golden Globe Award for best original song.



Pele

Brazilian football legend **Pele** passed away at 82.

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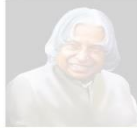
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Don't take a rest after your first victory because if you fail in seconds, more lips are waiting to say that your first victory was just luck.

-APJ Abdul Kalam



CONTENTS

- PADMA AWARDS 2023
-
- INTERNATIONAL
-
- NATIONAL
-
- STATES
-
- ECONOMY AND BANKING
-
- RBI UPDATES
-
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
-
- DEFENCE
-
- AWARDS AND HONOURS
-
- SPORTS
-
- PERSONS IN NEWS
-
- APPOINTMENTS
-
- REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKINGS
-
- IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES
-
- CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS
-



RBI CURRENT RATES

Policy Rates	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy August 2022	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy October 2022	Bi-monthly Monetary Policy December 2022
Repo Rate	5.40%	5.90%	6.25%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%	3.35%	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.65%	6.15%	6.50%
Bank Rate	5.65%	6.15%	6.50%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	5.15%	5.65%	6%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%	18.00%	18.00%

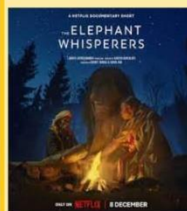
Oscars 2023

India gets three nominations



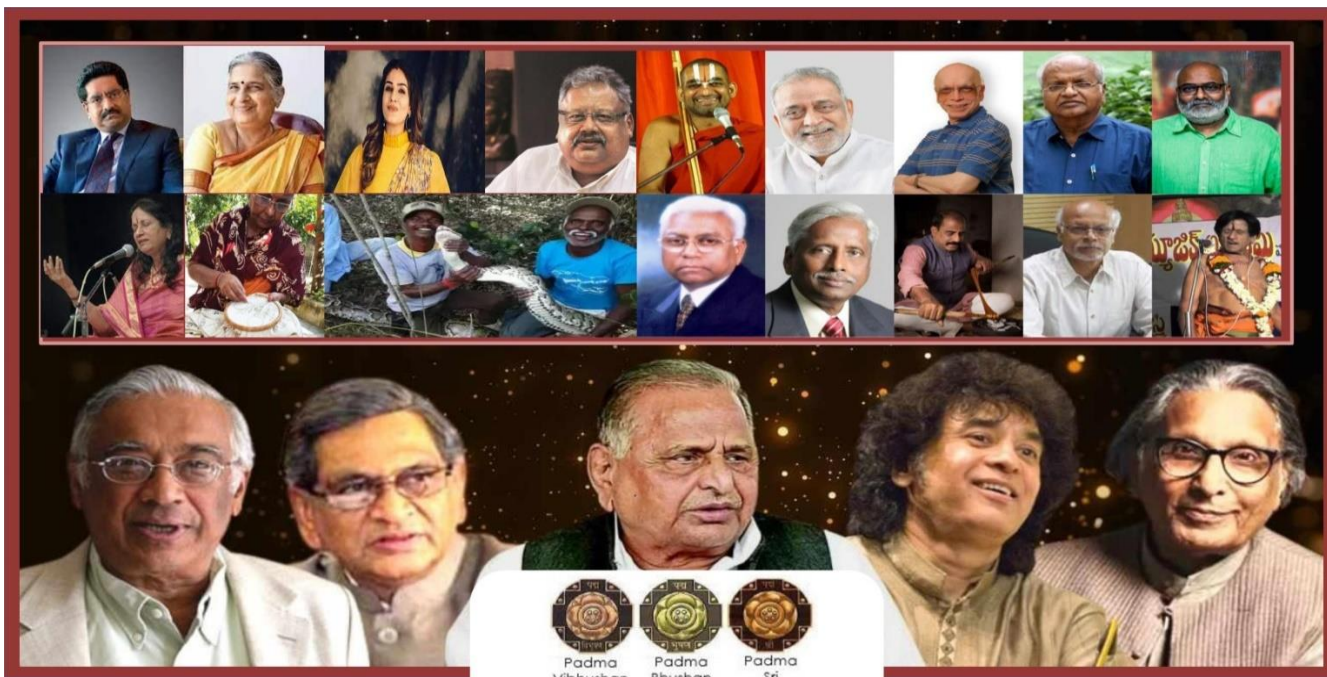
'Naatu Naatu' song from 'RRR' movie was nominated for the **Best Original Song Category**

'All That Breathes' was nominated for the **Best Documentary Feature Film Category**



'The Elephant Whisperers' was nominated for the **Best Short Documentary Film Category**

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The Union Ministry of Home Affairs Announced Padma Awards 2023

The Union ministry of home affairs announced the Padma Awards for the year 2023, the president of india Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per the list comprises 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 2 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 7 Posthumous awardees.

- ✓ The Padma Awards on the event of the country's 74th Republic Day on 26th January 2023, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Zakir Hussain, KM Birla and Sudha Murty are among 106 Padma Award recipients this year.
- ✓ Chinna Jeeyar Swami and Kamlesh D Patel both in Spiritualism from Telangana have been conferred Padma Bhushan. Three from Telangana and 7 from Andhra Pradesh have been conferred Padma Shri.

About Padma Awards

- ✓ Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories,

namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

- ✓ These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- ✓ The Padma Awards Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.
- ✓ Present cabinet secretary **Rajiv Gauba**.

Complete List Of Padma Awards Recipients

Padma Vibhushan (6)

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)	Others - Architecture	Gujarat
2.	Zakir Hussain	Art	Maharashtra
3.	S M Krishna	Public Affairs	Karnataka
4.	Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)	Medicine	West Bengal
5.	Srinivas Varadhan	Science & Engineering	U S
6.	Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Bhushan (9)

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
7.	S L Bhyrappa	Literature & Education	Karnataka
8.	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
9.	Deepak Dhar	Science & Engineering	Maharashtra
10.	Vani Jairam	Art	Tamil Nadu
11.	Chinna Jeeyar Swami	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana
12.	Suman Kalyanpur	Art	Maharashtra
13.	Kapil Kapoor	Literature & Education	Delhi
14.	Sudha Murty	Social Work	Karnataka
15.	Kamlesh D Patel	Others - Spiritualism	Telangana

Padma Shri (91)

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
16.	Dr. Sukama Acharya	Others - Spiritualism	Haryana
17.	Jodhaiyabai Baiga	Art	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Premjit Baria	Art	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
19.	Usha Barle	Art	Chhattisgarh
20.	Munishwar Chanddawar	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
21.	Hemant Chauhan	Art	Gujarat
22.	Bhanubhai Chitara	Art	Gujarat
23.	Hemoprova Chutia	Art	Assam
24.	Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Tripura
25.	Subhadra Devi	Art	Bihar
26.	Khadar Valli Dudekula	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
27.	Hem Chandra Goswami	Art	Assam
28.	Pritikana Goswami	Art	West Bengal
29.	Radha Charan Gupta	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
30.	Modadugu Vijay Gupta	Science & Engineering	Telangana

31.	Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain *(Duo)	Art	Rajasthan
32.	Dilshad Hussain	Art	Uttar Pradesh
33.	Bhiku Ramji Idate	Social Work	Maharashtra
34.	C I Issac	Literature & Education	Kerala
35.	Rattan Singh Jaggi	Literature & Education	Punjab
36.	Bikram Bahadur Jamatia	Social Work	Tripura
37.	Ramkuiwangbe Jene	Social Work	Assam
38.	Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
39.	Ratan Chandra Kar	Medicine	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
40.	Mahipat Kavi	Art	Gujarat
41.	M M Keeravaani	Art	Andhra Pradesh
42.	Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Gujarat
43.	Parshuram Komaji Khune	Art	Maharashtra
44.	Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
45.	Maguni Charan Kuanr	Art	Odisha
46.	Anand Kumar	Literature & Education	Bihar
47.	Arvind Kumar	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
48.	Domar Singh Kunvar	Art	Chhattisgarh
49.	Risingbor Kurkalang	Art	Meghalaya
50.	Hirabai Lobi	Social Work	Gujarat
51.	Moolchand Lodha	Social Work	Rajasthan
52.	Rani Machaiah	Art	Karnataka
53.	Ajay Kumar Mandavi	Art	Chhattisgarh
54.	Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
55.	Gajanan Jagannath Mane	Social Work	Maharashtra
56.	Antaryami Mishra	Literature & Education	Odisha
57.	Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa	Art	Karnataka
58.	Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal	Science & Engineering	Gujarat
59.	Uma Shankar Pandey	Social Work	Uttar Pradesh
60.	Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar *(Duo)	Art	Madhya Pradesh
61.	Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi	Medicine	Puducherry
62.	Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti	Medicine	Telangana
63.	Ramesh Patange	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
64.	Krishna Patel	Art	Odisha
65.	K Kalyanasundaram Pillai	Art	Tamil Nadu
66.	V P Appukuttan Poduval	Social Work	Kerala

67.	Kapil Dev Prasad	Art	Bihar
68.	S R D Prasad	Sports	Kerala
69.	Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri	Art	Karnataka
70.	C V Raju	Art	Andhra Pradesh
71.	Bakshi Ram	Science & Engineering	Haryana
72.	Cheruvayal K Raman	Others - Agriculture	Kerala
73.	ujatha Ramdorai	Science & Engineering	Canada
74.	Abbareddy Nageswara Rao	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
75.	Pareshbhai Rathwa	Art	Gujarat
76.	B Ramakrishna Reddy	Literature & Education	Telangana
77.	Mangala Kanti Roy	Art	West Bengal
78.	K C Runremsangi	Art	Mizoram
79.	Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi Sadaiyan*(Duo)	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
80.	Manoranjan Sahu	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
81.	Patayat Sahu	Others - Agriculture	Odisha
82.	Ritwik Sanyal	Art	Uttar Pradesh
83.	Kota Satchidananda Sastry	Art	Andhra Pradesh
84.	Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar	Social Work	Andhra Pradesh
85.	K Shanathoiba Sharma	Sports	Manipur
86.	Nekram Sharma	Others - Agriculture	Himachal Pradesh
87.	Gurcharan Singh	Sports	Delhi
88.	Laxman Singh	Social Work	Rajasthan
89.	Mohan Singh	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
90.	Thounaojam Chaoba Singh	Public Affairs	Manipur
91.	Prakash Chandra Sood	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
92.	Neihunuo Sorhie	Art	Nagaland
93.	Janum Singh Soy	Literature & Education	Jharkhand
94.	Kushok Thiksey Nawang Chamba Stanzin	Others - Spiritualism	Ladakh
95.	S Subbaraman	Others - Archaeology	Karnataka
96.	Moa Subong	Art	Nagaland
97.	Palam Kalyana Sundaram	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
98.	Raveena Ravi Tandon	Art	Maharashtra
99.	Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
100.	Dhaniram Toto	Literature & Education	West Bengal
101.	Tula Ram Upreti	Others - Agriculture	Sikkim
102.	Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
103.	Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma	Medicine	Delhi
104.	Coomi Nariman Wadia	Art	Maharashtra
105.	Karma Wangchu (Posthumous)	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
106.	Ghulam Muhammad Zaz	Art	Jammu & Kashmir

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

India likely to surpass China as the most populous country by 2023

- ✓ India, which presently has 1.38 billion people, is on track to overtake China, which currently has 1.4 billion people, as the world's most populous country in 2023.
- ✓ India's population is expected to reach 1.668 billion in 2050, surpassing China's 1.317 billion at the time.
- ✓ This can be attributable to the fact that China's population began to decline in 2022, for the first time in six decades since 1962.
- ✓ It signals a turning point for the world's second-largest economy, which is battling with an escalating demographic crisis.



Government Data On India's Demography

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India, with an estimated 230 million people.
- ✓ Lakshadweep has the least population, with only 68,000 people.
- ✓ India is one of the world's youngest countries, with 27.3% of its population aged 15 – 29 years.
- ✓ According to the United Nations (UN), India is one of the 8 countries estimated to account for more than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050.
- ✓ The 8 countries are: The Philippines, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.
- ✓ Since 2011, India's annual population growth has averaged 1.2%, down from 1.7% over the past ten years.
- ✓ India witnessed an increase in the usage of family planning methods from 53.5% in 2015–16 to 66.67% in 2019–21.
- ✓ The total fertility rate (TFR) in India, or the number of children per woman, decreased to 2 in 2019-2021, from 3.4 in 1992-93.

India, UAE signed agreement on green hydrogen development and under sea cable connectivity

- ✓ Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, Raj Kumar Singh, who is on a three-day visit to Abu Dhabi, and signed the agreement on cooperation in the field of Green Hydrogen Development and Investment, with Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates (UAE). They also discussed the launch of a sub-sea cable between India and the UAE under the Mission, 'ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID INITIATIVE', which is announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

European Union establishes its first mainland satellite launch port

- ✓ The European Union (EU) has launched its first mainland orbital launch complex, "Spaceport Esrange," a new satellite launch and reusable rocket test facility at Esrange Space Center near the city of Kiruna in northern Sweden.
- ✓ The first satellite launch from Spaceport Esrange is scheduled for early 2024. The Themis programme of the European Space Agency (ESA) will start testing at Esrange in 2023 as part of Europe's drive towards reusable rocketry.

World Economic Forum 2023 Summit held in Davos, Switzerland

- ✓ The World Economic Forum (WEF) held its 53rd Annual Meeting, "World Economic Forum—2023" [Davos Summit], from January 16 to 20, 2023, in the highest city in Europe, Davos, Switzerland. The theme of the WEF Summit 2023 is "Cooperation in a Fragmented World."
- ✓ According to the non-profit organisation Oxfam India's report, "Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement," the top 1% of Indians currently own more than 40.5% of the nation's entire wealth in 2021, while the bottom 50% of the population (700 million) has only about 3% of the nation's total wealth.

- ✓ WEF established Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA) to assist unlock the USD 3 trillion in funds required each year to achieve net zero, reverse nature loss, and restore biodiversity by 2050.
- ✓ The WEF has designated Hyderabad (Telangana) as its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), which will focus on healthcare and life sciences.
 - ✓ WEF: MD – Saadia Zahidi; HQ – Cologny, GenevaCanton, Switzerland; Established – 1971.

New members join United Nations Security Council

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) officially welcomed Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland, who now hold the two-year seats that they won without opposition in June, in charge of preserving international peace and security.
- ✓ Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland are the 5 countries replacing India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway, whose terms ended on 31st December 2022.
- ✓ Mozambique and Switzerland marked their 1st-ever terms on the UN's most powerful body.
- ✓ Malta joined for a 2nd time, Ecuador a 4th and Japan a record 12th. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US) are permanent UN members.

Croatia Joins Schengen Zone & Switches to Euro

- ✓ On January 1, 2023, Croatia, the youngest member of the European Union (EU), adopted the 'Euro', and it became a part of Europe's border-free Schengen zone.
- ✓ Croatia, a Balkan country, is now the 20th member of the Eurozone and the 27th country to join the passport-free Schengen zone.

UNSC Adopts first-ever resolution on Myanmar, Demanding end to violence and release of political prisoners

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years

to demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners, including former leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

- ✓ Myanmar has been in crisis since the army seized Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1, 2021, detaining her and other officials.
- ✓ In the 15-member UNSC council for the Myanmar crisis, China, Russia and India denied the vote. The remaining 12 members voted in favor.

Canada to Commercialise World's First Photonic-based Quantum Computer

- ✓ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer. According to a news release from the Prime Minister's website, the investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc., a Toronto-based Canadian quantum computing company, to develop the quantum computer which will have the potential to provide world leading capabilities to help solve complex data problems and could be used in a variety of sectors such as finance, transportation, environmental modelling, and health

China building dam on Mabja Zangbo river near Indian border

- ✓ Satellite images show that China is constructing a new dam on the Mabja Zangbo river, geospatial intelligence researcher Damien Symon has claimed. The dam will be sitting just a few kilometres north of the Indian-Nepali-Chinese border trijunction. Satellite images show work is being done on the Mabja Zangbo river in Tibet's Burang County since 2021. While the construction of the dam is not complete, it does pose questions regarding China's hegemony on water supplies downstream in the future.
- ✓ The new dam is located around 16 km north of the tri-junction and is opposite the Kalapani area of Uttarakhand. China has built a large number of dams and dikes to control the flow of rivers on the Indus, Brahmaputra and Mekong.

Brazil and Argentina to begin preparations for common currency

- ✓ Brazil and Argentina aim for greater economic integration, including the development of a common currency, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez said in a joint article they penned. They also decided to advance discussions on a common South American currency that can be used for both financial and commercial flows, reducing costs of operations and external vulnerability. The plan, set to be discussed at a summit in Buenos Aires, will focus on how a new currency which Brazil suggests calling the “sur” (south) could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar.

China becomes first country in Asia to launch hydrogen powered train

- ✓ China’s CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a hydrogen urban train, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world. Germany introduced green trains a few months back. The hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km.
- ✓ The trains launched by Germany have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the ‘World’s Greenest Train’ soon.
- ✓ India will get its first-ever Indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that Indian Railways is working on new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing them.
- ✓ Germany became the first country to operate the world’s first-ever hydrogen-powered passenger train fleet. The German government has informed that 15 diesel trains will be replaced

India and Pakistan exchange lists of nuclear assets and prison inmates

- ✓ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities, maintaining a tradition dating back to 1992 despite bilateral ties being at an all-time low.

The two sides further exchanged lists of prisoners held in each other’s jails, and the Indian side sought the early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, missing defence personnel and fishermen, along with their boats, from Pakistan’s custody.

- ✓ This was the 32nd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992. Under the provisions of the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access, the two sides also exchange lists of prisoners in each other’s custody twice a year, on January 1 and July 1, through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

India, Panama Signed MoU on Cooperation in Training Diplomats

- ✓ India and Panama have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats. The MoU between India and Panama was signed by the External Affairs Minister of India Dr. Subramanyam Jaishankar and the Foreign Minister of Panama Janaina Tewaney Mecomon.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in Indore and the External Affairs Minister has noted that they have discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance, and people-to-people linkage. Both leaders have also shared their perspectives on global situations

India signed an MoU with South Africa to introduce 12 cheetahs annually

- ✓ India and South Africa inked a Memorandum of Understanding on January 27, 2023, to introduce 12 African Cheetahs every year for the next eight to ten years.
- ✓ According to the agreement, an initial batch of 12 cheetahs will be transported from South Africa to India next month.
- ✓ The cats will be added to the eight Cheetahs imported to India from Namibia last year.



NATIONAL

Union Cabinet approves Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022

- ✓ On January 24, 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the reworked Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 that seeks to introduce changes in the governing structure of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and modify the substantive, procedural and institutional provisions in the current competition law to address the needs of new age market.
- ✓ This revamped Bill will be taken up in the upcoming Budget session of Parliament starting on January 31, 2023.

Some Key Proposals in the Bill

- ✓ To broaden the scope of anti-competitive agreements
- ✓ Reduce the time limit for approval of mergers & acquisitions from the existing 210 days to 150 days
- ✓ Provide a limitation period of three years for filing cases relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of a dominant position
- ✓ Introduce settlement & commitment framework
- ✓ Reasonable use of intellectual property rights should be a valid defence against allegations of abuse of dominance.
- ✓ Periodic revision of basic deal value threshold of Rs 2,000 crore and its indexation to inflation
- ✓ Inclusion of cartels under the proposed Settlement and Commitment framework and the controversial one of requiring the CCI to establish 'effects' of anti competitive conduct of dominant undertakings.

India International Science Festival 2022 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh – 21st to 24th January 2023

- ✓ The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022, a 4-day festival, was held from 21st to 24th January 2023 at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

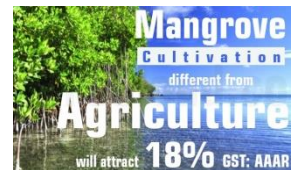


The IISF 2022 marks the 8th edition of IISF since its inception in 2015.

- ✓ On 21st January 2023, IISF 2022 was jointly inaugurated by Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science & Technology.
- ✓ **The theme of the IISF 2022 is** “Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation”.
- ✓ IISF is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India (GoI), in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
- ✓ There were 15 important events organised in the 4-day science festival, like the Student Science Village, Mega Start-ups Expo, and NATS Exhibition/ Innovation Showcase.

Mangrove cultivation different from agriculture, will attract 18% GST: AAAR

- ✓ As per the Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (AAAR), the cultivation of mangroves is different from agriculture and will not be exempted from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). It will attract 18% GST.



- ✓ With this, AAAR upheld the ruling of West Bengal Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR).
- ✓ The applicant, who is engaged in developing mangrove seeds into seedlings in nurseries with an objective of environmental protection against cyclones and tidal waves, had sought a ruling from the West Bengal AAR that his activities be exempted from GST.
- ✓ However, as per AAAR the activities by the applicant will be classified as ‘support services to agriculture, forestry, fishing, animal husbandry’ only if it is related to the cultivation of plants and rearing of all life forms of animals, except the rearing of horses, for food, fiber, fuel, raw material or other similar products.

GoI introduces U-WIN to digitize India's universal immunization programme

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has launched U-WIN, a platform to digitize India's Universal Immunization Program (UIP) in a pilot mode in two districts from each State and Union Territory (UT).
- ✓ The GoI initiated this move due to the effectiveness of the Co-WIN platform, and replicated it in establishing this digital registration for routine vaccinations.
- ✓ All states and UTs have been notified of the U-WIN features and objectives for the pilot in 65 districts, and staff and healthcare workers have been trained on all U-WIN modules.
- ✓ The U-WIN platform is a replica of Co-WIN, which was introduced in January 2021 in 65 districts and has been the "digital backbone" for India's COVID-19 immunization programme.
- ✓ The U-WIN platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record the delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses, and conduct all subsequent vaccination events.



'MV Ganga Vilas': Modi flagged off world's longest river cruise in Varanasi, UP

- ✓ Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, flagged off the 'MV Ganga Vilas', the world's longest river cruise in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The 51-day luxury cruise, passing through 27 river systems, will cover a distance of 3,200 km from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam, via Bangladesh.
- ✓ The expected date of arrival of MV Ganga Vilas in Dibrugarh is on 1st March, 2023.
- ✓ MV Ganga Vilas, the first of its kind cruise service, is supported by the Inland Waterways Authority of



India (IWAI) under Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways (MoPSW).

India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027

- ✓ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya stated that India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2027 three years ahead of the global target through mission mode, multi-partner, multi-sector, targeted drive for which they have drawn up the roadmap.
- ✓ Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the National Symposium on India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi
- ✓ Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) elimination is a priority illness with a deadline, in contrast to other countries where it may be neglected.

Lohri 2023: Harvest Festival celebrates in different parts of India

- ✓ On 13th January 2023, the Lohri festival is observed across India with the customary fervour and joy, which is mostly associated with crop harvesting and happiness.
- ✓ The festival is celebrated in North India, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh.

India's 1st CoE for Online Gaming to be set up in Shillong by March 2023

- ✓ According to Union Minister of State (MoS) Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Online Gaming at Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023.
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has recently circulated Draft amendments to the IT Rules 2021 in relation to Online Gaming for public consultation.
- ✓ Rajeev Chandrasekhar also announced another initiative of MeitY to set up a state-of-the-art facility under the National Institute of Electronics



and IT (NIELIT) to provide training on cutting-edge Digital Skills at Shillong.

GoI to hold the first Global Tourism Summit in April 2023 as part of its G-20 presidency

- ✓ As part of its Group of Twenty (G20) presidency, the Government of India (GoI) will host the country's first "Global Tourism Investors Summit 2023" in April 2023, with participation from all G20 members.
- ✓ India holds the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. The Union Ministry of Tourism will organize the Global Tourism Investors Summit 2023, with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner, and it is scheduled to take place in New Delhi, Delhi, from April 10 to 12, 2023.

Ministry of Minority Affairs discontinues Padho Pardesh Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) has discontinued the 'Padho Pardesh – Scheme of Interest Subsidy On Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for The Students Belonging to The Minority Communities'.
- ✓ The scheme was implemented by Canara Bank, which served as the scheme's designated nodal bank, and will be phased out in 2022-23.
- ✓ On December 11, 2022, MOMA notified that the "Maulana Azad National Fellowship" (MANF) scheme has also been discontinued since it overlaps with various other government schemes for higher education.

PM Narendra Modi's visit to Maharashtra and Karnataka

- ✓ On January 19, 2023, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited the districts Yadgiri and Kalaburagi in Karnataka.
- ✓ Foundation stone of Yadgir multi-village drinking water supply scheme was laid under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with an outlay of more than Rs 2050 crore.

- ✓ Inauguration of Narayanpur Left Bank Canal – Extension Renovation and Modernization Project (NLBC – ERM).
- ✓ In Malkhed of Kalaburagi District, the PM distributed title deeds (hakku patra) to the eligible beneficiaries of newly declared revenue villages.
- ✓ PM inaugurated, dedicated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth around Rs 38,800 crores in Mumbai.
- ✓ Dedicated to the nation Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A & 7 with a cost of around Rs 12,600 crores.
- ✓ Foundation stone for redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus laid with an outlay of over Rs 1,800 crores.

AIF inaugurates India's 1st STEM innovation and learning center in Chennai, TN; AIF's DE launched DSLV Mission

- ✓ The American India Foundation (AIF) inaugurated India's 1st STEM Innovation and Learning Centre (SILC) under the scheme of Vanavil Mandram and launched Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLVL) Mission at the Government Higher Secondary School, MMDA Colony, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). This SILC is the first of 4 Centres to come up in TN over the next 2 months.
- ✓ The DSLVL Mission was mentored and launched by Padma Shri Awardee (2016) Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, The Moon Man of India, Former Director of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Vice President of the State Council for Science and Technology, TN.

16th edition Jaipur Literature Festival 2023 held in Jaipur.

- ✓ The Jaipur Literature Festival 2023, the 16th edition of the festival celebrating the power of literature, art and culture with a focus on Indian languages is held in Jaipur, Rajasthan from January 19-23, 2023. The 16th edition of the festival features a range of women writers and their exemplary works. The keynote address was delivered by Abdulrazak Gurnah, the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature (2021), on 'writing as a form of resistance'.

“Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity”: India’s First Festival of Inclusion held in Goa

- ✓ Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity’ (Purple Fest 2023), India’s 1st of its kind inclusive festival commenced at the Entertainment Society of Goa in Panaji, Goa.
- ✓ Purple Fest aims to showcase how to come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.
- ✓ Goa has organised a unique purple celebration that will significantly advance the goals and establish a milestone in Divyangjan’s empowerment.
- ✓ Divyangjan- The word Viklang was replaced with Divyaang (divine body) to refer to persons with disabilities in 2016.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches the Themes of the Y20 Summit

- ✓ Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, launched the themes of Youth 20 (Y20) Summit, logo, and website in the Curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India at Akashwani Rang Bhawan New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ India is hosting the Y20 Summit for the 1st time. The Youth20 Group’s inception meeting will take place in Guwahati, Assam, from 6th to 8th February 2023.
- ✓ The Y20 is the official youth engagement group for the G20 (Group of 20), the forum for the world’s largest and most advanced economies.

Vande Metro Trains: Indian Railways to introduce India's First Hydrogen Power Trains on Heritage Lines

- ✓ Indian Railways is set to introduce India’s 1st hydrogen-powered trains - "Vande Metro trains" on its narrow gauge heritage lines to transform Indian locomotive mobility by December 2023.
- ✓ A prototype hydrogen-fueled train is now being developed by the Northern railway workshop which will be tested on the Haryana section between Sonipat and Jind.

- ✓ In 2022, Germany became the first nation in the world to operate hydrogen-powered trains. It was followed by China, which debuted the world’s second and Asia’s first hydrogen-powered train.

Tourism Ministry to organize Six-day mega event Bharat Parv at Red Fort

- ✓ As part of the Republic Day celebrations, the six-day mega event Bharat Parv will be held at the Red Fort in Delhi from the 26th to the 31st of January 2023.
- ✓ According to the Union Tourism Ministry, some of the top Republic Day Parade tableaux will be displayed throughout the event.
- ✓ There will also be cultural performances by Zonal Cultural Centres as well as cultural troupes from States and Union Territories, a pan-India Food Court, and a Crafts Bazaar with 65 crafts vendors.

GoI allocates Rs 1037.90 crore to new India literacy programme for a 5-Year Period (FY23-FY27)

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has allotted Rs. 1037.90 crore for the New India Literacy Programme (NILP), a centrally sponsored programme (CSS), for a 5-year period, from fiscal years 2022-23 (FY23) to 2026-27 (FY27).
- ✓ The GoI will contribute Rs. 700 crore out of the total financial outlay of Rs. 1037.90 crore, while the state will contribute Rs. 337.90 crore.
- ✓ The NILP was approved by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2022 to cover all aspects of adult education in accordance with the new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) for the next five years, from FY23 to FY27.

ReNew Power Installs India’s First 3x Platform WTGs in Karnataka

- ✓ ReNew Power (“ReNew”), one of India’s largest independent power producers (IPPs) for renewable energy, has announced the installation of India’s first 3x-platform wind turbine generators (WTGs) at Gadag, Karnataka.
- ✓ The new WTGs will be a component of India’s first “Round the Clock” renewable energy project,

which combines wind, solar, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

- ✓ The WTGs are 128–140 m tall and have a nameplate capacity of 3.3–3.465 MW (megawatts).

Union Minister Jitendra Singh releases the Theme of National Science Day 2023

- ✓ Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, released the theme for the National Science Day 2023 titled “Global Science for Global Wellbeing” at National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ National Science Day (NSD) is annually observed across India on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the “Raman Effect”.

International Kite Festival 2023 held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- ✓ Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2023 at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The festival is organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’. Apart from Ahmedabad, the International Kite festival was also organised in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Somnath, Dhordo, and Kevadia.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Digi Yatra for 3 Airports in India

- ✓ Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched ‘Digi Yatra’ from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi (Delhi) for three airports in India, namely New Delhi, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), and Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- ✓ Digi Yatra was designed to use Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to achieve contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports.
- ✓ In the initial phase, Digi Yatra will be introduced in 7 airports, starting with the first 3: Delhi, Bengaluru, and Varanasi.
- ✓ It will be followed by 4 airports by March 2023: Hyderabad (Telangana), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune (Maharashtra), and Vijayawada (Andhra

Pradesh). Currently, the service is only available to domestic flight passengers.

- ✓ With Digi Yatra, India will join the ranks of world-class airports such as Heathrow in London, the United Kingdom (UK), and Atlanta in the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Digi Yatra platform is built on 4 key pillars: Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flights, & Connected Systems.

Kerala becomes India’s 1st state with full digital banking service

- ✓ On 1st December 2022 India assumed the Presidency of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) for the month of December, the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- ✓ Kerala has become the first state in India to go fully digital in its banking service. It was declared by the Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan during an event.
- ✓ Kerala also received three ‘Digital India’ awards for the advancement in the digital sector viz. silver medal for Ksheerashree portal, platinum award for Digital

Cabinet Approvals on Jan 11, 2023

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the following proposals:
 - ✓ Setting up of three national-level multi-state cooperative societies for three different sectors – export, seeds and organic products – under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.
 - ✓ Rs. 2,600 crore scheme to promote Rupay debit cards, low-value UPI transactions.
 - ✓ Renaming of National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation & Quality at Joka, Kolkata as ‘Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM- NIWAS).

Rashtrapati Bhavan’s Amrit Udyan open from January 31

- ✓ The Mughal Garden of Rashtrapati Bhavan has been called Amrit Udyan. As President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Udyan Utsav-2023, the

opening of the Rashtrapati Bhavan grounds, the renowned park is expected to open to the public on January 31.

- ✓ During Udyan Utsav, there is no charge for slot reservations or access to Rashtrapati Bhavan's gardens. In a single booking, reservations can be made for up to 30 people.

India celebrate its 74th Republic Day on 26th January 2023

- ✓ India celebrated its 74th Republic Day on 26th January 2023. The republic day events and parade were held at the newly-renovated and renamed Kartavya Path (previously known as Rajpath) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The Republic day of India marks and celebrates the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- ✓ President of India, Droupadi Murmu, led her maiden Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path and unfurled the national flag.
- ✓ The flag hoist was followed by a rendition of the national anthem and a 21-gun salute.
- ✓ For the first time, the 21-gun salute was presented with "Made in India" 105 mm field guns replacing the seven vintage Quick Fire 25-pounder guns which have been used since Independence.
- ✓ **Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El –Sisi is the chief guest of the 74th Republic Day.**
- ✓ On the occasion of Republic Day 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and Tatrakshak Medal (TM) to 6 Indian Coast Guard(ICG) Personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished and meritorious service.
- ✓ These awards are annually presented to the personnel of the Indian Coast Guard on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day since 26th January 1990.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2022 on 43 people.
- ✓ The Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards, 2022 includes, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 7,

Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 8, and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 28 persons. 4 of the 43 recipients were awarded posthumously.

- ✓ On the eve of 74th Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu approved 412 gallantry awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel.
- ✓ The 412 gallantry awards include, 6 Kirti Chakras, including 4 posthumous and 15 Shaurya Chakras, including 2 posthumous. The gallantry awards also include one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, including four posthumous, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals.
- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved 62 Mentioned in Despatches to Armed Forces personnel.

Tableau at Republic Day 2023

- ✓ On the occasion of the 74th Republic Day, a total of 23 tableaus – 17 from States and Union Territories, and 6 from Central Ministries and Departments, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, economic progress and strong and in internal and external security, participated in the parade on the Kartavya Path.
- ✓ Central Ministries/Departments: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare(MoA&FW), Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Home Affairs – Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – Central Public Works Department (CPWD), and Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MoTA)
- ✓ States and UTs: Andhra Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh; Assam; UT of Dadar Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu; Gujarat; Haryana; UT of Jammu & Kashmir; Jharkhand; Karnataka; Kerala; UT of Ladakh; Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu; Tripura; Uttar Pradesh; Uttarakhand; and West Bengal

EC plan to Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM)

- ✓ The Election Commission (EC) is working on a plan to introduce remote voting machine for migrant workers.

- ✓ As many as eight national and 40 regional political parties held a discussion with the Election Commission on Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM). The development came after the commission extended the date of submission of written views by political parties (on various issues with regard to RVM) to February 28, 2023. Though the parties appreciated ECI's initiative of calling all parties for discussion, they had a plethora of queries on the same

What is Remote Electronic Voting Machine

- ✓ The new RVM prototype will enable a voter, who is listed in constituencies, to exercise voting rights from a single machine.
- ✓ The multi-constituency remote EVM, developed by a public sector undertaking, can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth.
- ✓ Migrant voters would not need to travel to their home districts to exercise their franchise if the remote electronic voting machine is implemented properly.
- ✓ The remote e-voting machine will be a standalone device which doesn't need connectivity to operate.
- ✓ The Representation of the People Act, The Conduct of Election Rules and The Registration of Electors Rules will need to be amended to introduce remote voting.

IOA sets up Seven-member Committee to Probe Allegations against WFI chief

- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formed a seven-member committee, including M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by top grapplers. This comes after the agitating wrestlers had earlier in the day reached out to the IOA, demanding formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief.



PM Modi to virtually flag off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flag off the semi-high speed train Vande Bharat Express from Secunderabad Railway Station on January 15 as a gift to the Telugu people on the occasion of Sankranti. Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy will be physically present at Secunderabad Railway Station. The Vande Bharat Train will run between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam in approximately eight hours

India takes over leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union

- ✓ India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023. Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years. This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022.
- ✓ **Asian Pacific Postal Union:** There are 32 members in this international organisation from the Asia-Pacific. It is a specific department inside the UN. The sole Restricted Union of the Universal Postal in the area is this one. HQ: Bangkok, Thailand.

PM Modi Inaugurated Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing. SPM-NIWAS has been set up with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) aims to bridge the knowledge and capacity-building gap in the field of public health engineering, sanitation & hygiene, through short, medium, and long-term courses which are not just related to engineering but also cover aspects of management, health, accounting, law, and public policies.

India International Science Festival 2022 held in Bhopal, MP 21st to 24th January 2023

- ✓ The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022, a 4-day festival, was held from 21st to 24th January 2023 at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The IISF 2022 marks the 8th edition of IISF since its inception in 2015.
- ✓ On 21st January 2023, IISF 2022 was jointly inaugurated by Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science & Technology.
- ✓ The theme of the IISF 2022 is “Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science, Technology, and Innovation”.
- ✓ IISF is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India (GoI), in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
- ✓ There were 15 important events organised in the 4-day science festival, like the Student Science Village, Mega Start-ups Expo, and NATS Exhibition/ Innovation Showcase.

Water Vision@2047: 1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water

- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the “1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water” with the theme of “Water Vision@2027” in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th and 6th January 2023. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitated the occasion.
- ✓ The Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel was also present during the event. The primary objective of the 2-day conference was to gather inputs for India@2027 and the 5P vision from the different water stakeholders of the state, water being a state subject, and improve engagement and partnership with states.

IISc Bengaluru is Secretariat for G20 Working Group on Science

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been announced as the Secretariat for Science 20 (S20), the G20 summit’s science working group. IISc stated that S20 will play a key role in helping resolve global issues like poverty and bring together the developments made by the G20 member states for development. The deliberations will focus on three sets of issues: Universal holistic health, clean energy for greener future, and connecting science to society and culture. The consultations will also include an inception meeting in Puducherry and a summit meeting in Coimbatore.

New Integrated Food Security Scheme Named as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries, to be rolled out from 1st January 2023. The new scheme has been named Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY). The PMGKAY started on 1st January 2023, benefiting more than 80 crores of poor and poorest of poor people.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana- Key Points

- ✓ To maintain uniformity and for the welfare of the beneficiaries, free food grains will be provided under PMGKAY for the year 2023.
- ✓ All the beneficiaries of the AAY and PHH will be provided with free foodgrains.
- ✓ The integrated scheme will strengthen the provisions of the National Food Security Act or NFSA 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability, and availability of food grains for the poor.
- ✓ PMGKAY will include the two subsidy schemes of the Department of Food & Public Distribution.
- ✓ The subsidies include the Food Subsidy to FCI and Food Subsidy for Decentralisation procurement state dealing with procurement, allocation, and delivery of free foodgrains to the states.

STATES

The 3rd Edition of the Annual Orange Festival held in Kohima, Nagaland- 24th & 25th January 2023

- ✓ The 3rd edition of the Orange Festival (Orange Festival 2023) was held from 24th to 25th January 2023 in Rusoma village near Kohima, in Nagaland. The festival was organised under the aegis of Rüsoma Village Council in association with Kohima Smart City Development Limited, Rural Development Department, Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department and Land Resources Department.
- ✓ The festival featured several stalls like handicrafts, organic vegetables and fruits, food items, the sale of orange saplings, a workshop on orange and coffee plantations and a campaign on “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao”.
- ✓ On 24th January 2023, the festival was inaugurated in the presence of K Neibou Sekhose, Additional Director of Rural Development.

Odisha Cabinet Approved: Inclusion of 22 castes under SEBC,

- ✓ Odisha cabinet headed by the state’s Chief minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik has cleared the inclusion of 22 castes/ communities in the state list of Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC).
- ✓ Objective: To extend all social welfare measures and benefits to SEBCs for their inclusive growth and development.
- ✓ The 22 castes are – Badhei, Bindhani, Bindani, Baraji, Baroi, Sankhua Tanti, Gola Tanti, Lajya Nibaran, Hansi Tanti, Kapadia, Gandhamali, Thanapati, Pandara Mali, Paniar Mali, Pandaria, Oda-Khandayat, Bayalisha Oda, Oda Paika, Oda Paiko, Haladia Teli and Kalandi.

Himachal Pradesh Targets to be 1st ‘Green Energy State’ by 2025

- ✓ Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) announced that HP targets to become the “first Green Energy State” by the end of 2025. This will be achieved by harnessing hydro,

hydrogen and solar energy and switching on to green products that enhance the premium and advantage in export.

- ✓ The government is set to invest in Solar plants and will install 500 MW Solar projects during the year 2023-24. 200 MW of this would be installed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL).

Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana

- ✓ Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana. Santhi Kumari took charge as the first women Chief Secretary of the State at the Secretariat in BRK Bhavan. Santhi Kumari will take charge over incumbent Somesh Kumar, who was relieved from the Telangana government by the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ✓ Santhi Kumari is a 1989 batch officer who hails from Andhra Pradesh and has become the first woman to be Chief Secretary of Telangana. She holds a post-graduation degree in Marine Biology, has pursued an MBA in the US, and worked in the United Nations programs for two years.

UP attracts investments worth Rs 76,867 crore ahead of UPGIS 2023

- ✓ The Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has received investment offers worth Rs. 76,867 crore from across India and signed 79 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) 2023.
- ✓ UPGIS 2023 is the flagship investment summit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and it is set to take place in Lucknow (UP) from February 10 to 12, 2023.
- ✓ REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power, signed strategic MoUs in the backdrop of the “Invest Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023.”

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (MP) hosted the Invest Madhya Pradesh—Global Investors Summit 2023 (7th edition) in Indore, MP, on January 11-12, 2023.

Chhattisgarh CM Celebrates Traditional 'Cherchera' Festival in Raipur

- ✓ Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh, celebrated the traditional Cherchera festival, an important harvest festival of Chhattisgarh which is popularly known as the "Rice bowl of India", at Dudhadhari Math in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The festival is celebrated on the full moon night of 'Paush' Hindu calendar month in the happiness of taking the crops to their homes after cultivation. The festival usually falls in the month of January.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announces 'Ladli Bahna' scheme

- ✓ Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant statement for the women to launch the "Ladli Bahna Yojana" in the state following the success of the Ladli Laxmi Yojana for the girls. No matter their caste or status, underprivileged women would receive Rs 1,000 each month under this Yojna in order to gain financial independence.

About Madhya Pradesh Ladli Bahna Yojana

- ✓ "Ladli Bahna Yojana" will be created for the poor and lower middle class women of the state, irrespective of caste or category.
- ✓ On the occasion of Narmada Jayanti, and on the sacred banks of the Narmada, there was Ladli Lakshmi Yojana for girls. What is the distinction between a general class, a backward class, a scheduled caste, and a tribal group? Sisters are sisters, and now those sisters will receive Rs 1,000 each month.
- ✓ The funds will be deposited each month into the accounts of the recipients from every eligible family, enabling them to achieve financial independence. In five years, it is predicted that this programme will cost roughly Rs 60,000 crore.

India's First Green Solar Panel Factory to Build by Luminous in Uttarakhand

- ✓ Luminous Power Technologies revealed that it has planned to build India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand which will be operational by the end of this year. The location of the new India's first green energy-based solar panel is Rudrapur which will be equipped with the latest technology to design and produce high-quality solar panels that will be used for both residential and commercial applications.

Assam CM Nominated Charaideo Maidam to Seek UNESCO World Heritage Tag

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Centre has nominated the maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo to seek a UNESCO World Heritage Site tag. The historic maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo were chosen out of 52 sites for the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.

Kollam becomes first constitution literate district in India

- ✓ The Indian district of Kollam has become the country's first constitution literate district. The announcement was made by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights

Uttarakhand Governor Approved 30% Women's Reservation Bill

- ✓ Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) has approved the 30 percent horizontal reservation to domicile women of the state in the government jobs bill. The state assembly of Uttarakhand passed the Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for women) Bill on 29th November 2022. The consent of the Governor has now made the bill into an act.

Joshimath declared as 'landslide-subsidence zone'

- ✓ Joshimath, also known as Jyotirmath, is a city and a municipal board in Chamoli District in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. Located at a height of 6150 feet (1875 m), it is a gateway to several Himalayan mountain climbing expeditions, trekking trails and pilgrim centres like Badrinath. It is home to one of the four cardinal pīthas established by Adi Shankara declared as 'landslide-subsidence zone due to land subsidence, is neither a new phenomenon in this region. The appearance of cracks on many roads and houses across Joshimath.

Mysuru, Hampi Enlisted Under Centre's Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme

- ✓ Mysuru and Hampi are the two popular destinations in Karnataka to be promoted as a part of the new Tourism policy 'The Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, which focuses on revving up destination tourism. Mysuru and Hampi are among the 19 places identified across the eight states and UTs in India to be promoted under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme. This destination has seen high footfall throughout the years and played an important role in the history of South India.

About Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- ✓ Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism, India. The scheme aims to develop integrated theme-based tourism circuits. The scheme also aims to promote, develop, and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- ✓ The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in 2014-15. There are 15 thematic circuits identified under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala capital

- ✓ Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Museum, promoted as "World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala

Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore

Mopa Airport to be Named After Late CM of Goa Manohar Parrikar

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport after former Defence Minister and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa. The airport will be named after the late Manohar Parrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mopa International Airport, at Goa. The foundation stone of the airport was also laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2016.

AP Govt Introduces Lesson on India's First Muslim Woman Teacher Fatima Sheikh

- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a lesson on the contribution of Fatima Sheikh in the textbooks of the eighth class. Fatima Sheikh was India's first woman Muslim teacher and one of India's greatest social reformers and educators.
- ✓ She was known to have given shelter to Jyoti Rao Phule and Savitribai, the well-known social reformer couple who worked for the education of girl child.

Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill

- ✓ Maharashtra assembly has passed the Lokayukta Bill 2022, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman. The bill was passed without discussion as the opposition had staged a walkout over the alleged scam in the Teachers Entrance Test. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the bill a historic legislation. Cabinet Minister Deepak Kesarkar introduced the Bill which has a provision to bring the Chief Minister and the cabinet under the purview of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

ECONOMY AND BANKING

BOB Financial Solutions Limited launches Vikram Credit Card Dedicated to Soldiers

- ✓ BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), launched 'Vikram – the contactless RuPay credit card' dedicated to the Indian defence, paramilitary, and police personnel on the occasion of 74th Republic Day celebrations i.e. January 26, 2023.
- ✓ It will be offered as Lifetime Free (LTF) and it comes with reward points and an activation gift of a complimentary OTT (Over-The-Top) subscription.
- ✓ The credit card also offers an Accidental Death cover of Rs 20 lakh.
- ✓ Other features include a 1% fuel surcharge waiver, LTF add-ons, EMI (Equated Monthly installments) offers, and periodic merchant offers.
- ✓ BFSL already has exclusive co-branded credit cards with the Indian Army (Yoddha), Indian Navy (Varunah), Indian Coast Guard (Rakshamah) and Assam Rifles (The Sentinel).



PNB & Aadhar Housing Finance Enters into Co-Lending Partnership to offer home loans

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) have entered into a co-lending agreement to offer home loans at competitive interest rates. The main aim of this partnership is to reach out to a large section of society including economically weaker, lower, and middle-income groups for providing easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers.

NARCL Acquires First Stressed Asset – Jaypee Infratech

- ✓ The National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) has acquired its first stressed asset, Jaypee Infratech from lenders led by IDBI

Bank. The total exposure of all the banks to Jaypee Infratech was over Rs 9,000 crore, while IDBI Bank's exposure was Rs 3,750 crore.

- ✓ IDBI Bank received Rs. 253 crore, which is 15 percent of the Rs. 1,687.50-crore recovery in cash and Rs. 1,434.5 crore, an 85 percent of the recovery in the form of security receipts.
- ✓ The other lenders of the consortium will receive cash and security receipts depending on their exposure to the company.

AIF Exceeds Rs. 30,000 Crore in Capital Raised for Agriculture Infrastructure Projects

- ✓ According to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has raised more than Rs. 30,000 crore in capital for agricultural infrastructure projects, with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 15,000 crore.
- ✓ AIF is a financing facility that was introduced on July 8, 2020, for the creation of post-harvest infrastructure and community farm assets across India.
- ✓ It was developed as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), MoA&FW.
- ✓ This scheme would disburse Rs. 1 lakh crore by the fiscal year 2025-26, while interest subvention and credit guarantee support will be provided until 2032-33.

AU Small Finance Bank Launches Credit Card Offering Platform – SwipeUp

- ✓ On 23rd January 2023, AU Small Finance Bank Limited, India's largest Small Finance Bank (SFB), launched the first-of-its-kind "SwipeUp platform", that allows other bank Credit Cardholders to get upgraded AU Credit Cards.
- ✓ This new facility for credit card users is similar to mobile number portability which allows to change service provided while retaining the same number. The cards issued in SwipeUp platform are different from current credit cards offered by AU SFB.

HDFC to raise at least Rs 30 billion through issue of 10-year bonds

- ✓ Housing Development Finance Corp (HDFC) plans to raise at least 30 billion rupees (USD 370.5 million) through the sale of bonds maturing in 10 years. The company has invited bankers and investors to bid for coupons and commitments. The issue will also have a greenshoe option to retain an additional Rs 20 billion and will close for subscription later this week.
- ✓ The bonds are rated AAA by CRISIL and will have a put option at the end of the third year.

OPPO India & MeitY's CSC partners to train 10,000 women in Cyber Security through Cyber Sangini

- ✓ OPPO India, a Mobile phone brand, partnered with the Common Service Centre (CSC) Academy, the Education & Corporate social responsibility (CSR) wing of Common Services Centres (CSC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India (GoI), for the Cyber Sangini program, 45-day course, to empower rural and semi-urban women by training them in the fundamentals of cybersecurity and cyber wellness.
- ✓ This initiative aims to equip women with the skills and knowledge needed to become certified 'Cyber Sanginis' and act as Cyber Security Ambassadors in their area.

PNB becomes the first PSB to launch credit card against FDs digitally

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the first Public Sector Bank (PSB) to introduce a credit card against fixed deposits (FDs) digitally, for customers who do not fulfill the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards.
- ✓ PNB has introduced two types of consumer credit cards: 'PNB Global Gold' and 'PNB Global Classic', which are designed to meet various income levels and customer needs.
- ✓ These are global credit cards that were developed in association with the payment gateway provider, VISA.

Russian VTB Bank launches direct payments in Rupees

- ✓ Russian VTB Bank, Russia's second-largest bank, launched direct payments in rupees, which will significantly increase bilateral trade and investment.
- ✓ The mechanism of direct settlements allows for the setting of the price of a product and the payment in the national currency, as well as getting individual quotes on market terms.

LIC launches Guaranteed Return Life Insurance Plan 'Jeevan Azad'

- ✓ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has unveiled Jeevan Azad (Plan No. 868), a new non-linked, non-participating plan designed for individual savings and life insurance.
- ✓ The minimum basic sum assured is Rs. 2 lakh, while the maximum is Rs. 5 lakh.
 - ✓ LIC: Chairperson– Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar; Established – 1956; HQ – Mumbai, Maharashtra

SBI raises Rs 9,718 crore via Second Infrastructure Bond Issuance

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, raised Rs 9,718 crore through its 2nd infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.70% per annum for the 15-year bond. The pricing of 7.70% represents a spread of 17 basis points (bps) over the G-Sec (Government Security) curve. This is the 2nd fundraising of SBI since December 2022.
- ✓ On 6th December 2022, SBI raised Rs 10,000 crore through its maiden infrastructure bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.51%, at a spread of 17 bps over the corresponding G-Sec curve.

NCLT approves transfer of ownership of Jet Airways to Jalan-Kalrock Consortium

- ✓ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) allowed the transfer of ownership of Jet Airways to the Jalan-Kalrock consortium (JKC). Due to a financial crisis Jet Airways closed its operations in April 2019, after which it underwent a resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

- ✓ In accordance with the revival plan, JKC proposed a total infusion of Rs. 1,375 crore, in which Rs. 900 crore towards capital infusion and Rs. 475 crore paid to creditors (Rs. 380 crore will go to financial creditors).
- ✓ JKC will have an 89.79% stake while 9.5% will go to lenders.

Siemens Mobility received Rs 26,000- crore locomotive order from Indian Railways

- ✓ Siemens Mobility, managed by Siemens AG of Germany, has received a locomotive order worth 3 billion Euro (~Rs 26,000 crore) from Indian Railways, under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, for 1,200 electric locomotives of 9,000 horsepower (HP).
- ✓ This is the single largest locomotive order in the history of Siemens Mobility and the single largest order in the history of Siemens India.
- ✓ The Siemens-designed trains with a top speed of 120 km (75 miles)/ hour will be assembled in India over the next 11 years, with deliveries starting in 24 months.
- ✓ The assembly will be done at the Indian Railways factory in Dahod, Gujarat. The maintenance of the locomotives will be done in 4 Indian Railways depots located in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Kharagpur (West Bengal) and Pune (Maharashtra).

India's FY23 fiscal deficit to be at Rs 17.5 Lakh cr, FY24 Rs 17.95 Lakh cr: SBI Report

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) in its Ecowrap report has estimated India's fiscal deficit for FY 2023-24 (FY24) at around Rs 17.95 lakh crore or 6% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- ✓ This will result in a fiscal consolidation of 40 bps from FY23.
- ✓ In FY23, the fiscal deficit is expected to come to Rs 17.5 lakh crore. However, higher nominal GDP growth (15.4%) estimates will help in keeping the fiscal deficit at 6.4% of the GDP.

EY Report Projects Indian economy to be \$26-trillion by 2047

- ✓ According to the estimates released by consulting firm EY (Ernst & Young) in its report 'India@100: Realising the potential of a \$26 trillion economy', India's economy will reach USD 26 trillion by 2047.
- ✓ Notably, the year 2047 will mark the 100th year of India's independence.
- ✓ The per capita income is expected to increase to USD 15,000 which will place India among the ranks of developed economies.

Russia is fourth biggest source of imports for India

- ✓ Russia has now become India's fourth-largest trading partner, with imports from Russia increasing five-fold to USD 32.9 billion between April–December 2022.
- ✓ India's higher imports from Russia are mostly due to two commodities: fertilizers and crude oil.

ESAF Bank Bags Inclusive Finance India Award 2022

- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank has won the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 in recognition of its contributions to advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth.
- ✓ Paul Thomas, MD & CEO of ESAF Bank, received the award from Anantha Nageshwaran, Chief Economic Advisor at the 19th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The Inclusive Finance India Awards is an initiative of ACCESS Development Services in partnership with HSBC India.

Canara bank sells its entire 40% Stake in CIBL to SBI

- ✓ Canara Bank is set to sell its entire 40% stake in the Russian joint venture (JV) Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) to the JV partner State Bank of India (SBI). The cash consideration for the transaction is equivalent to USD 14.67 million. (Rs 114 crore).
- ✓ The transaction is expected to be completed on or before 31st March 2023. Post-acquisition, the State Bank of India will hold a 100% stake in CIBL.

- ✓ CIBL, incorporated in 2003 in Russia, is a JV between SBI, (60% stake), and Canara Bank (40% stake).

NABARD raises around Rs 5,000 crore via 3-year Bonds

- ✓ Under its first issue of ‘fund raising through bonds in 2023’, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has raised around Rs 5,000 crore via 3-year bonds.
- ✓ The coupon for the 3-year bond was 7.63 per cent. (The yield on 3-year government bonds was above 7.16 per cent).
- ✓ The issue by NABARD had a base size of Rs 2,000 crore plus a green-shoe option of Rs 3,000 crore.
- ✓ A coupon bond is a bond with coupons that pays periodic interest payments at its lifetime and par value at maturity.

Axis Bank & IISc Signs MoU to Set up Centre for Mathematics and Computing

- ✓ MoU b/w: Axis Bank with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ Purpose: to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at IISc.
- ✓ It will also host the new IISc BTech programme in Mathematics and Computing and the ongoing Interdisciplinary PhD programme in Mathematical Sciences.

NPCI allows UPI transactions for Non-Resident Accounts linked to international numbers

- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has allowed UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions for non-resident bank accounts like Non-Residential External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) linked to international mobile numbers.
- ✓ Initially, the transactions from mobile numbers of 10 countries – Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, United States of America(USA), Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom (UK) – will be enabled

- ✓ This means Non-resident Indians (NRIs) from these countries can transact through UPI.
- ✓ NPCI has mandated all UPI members, including banks and payments platforms, to comply with the norms by 30th April 2023.

India’s fastest payment app “PayRup” launched

- ✓ India’s fastest payment app PayRup was launched in India on 9th January 2023. PayRup is built with the finest technology of web 3.0. PayRup provides an advanced digital payment experience with an outstanding user experience. PayRup users can pay utility bills and landline bills, recharge their mobile, broadband, DTH, and purchase gift cards.

Exim Bank Raises USD 1 billion through 10-year Sustainability Bond Issue

- ✓ Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has raised USD 1 billion via a 10-year Sustainability Bond issue in the 144A/Reg-S format under its Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Framework.
- ✓ India Exim Bank becomes the first Indian issuer to open the markets for dollar and sustainability bond issuances in 2023, by issuing at a coupon rate of CT10 (US 10- year Treasury Bond) +190 basis points.

First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2022-23: India’s GDP Likely to grow at 7% in FY23

- ✓ The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), has released its First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income for the financial year 2022– 2023 (FY23) at both constant (2011–12) and current prices.
- ✓ According to the NSO’s first FAE, the Indian economy will grow at a rate of 7% in FY23, up from 8.7% in FY22.
- ✓ The FAE of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), launched in 2016-17 to serve as essential inputs to the budget exercise, is based on limited data and prepared using the Benchmark-Indicator Method.

SBI Launches E-Bank Guarantee (E-BG) Facility

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to enhance transparency and reduce turnaround time from days to minutes.
- ✓ NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE) platform, which provides e-Stamp and e-Sign functions, will facilitate the e-Bank Guarantee process and also the beneficiaries will instantly receive an e-Bank Guarantee on NeSL's platform without further verification.

World Bank Report: Indian Economy to Grow at A Robust 6.6% In FY24

- ✓ According to the latest Global Economic Prospects (January 2023) report released by the World Bank (WB), the Indian economy is projected to grow at a robust 6.6% in fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), down from an estimated 6.9% in FY23 and 8.7% in FY22.
- ✓ India, Asia's third-largest economy, is projected to be the fastest-growing among the seven largest Emerging-Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs): Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation, and Turkey.

Clayfin & Bandhan Bank Wins Best Digital Channel/Platform Award from IBS Intelligence

- ✓ Clayfin Technologies, a leading provider of Digital Customer Experience solutions for Banks and Financial institutions, and Bandhan Bank have been awarded 'Best Digital Channel/Platform Implementation: Best Project Implementation' at International Banking Systems Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022.

Retail Inflation Eases to One-Year Low of 5.72% in December 2022

- ✓ According to data provided by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Retail Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased to a one-year low of 5.72% in December 2022.

- ✓ This decrease was primarily caused by a sharp deflation (-15.08%) in vegetable prices and an easing of price pressures in the broader "food and beverages" category.

MoF Increases Interest Rates On a Number of Small Savings Schemes for Q4

- ✓ FY23 beginning January 1, 2023 The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), a department of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), has raised the interest rate on a number of small savings schemes for the fourth quarter (Q4) of the current fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23), which runs from January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023.
- ✓ The rates on the various instruments have increased by 20 to 110 basis points (bps), and they now range from 4.0 % to 7.6 %.
- ✓ All post office time deposits, the Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, the Monthly Income Savings Scheme, the National Savings Certificate, and others now have higher interest rates.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the interest rates on the Public Provident Fund (PPF), Sukanya Samriddhi Account, and Savings Deposit have remained unchanged.

Tripura signs Rs 2,275cr agreement with ADB to improve Power Distribution Network

- ✓ The Tripura government has signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) worth Rs 2,275 crore to strengthen and improve power distribution efficiency in Tripura.
- ✓ Of the Rs 2,275 crore fund, the Government of India (GoI) will repay Rs. 1,820 crore while the state will provide Rs 455 crore.
- ✓ Under this, ADB will support the state government's efforts to strengthen its power sector by replacing inefficient power plants and strengthening the distribution system. The project will be implemented in the next three years.

ADB Grants USD 100 million to SFL for Vehicle Loans to Women Entrepreneurs

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned USD 100 million (about Rs 830 crore) External Commercial Borrowing (ECB), a five-year loan, under the lender's social finance framework to Shriram Finance Limited (SFL), a part of Shriram Group to provide vehicle loans to women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The credit will be issued towards the purchase of new and used vehicles throughout India.
- ✓ SFL: Chairman – Jugal Kishore Mohapatra;
- ✓ HQ – Mumbai, Maharashtra

ICICI Bank introduces first-of-its-kind digital solutions for exporters

- ✓ In a first-of-its-kind industry initiative, ICICI Bank Limited has launched Digital Solutions for Exporters, a comprehensive set of banking and value-added services on a single platform.
- ✓ The package of solutions provides first-in-the-industry features including Trade APIs (Application Programming Interface) and instant disbursement of Export Packing Credits (Insta EPC).
- ✓ Insta EPC instantly provides export financing, and Trade APIs facilitate easy handling of export transactions directly from Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems of the exporters, offering increased convenience.

India's external debt at \$610 billion in Q2 FY23; declines by \$2.3 billion

- ✓ As per the figures from the Ministry of Finance, India's external debt stood at USD 610.5 billion in Q2 FY23 (July-September 2022) showing a decrease of USD 2.3 billion from Q1 FY23 (April to June 2022).
- ✓ The external debt to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio stood at 19.2% at the end of Q2FY23 as compared to 19.3% at end of Q1FY23.

GST Revenues grow 15% to Rs 1.49 lakh crore in December 2022

- ✓ India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues increased 15% year-on-year to Rs 1.49 lakh crore

(USD 18.07 billion) in December 2022, suggesting robust economic activity during the holiday season.

- ✓ The gross GST revenue collected during December 2022 is Rs 1,49,507 crore, of which CGST is Rs 26,711 crore, SGST is Rs 33,357 crore, IGST is Rs 78,434 crore (including Rs 40,263 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 11,005 crore (including Rs 850 crore collected on import of goods).

ISRO, Microsoft join hands to Empower Space-Tech Startups in India

- ✓ MoU b/w: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Microsoft India
- ✓ Purpose: to support and promote the growth of space technology startups in India.
- ✓ Through this collaboration, the ISRO-identified space-tech firms will be added to the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub platform, which supports startups at every stage of their development, from idea to unicorn.

Bank of Baroda wins EAG laureate award on financial security

- ✓ Bank of Baroda, the second largest public sector bank in India after State Bank of India (SBI), won EAG Laureate award in the International Olympiad of Financial Security held at Sochi, Russia on 10 October 2022.
- ✓ India is one of the nine members of the Eurasian group on combating money laundering and terrorism (EAG), a regional organisation similar to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The EAG was established in 2004 and is currently an associate member of the FATF.
- ✓ The FATF is the global anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing body.

Ujjwala Scheme: Rs 200 Subsidy per Cylinder to be Extended One More Year

- ✓ The 2023-2024 Union Budget is extended the Rs 200 per cooking gas cylinder subsidy for 12 cylinders per year under Ujjwala Scheme for one more fiscal year. The budget may also extend the Ujjwala scheme beyond March 2023 to take

domestic cooking gas to uncovered areas in states and attain the goal of 100% Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) coverage.

- ✓ The extension of the scheme for another fiscal aims to improve the penetration in north-east India.
- ✓ Meghalaya is the worst performer in India with an LPG coverage of 54.9%, followed by Tripura, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

ADB approves USD 125 million loan to improve urban services in TN

- ✓ On 27th December 2022 Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 125 million (about Rs 1,025 crore) loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment along with the drainage and water supply systems in three cities, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi of Tamil Nadu (TN). This is the third and the last tranche (tranche 3 loan) of the USD 500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Flagship Program approved by ADB in 2018 for building priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across 10 cities in TN.
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s President – Masatsugu Asakawa & Establishment – 1966.

Paytm Bank Gets RBI nod to Operate as Bharat Bill Payment

- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank said it has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU). Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes./

Bharti Airtel to Invest Rs 2,000 Crore to set up Hyperscale data Centre in Hyderabad

- ✓ Bharti Airtel Group announced that it will be investing Rs 2,000 crore for setting up a large hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad. The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos, Switzerland in the presence of Telangana Minister for IT and Industries K T Rama Rao. The

release added that the Bharti Airtel Group, through its data centre arm, Nxtra Data Centers, will invest the amount as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers.

- ✓ For the first phase, the facility in the Hyderabad will be a hyperscale data centre with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) of IT load, and will incorporate the latest technologies in cooling and security. The project is estimated to be deployed in the next five to seven years. Hyderabad is now the hub for hyperscale data centers in India and Airtel's investment adds to the pace. Airtel-Nxtra to work on creating digital infrastructure to keep up with the ever-growing industry in the state.

Mastercard Announced Second Phase of Girls4Tech STEM Education in India

- ✓ Mastercard announced the expansion of its signature Girls4Tech, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program in India. The Girls4Tech is supported by Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF).
- ✓ The expansion of the program aims to reach up to 1 lakh female students across the country by 2024 to encourage them to take up STEM Education. The program includes 14,400 students in Delhi and 40 additional government schools where STEM courses will be offered to girls aged 8 to 14.

Amazon back as World's Most Valued Brand, Apple down to No 2

- ✓ Billionaire Jeff Bezos's e-commerce company Amazon has become the most valued brand, overtaking Apple, last year's topper. Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand despite its brand value falling 15 per cent this year from \$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion. According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over \$50 billion this year, with its rating slipping from AAA+ to AAA. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world

RBI UPDATES

RBI Directs Banks to Complete Renewal Agreements for Existing Safe Deposit Lockers by Dec 31, 2023

- ✓ On January 23, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline for banks to complete the process of renewal of agreements for the existing safe deposit locker holders by December 31, 2023 from January 1, 2023.
- ✓ The deadline is extended in a phased manner with intermediate milestones of 50% by June 30, 2023, and 75% by September 30, 2023.
- ✓ The Banks are provided with a deadline of April 30, 2023, to notify all their customers regarding the revised requirements.
- ✓ In August 2021, the RBI had issued revised instructions with respect to the Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility that required banks to enter into revised agreements with the existing locker holders by January 1, 2023.

RBI directs SBM Bank (India) to stop all transactions under Liberalised Remittance Scheme

- ✓ RBI in exercise of its powers under sections 35A and 36(1)(a) of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949, directed SBM Bank (India) Ltd to stop all transactions under Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) with immediate effect till further orders.
- ✓ This decision has been taken due to certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank.
- ✓ Under the LRS, Indian residents, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or combination of both.
- ✓ SBM Bank (India) Ltd is a Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based bank that has been operating as a branch of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd since 1994.
- ✓ On December 1, 2018, it became the first universal bank in India to receive a banking licence from RBI through the wholly-owned subsidiary route.

RBI released state finances study report; Advises state against risk over reverting to OPS

- ✓ On January 16, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the annual report titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23”, which provides data and analysis of the fiscal position of State governments in India for FY23.
- ✓ The report is an annual publication that presents information, analysis, and an assessment of state government finances for 2022–2023 (FY23) in comparison to actual and revised/provisional accounts for 2020–2021 and 2021–2022, respectively.
- ✓ The theme of the 2023 Report is “Capital Formation in India – The Role of States”.
- ✓ The States’ capital outlay-GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio is budgeted to increase to 2.9 percent in FY23 from 2.3 percent in FY22.

Three Key Takeaways

- ✓ The state’s debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio continues to be extraordinarily high.
- ✓ The contingent liabilities of state governments have also significantly increased.
- ✓ Warns of new concerns, with some states preferring to return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

RBI issues guidelines on acquisition in banks; Protean’s arm gets RBI nod for AA Licence

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued ‘Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies Directions, 2023’ which allowed promoters to hold 26% from the current 15% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of a bank after the completion of 15 years from commencement of its business.
- ✓ This increase in the cap on promoters’ stake is based upon the Internal Working Group (IWG) recommendations in 2021.
- ✓ Protean eGov Technologies Limited (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), has

received approval from the RBI for its wholly owned subsidiary to operate as an Account Aggregator (AA) with an NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company)-AA certificate.

RBI Prior approval now a must for picking up over 5% stake in banks

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated in its “Reserve Bank of India (Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies) Directions, 2023” published on January 16, 2023, anyone who intends to make an acquisition that is likely to result in a major shareholding in a banking company should first obtain the RBI’s prior approval by submitting an application.
- ✓ “Major shareholding” refers to a person’s “aggregate holding” of 5% or more of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in a banking company.

GoI Switches Bonds Maturing in 2024 with RBI in Cash-Neutral Deal

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has been conducting conversion/switch operations with market participants as well as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in order to streamline its liability profile and promote market development.
- ✓ The GoI bought back 6.18% bonds maturing in 2024 (FY 2024-25) worth Rs. 22,610 crore (USD 2.78 billion) at a price of Rs. 98.62, and it issued 8.28% 2032 bonds to the RBI worth Rs. 21,025.914 crore at a price of Rs. 106.05.
- ✓ The transaction was processed using Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) prices as of January 16, 2023.

RBI Data: Indians remitted nearly USD 2 billion under LRS scheme in November 2022

- ✓ According to the most recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on “Outward Remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for Resident Individuals,” Indians remitted about USD 1.99 billion in November 2022 under the LRS. The data was released in the January 2023 Bulletin of the RBI. Outward remittances under LRS increased 29% to USD 1.99 billion from USD 1.54 billion in November 2021.

- ✓ According to the RBI data, Indians have remitted around USD 17.28 billion in outward remittances under the LRS to date (until November 2022) in the fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23).

RBI to issue its maiden green bonds for Rs. 16,000 crore in two tranches of Rs. 8,000 Crore each

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) for an aggregate sum of Rs. 16,000 crores will be issued in two tranches of Rs. 8,000 crores each in January and February 2023, with the intention of mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.
- ✓ The proceeds would be used to fund public-sector projects that will help India reduce its carbon emissions.
- ✓ Green bonds are financial instruments used by the government to raise funds from potential investors for programmes/schemes that promote environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.

RBI January 2023 Bulletin: RBI to Direct Inflation toward a 4% target by 2024

- ✓ According to the article titled “State of the Economy” published in the “January 2023 bulletin” of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the RBI’s 2023 monetary policy objective is to keep inflation within the required tolerance band (2%- 6%) and lead it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024, which is the second milestone.
- ✓ The first monetary policy milestone has been reached, with inflation now falling inside the tolerance band.
- ✓ According to provisional data issued by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on January 12, 2023, Retail inflation, as measured by Year-on-year (y-o-y) fluctuations in the all-India Consumer Price Index (CPI), slowed to 5.7% in December 2022 from 5.9% in November 2022. It was driven by a significant drop in food inflation.
- ✓ After remaining above the RBI’s tolerance range of 2%-6% for 10 months, it has fallen below 6% for the second consecutive month.

- ✓ As per the paper titled 'What Drives Startup Fundraising in India' in Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) January 2023 bulletin, the start-up fundraising in India is expected to rapidly rebound from the macroeconomic disturbances seen over the last 2-3 years.
- ✓ According to data from the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, there were 107 unicorns as of September 2022, with an aggregate valuation of \$341 billion.
- ✓ Bengaluru (Karnataka), Gurugram (Haryana), and Mumbai (Maharashtra) are the top three cities with the highest number of unicorns in India.

RBI notifies revised List of Accredited Credit Rating Agencies

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the revised list of accredited Credit Rating agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks. The six credit rating agencies are as follows:
 - ✓ Acuite Ratings & Research Limited (Acuite)
 - ✓ Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE)
 - ✓ CRISIL Ratings Limited
 - ✓ ICRA Limited
 - ✓ India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings)
 - ✓ INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd

CAD widens to 4.4% of GDP in Q2FY23, Banks' net NPA ratio at 10-yr low: RBI Report

- ✓ In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) preliminary data on India's Balance of Payments (BoP) for the July-September (Q2) quarter of FY 2022-23, India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened in the Q2FY23 due to increased trade gap driven by high commodity prices and a weak rupee.
- ✓ In absolute terms, CAD was \$36.40 billion in Q2FY23 which is highest in more than a decade.
- ✓ As a percentage of GDP, it was 4.4%, the highest since the June quarter of 2013.
- ✓ India's CAD is up from USD 18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in Q1FY23 and a deficit of US\$ 9.7 billion (1.3% of GDP) in Q2FY22.

- ✓ The RBI also released the 26th Financial Stability Report (FSR) which states the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system. It is published bi-annually.

RBI Grants In-principle Approval for Payment Aggregator Licence to EnKash

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided in-principle approval for the Fintech startup EnKash, for payment aggregator's licence. This will enable EnKash to broaden its product offerings to millions of businesses for digital transactions. EnKash is established in 2018.
- ✓ Hitachi Payment Services an end-to-end payment service provider and BharatPe, a fintech unicorn have also received in-principle approval from RBI for a payment aggregator licence.

SBI, HDFC & ICICI Banks in the RBIs 2022 list of D-SIBs

- ✓ On January 2, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 2022 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) based on the data from March 31, 2022.
- ✓ In this, State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank kept the status as D-SIBs, under the same bucketing structure as in the 2021 list of D-SIBs.
- ✓ D-SIBs are interconnected entities, whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. They are also known as 'too-big-to fail' banks.
- ✓ The D-SIBs will be selected by RBI based on the size of the bank as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) i.e the banks having a size beyond 2% of GDP.

Issues related to cards, Net Banking Top Complaint Areas at OBO: RBI Report

- ✓ the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the period April 01, 2021 – March 31, 2022. Its details are as follows:

- ✓ Issues related to ATM (Automated Teller Machine)/debit cards were the highest at 14.65% of the total received at the Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBO) from April 1 to November 11, 2021. These were followed by mobile/ electronic banking at 13.64%.
- ✓ Complaints relating to digital modes of payment and transactions were the highest in number, constituting 42.12% of the total complaints received during the year.

RBI: Annapurna Finance Private Applies for Universal Bank License

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received an application from Bhubaneswar (Odisha) based Annapurna Finance Private Limited (AFPL), formerly known as Annapurna Microfinance Private Limited, under the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks in the Private Sector issued on 1st August 2016.

RBI Launches Medium-Term Strategy Framework "Utkarsh 2.0" For 2023-2025

- ✓ The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, has launched the "Utkarsh 2.0" Medium-Term Strategy Framework for the period 2023-2025. The first strategy framework, "Utkarsh 2022", covering the period 2019-2022, was launched in July 2019.

RBI Selected 6 Firms under 4th Cohort of RS to Test Anti-Fraud Solutions

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had selected 6 entities out of nine applications for the Test Phase under the 4th cohort of Regulatory Sandbox (RS) on the theme 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds'. The selected entities will commence testing of their products on Anti-Fraud Solutions from February 2023. The 4th cohort under RS was announced in June 2022.
- ✓ The 6 selected entities are: Bahwan Cybertek; Credwatch Information Analytics; enStage Software Private Limited (Wibmo); HSBC in collaboration with Wibmo; napID Cybersec & Trusting Social.

RBI revised Bank Locker Rules rules w.e.f. January 1, 2023

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended the bank locker rules w.e.f. January 1, 2023. In this regard, all the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement. They are required to sign a renewal agreement before the specified date. The agreement must follow the model drafted by the Indian Bank Association (IBA) in line with the Supreme Court's (SC) orders and guidelines.
- ✓ **Compensations:** - The bank shall be liable to pay you 100 times the prevailing safe deposit locker annual rent if the valuables stored in the vaults are lost due to fire or building collapse. However, the bank is not liable for any damage caused by natural calamities or 'Acts of God'.

RBI releases web publication 'Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22'

- ✓ On December 27, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its web publication entitled 'Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22' covering the activities of the Indian banking sector. It presented entity-wise information on major items of liabilities and assets along with their maturity profile; income and expenses; select financial ratios, number of employees and details of priority sector advances for Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding regional rural banks), capital to risk weighted asset ratios (CRARs), non-performing assets (NPAs), among others.

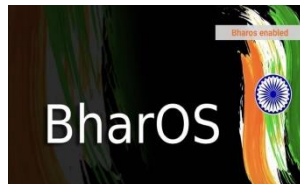
Infibeam Avenues Receives RBI Nod for Bharat Bill Payment Licence

- ✓ Infibeam Avenues Limited (IAL), India's first listed payments infrastructure firm, has received Perpetual Licence for its bill payments business, Bill Avenue from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in accordance with its circular on Perpetual validity for certificates of Authorization (CoA) issued to Payment System Operators (PSOs) under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT-Madras-Incubated Company Develops Indigenous Operating System “BharOS”

- ✓ JandK Operations Private Ltd., a company incubated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation, has developed ‘BharOS’, an indigenous mobile operating system (OS).
- ✓ It is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T) through its “National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems” (NM-ICPS).
- ✓ The BharOS is offered to organisations with strict privacy and security requirements, as well as users who handle sensitive information.



- BharOS**
- ✓ BharOS, a play on the Bharat Operating System, is promoted by IIT-Madras as a contribution to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and can be installed on commercially available mobile devices, creating a secure environment for users.
 - ✓ It gives users access to apps that comply with certain security and privacy standards established by organisations.
 - ✓ BharOS is identical to Android OS in terms of technology, with the primary distinction being that BharOS does not feature Google services.

Significant Features of BharOS

- ✓ The Private App Store Services (PASS) offered by BharOS give users access to reputable apps.
- ✓ No Default Applications (NDA) in BharOS prevent users from being forced to use programmes they may not be familiar with or do not feel trustworthy.
- ✓ It gives them more control over the apps and permissions they require. BharOS provides “Native Over The Air” (NOTA) updates, which are automatically downloaded and installed to maintain the software secure and bug-free.

SpaceX launches 51 Internet Satellites in its 1st Starlink mission of 2023

- ✓ Elon Musk-led SpaceX launched 51 internet satellites in its 1st Starlink mission of 2023 to low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base (formerly Vandenberg Air Force Base), California, United States of America (USA), which was initially scheduled to launch on 9th January 2023.
- ✓ The Starlink satellites on this launch, named Starlink 2-4, will fly in an orbit inclined 70 degrees to the equator.
- ✓ After a mission in September 2021, which also orbited 51 Starlink spacecraft, this is the second launch into Group 2.
- ✓ SpaceX carried out the first Starlink launch of 2023 was launched to resume deployment of the constellation’s second shell.
- ✓ The 51 Starlink internet satellites onboard the rocket will bring the total number of Starlink spacecraft launched to 3,717.

Geotail Spacecraft, 1st joint mission of NASA-JAXA, Retires After Data Recorder Failure

- ✓ Geotail spacecraft, the first joint mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) retired after 30 years in orbit. The mission operations of Geotail were ended due to the failure of its remaining data recorder.
- ✓ The mission also helped identify the location of a process called magnetic reconnection, which is a major conveyor of material and energy from the Sun into the magnetosphere and one of the instigators of the aurora. This discovery laid the way for the Magnetospheric Multiscale mission, or MMS, which launched in 2015.
- ✓ Geotail, which was launched on 24th July 1992 orbited earth and gathered datasets on the structure

and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble.

- ✓ Geotail was originally slated for a four-year run, but the mission was extended several times due to its high-quality data return.
- ✓ One of Geotail's 2 recorders failed in 2012 and the 2nd continued until experiencing an anomaly on 28th June 2022.
- ✓ Following the failed attempts to repair the recorder, the mission operations ended on 28th November 2022.

European Union Establishes Its First Mainland Satellite Launch Port

- ✓ The European Union (EU) has launched its first mainland orbital launch complex, "Spaceport Esrange," a new satellite launch and reusable rocket test facility at Esrange Space Center near the city of Kiruna in northern Sweden.
- ✓ It was inaugurated by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf, and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.
- ✓ The EU will utilize it to complement its current launch capabilities in French Guiana.

iNCOVACC – India's first intranasal Covid vaccine launched

- ✓ The first nasal vaccination produced in India against Covid-19, the iNCOVACC, was introduced by Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Bharat Biotech has created the vaccine. At Mandaviya's house, the first intranasal vaccine produced in India was introduced to the world.
- ✓ iNCOVACC developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech.



NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Discovers New Exoplanet Named LHS 475b

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that the James Webb Space Telescope has discovered its first new

exoplanet. Researchers have labelled the planet as LHS 475 b, and it's roughly the same size as Earth.

Located just 41 light-years away, the planet orbits very close to a red dwarf star and completes a full orbit in just two days. Researchers hope that in the coming years, owing to the Webb telescope's advanced capabilities, they will be able to detect more Earth-sized planets. So far, most of the discovered exoplanets are similar to Jupiter as Earth-sized planets are much smaller in size and harder to discover with older telescopes.



- ✓ LHS 475b, It is roughly the same size as Earth, with a diameter of 99% that of Earth. It is a celestial, rocky planet located approximately 41 light-years away from Earth in the constellation Octane. It differs from Earth in two respects, first that it completes one orbit in only two days and secondly it is hundreds of degrees hotter than Earth.

Startup firm IG Drones Develops India's First 5G-enabled Drone, Skyhawk

- ✓ Startup firm IG Drones, which was born out of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) campus in Odisha's Sambalpur has developed a 5G-enabled drone that is capable of vertical take-off and landing. As it's a VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing), it can be operated from any terrain without the need for a conventional runway.
- ✓ The drone named Skyhawk can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors. The drone can carry a 10 kg payload and has an endurance of around five hours.
- ✓ With Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) providing 5G services in the country, these drones can be controlled with much more precision and can be controlled from the command centre directly rather than being on the field.
- ✓ The drone is also capable of operating through satellites in case an internet link is not available
- ✓



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World's 1st Agri-focused Satellite to Generate \$108 million Revenue for South Africa

- ✓ As per the statement of Pontsho Maruping, Chairperson of the South African Council for Space Affairs, the launch of world's first agriculture-focused satellite, 'AgriSAT-1 /ZA 008' is expected to generate over USD 100 million in revenue for South Africa.
- ✓ 'AgriSAT-1 /ZA 008' was launched by Dragonfly Aerospace on a Space X Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ The satellite will provide high-quality data to the agriculture and forestry industry for efficient and sustainable practices.
- ✓ It is the first of a seven-satellite constellation in low Earth orbit for customer EOSDA (EOS Data Analytics).

CMPDIL invents New Dust Control Technology

- ✓ Ranchi (Jharkhand)- based Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), a consultancy subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust".
- ✓ Purpose: To minimize and control the fugitive dust in mining areas. CMPDIL received a patent (Patent No. 416055) for its invention in December 2022.

MoEF&CC Puts Neelakurinji On the List of Protected Plants

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has listed Neelakurinji or Kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, including it to the list of protected plants.
- ✓ The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, prohibits picking, uprooting or destroying plants and also prohibits the cultivation and possession of these plants.
- ✓ Neelakurinji has been included in the list after the Center expanded the earlier protected list of six plant species to 19.

China launches Asia's 1st Semi-High-Speed Hydrogen Train with a Range of 600 Km

- ✓ China's CRRC Corporation Limited has unveiled Asia's 1st hydrogen-powered trains for the Urban Railways, which have a top speed of 160 kmph (kilometre per hour) and a range of 600 km on a single tank. It was developed in collaboration with Chengdu Rail Transit and CRRC Changchun Railway Co.
- ✓ This is the second such train in the world. Germany introduced green trains in 2022.

DRDO Develops UAV for Operations in Himalayan Frontier

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an untethered multi-copter payload, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), that aims to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier.
- ✓ The UAV is capable of flying with a 5 kg to 25 Kg payload and is also used to drop bombs in enemy territories and medicines for soldiers who are deployed at high altitudes or war zones.

Virgin Orbit: UK's First-Ever Rocket Mission Suffers Anomaly & Ends in Failure

- ✓ The United Kingdom (UK)'s first-ever space mission failed after the rocket suffered an anomaly during the flight. Virgin Orbit's modified Boeing

747 dubbed “Cosmic Girl” carrying LauncherOne, the first rocket to launch into space from the UK took off from Cornwall.

- ✓ This is also the first time that satellites have been launched from Europe.

India Carries Out Successful Test Launch of Prithvi-II from Chandipur, Odisha

- ✓ India successfully test launched nuclear capable tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ Prithvi-II, a short-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile, is the first missile to have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

NASA’s TESS mission discovers 2nd Earth-sized planet in “Habitable Zone”

- ✓ NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission has made a discovery, identifying a 2nd Earth-sized, called ‘TOI 700 e’, a rocky planet within the habitable zone of a star.
- ✓ TOI 700 e takes 28 days to orbit its star called TOI 700, a small red dwarf star located around 100 light-years from Earth.
- ✓ The three planets in the same system were previously found by NASA:
- ✓ TOI 700 b (90% Earth’s size)- orbits the star every 10 days.
- ✓ TOI 700 c (2.5 times bigger than Earth)- completes an orbit every 16 days.
- ✓ TOI 700 d (near-Earth-sized)- a 37-day orbit

OneWeb Launches 40 Satellites from SpaceX’s Florida Space Centre

- ✓ OneWeb, a United Kingdom-based satellite broadband connectivity company backed by the Bharti group, has launched another 40 satellites from SpaceX’s Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, United States of America to achieve over 80% deployment of its planned in-orbit low-earth orbit (LEO) constellation.

- ✓ This marks OneWeb’s 16th launch and 2 more launches will complete OneWeb’s 1st - generation constellation enabling global connectivity in 2023.

Gaganyaan: India’s 1st Atmanirbhar human space flight to be launched by 2024

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch India’s 1st Atmanirbhar human flight “Gaganyaan” by the year 2024.
- ✓ There will be two preliminary launches in 2024. The 1st will be unmanned, and in the 2nd launch, the robot will be there as a human replica. On the third launch, humans will be sent into space.
- ✓ If the 2 tests are a complete success, it is reported that humans will travel for the 3rd time.

IIT Kanpur Develops Artificial Heart to Deal with Acute Cardiac Problems

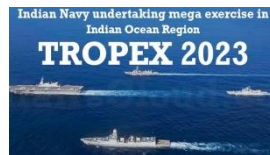
- ✓ IIT Kanpur is ready with an artificial heart that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems. IIT Kanpur Director, Abhay Karandikar, said that the trial on animals would begin next year.
- ✓ Now heart transplant will be easy. Artificial hearts can be implanted in serious patients. IIT Kanpur and cardiologists from across the country have developed this artificial heart. Trial on animals will start from February or March. After success in the trial, transplantation can be done in humans in the next two years. Artificial heart is being developed to reduce the sufferings of the patients.
- ✓ A team of 10 scientists and doctors has prepared this artificial heart. After the success of the trial on animals, heart transplantation in humans will begin within two years.
- ✓ India imports 80 per cent of equipment and implants from abroad. Only 20 percent of the equipment and implants are being manufactured in India. Most of the implants and stents for heart patients are being imported..



DEFENCE

‘TROPEX 2023’: Indian Navy Conducts Mega Naval Wargame in IOR

- ✓ The Indian Navy is conducting the 2023 edition of “Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise” (TROPEX), a significant biennial maritime exercise, in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- ✓ TROPEX 23 will take place from January to March 2023 over a three-month period. In light of China’s rising military intrusions into the IOR, the exercise TROPEX aims to “validate and refine” the Indian Navy’s concept of “operations” and test overall combat capabilities.
- ✓ As part of Exercise “TROPEX 2023,” all surface combatants of the Indian Navy, including destroyers, frigates, and corvettes, as well as submarines and aircraft, are subjected to complex maritime operational deployments.
- ✓ The maritime exercise also features and facilitates operational-level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Coast Guard (ICG).



AMPHEX 2023

- ✓ The Indian Navy also held the biennial tri-service Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX) 2023 in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, from January 17 to 22, 2023.

DRDO & Naval Group France Signs Agreement to Safely Integrate Indigenous Systems in Kalvari-Class Submarines

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Naval Group France have signed an agreement that would greatly improve the endurance of the Indian Navy’s Scorpene-class conventional submarines.



- ✓ According to the agreement, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kalvari will soon be equipped with the fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system of Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), giving a significant boost to “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.
- ✓ NMRL is an Indian defence laboratory of the DRDO.
- ✓ With this agreement, cooperation will be enhanced to include the design process for integrating indigenous AIP into Kalvari-class submarines.
- ✓ Kalvari class submarines have been built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches ‘Soul of Steel’ Alpine Challenge to Promote Tourism in Border Areas

- ✓ On 14th January 2023, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the “Soul of Steel” Alpine Challenge to promote tourism in border areas during the event organized as a part of the 7th Army Veterans’ Day in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The “Soul of Steel” Alpine Challenge is the world’s 1st Alpine skill and endurance challenge, set to take place from January to June 2023.

Cyclone-I: Inaugural Indo-Egypt Joint Special Force Training Exercise held in Rajasthan

- ✓ Exercise Cyclone-I, the first edition of a joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army is being conducted in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan with an aim to boost defence co-operation between the India and Egypt.
- ✓ Cyclone I will engage the contingents of both the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army to advance special forces skills like sniping, combat free fall, reconnaissance, surveillance & target designation, and sharing of information on weapons, equipment, innovations, tactics, techniques & procedures.

ICGS Shaurya & Rajveer on a 6-day visit to Bangladesh

- ✓ On 13th January 2023, Indian Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) Shaurya and ICGS Rajveer, 2 vessels of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) sailed to Chittagong, Bangladesh for a 6-day visit (13th to 19th January 2023) as a part of the close cooperation between the ICG and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG).
- ✓ The visit aims to enhance cooperative engagements and interoperability under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ICG and BCG.
- ✓ The visit of the ICGS Shaurya and ICGS Rajveer, the state-of-the-art indigenously built ICGS important part of the Defence Partnership between India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ ICGS Shaurya: ICGS Shaurya is an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited. It operates both Chetak and Advance Light Helicopters (ALH) and has long-range endurance.
- ✓ ICGS Rajveer: ICGS Rajveer is an Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Tata Boeing Aerospace Delivers 1st Fuselage for Indian Army's Boeing AH-64 Apache Combat Helicopters

- ✓ Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL), a Joint Venture between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and American aircraft manufacturer, Boeing Company, delivered the first fuselage for the Indian Army's contract for six AH-64E Apache Combat helicopters.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security had already approved the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the US.
- ✓ Following this, the Indian Air Force (IAF) procured 22 Apache AH-64E helicopters from The Boeing Company (US) in 2020, with a deal signed in September 2015.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has also decided that any future Apache purchases would go to the Indian Army.

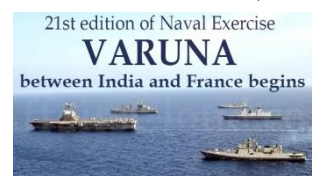
- ✓ Accordingly, GoI inked a contract in February 2020 for six new Apache helicopters for the Indian Army at a cost of around USD 800 million.

Sainya Ranakshetram 2.0: IA organised a Cyber Threat Seminar Cum Workshop

- ✓ From October 2022 to January 2023, the 2nd edition of Hackathon named 'Sainya Ranakshetram 2.0' was organized by the Indian Army (IA) under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). It was a Cyber Threat Seminar cum Workshop to facilitate engagement with individuals, academia and organizations for identification of suitable talent in the field of Cyber Security.
- ✓ During the workshop, the identified talent was felicitated by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (CAS) during a virtual function on January 17, 2023.

21st Edition of India France Naval Exercise VARUNA – 2023 held at Western Seaboard

- ✓ On January 16, 2023, the 21st Edition of India France Naval Exercise VARUNA – 2023, the bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and French Navy conducted on the Western Seaboard from 16th to 20th January 2023.



- ✓ Varuna is considered a hallmark of the India – France strategic bilateral relationship.
- ✓ India is represented by indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, Maritime Patrol Aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft.
- ✓ The French Navy is represented by the aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, frigates FS Forbin and Provence, support vessel FS Marne and maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique.
- ✓ The 20th edition of VARUNA was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 30th March 2022 to 3rd April 2022.

‘ICGS Kamla Devi’: Last Vessel of FPV Series Commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal

- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) "Kamla Devi," the fifth and last vessel in the series of fast-patrol vessels (FPVs), was commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ The vessel was built indigenously by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, in a public-private partnership (PPP) with Titagarh Wagons Limited (TWL) to the specifications of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ✓ The ICGS Kamladevi is named after ‘Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay’, a social reformer and freedom activist who advocated for the advancement of artisans and craftsmen across India as well as the promotion of the performing arts.

BSF organises ‘Ops Alert’ exercise to step up security along India-Pakistan border

- ✓ The Border Security Force (BSF) announced that in preparation for Republic Day festivities, its troops had begun “Ops Alert” with the goal of enhancing security along the International Border (IB) with Pakistan in the Kutch region of Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan.
- ✓ The operation, which got under way on Saturday, was described as being conducted to “thwart any ill-designs of anti-national elements” during the Republic Day celebrations.
- ✓ “All along the Indo-Pak international boundary from Sir Creek (marshy area) to the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat and Barmer district of Rajasthan,” is where the “Ops Alert” exercise would be conducted from January 21 through January 28.
- ✓ The BSF will conduct special operations in creeks as part of the drill, the “Harami Nalla”, forward and depth zones, and other locations.
- ✓ Additionally, as part of the exercise, public outreach programmes have been planned.



‘Ops Alert’ exercise along India-Pakistan border

Air Force to conduct Poorvi Akash exercise in Northeast

- ✓ The Indian Air Force will run the massive air exercise Pralay to assess its operational readiness. The significant exercise will take place near the Line of Actual Control in India’s northeast, involving all significant Air Force units.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force would deploy significant combat assets such fighter jets like the Rafale and Su-30 as well as helicopters, transport aircraft, and other aircraft in the following days for the huge Command-level exercise.
- ✓ The drone squadrons that were recently relocated to the Northeast will also participate in the drill.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force is better able to monitor any hostile activities along the Sikkim and Siliguri region thanks to the engagement of the drone squadrons.

Indian Air Force to Conduct Exercise ‘PRALAY’ in Northeastern Part of India

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to conduct Exercise PRALAY in the northeastern sector of India amid the unresolved contention with China about differing perceptions regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two nations. The exercise will involve major air bases of the IAF in the northeast in addition to the recently deployed drone squadron.
- ✓ The Exercise PRALAY will be held in the next few days amid IAFs’ defensive posturing along the Indo-Sino Border.
- ✓ It is signified by its activation of the S-400 air defense systems along the LAC. The S-400 is capable of striking the target from 400 kilometers away.
- ✓ Exercise PRALAY will include major combat assets including the recently acquired Rafale fighter in addition to Su-30 fighter jets and other transport aircraft.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force is monitoring the situation as there is a significant increase in Chinese activity along the LAC, in Doklam and Tawang.

- ✓ The recent deployment of an IAF drone squadron to the northeast region augments its capabilities of monitoring enemy activities along the Siliguri and the Sikkim Corridor.

Fifth Kalvari Class Submarine “Vagir” to be Commissioned into Indian Navy

- ✓ Indian Navy is set to commission the fifth Kalvari class submarine Vagir on 23 Jan 2023. The Chief of the Naval Staff Adm R Hari Kumar will be the Chief Guest for the ceremony. These submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Four of the Kalvari class of submarines have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The former Vagir was commissioned on 01 Nov 1973 and undertook numerous operational missions including deterrent patrols.
- ✓ The submarine was decommissioned on 07 Jan 2001 after serving the nation for about three decades.

Defence Ministry Approves Proposals Worth Rs 4,276-cr for Anti-tank, Air Defence Missile Systems

- ✓ Defence Acquisition Council(DAC) approved three proposals worth 4,276 crore rupees to strengthen the country's deterrence and combat readiness. Defence Ministry said, a meeting of Defence Acquisition Council held under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC has accorded approval for procurement of HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, launchers and associated support equipment which will be integrated to the Advanced Light Helicopter. This missile is an essential part of weaponization of Advanced Light Helicopter for countering enemy threats. The Ministry said, its induction will strengthen the offensive capability of the Indian Army.



Under SPRINT Scheme Indian Navy to Get Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms

- ✓ iDEX has signed its 50th SPRINT contract with Sagar Defence for Autonomous Weaponised Boat Swarms for the Indian Navy. Autonomous Weaponised Boat is one of the technologies introduced out of the 75 challenges by the Indian Navy under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2022.
- ✓ Sagar Defence has developed the country's first Autonomous Weaponised unmanned boat with the capability for swarming. The contract was signed under an Indian Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT initiative.

DRDO's celebrated its 65th foundation day

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year. DRDO Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion. He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.
- ✓ On the occasion of the day, a DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released by the Chairman DRDO. DRDO calendar 2023 was also released. In addition, Secretary DD R&D and Chairman DRDO felicitated all the employees who have completed 25 years of their service in DRDO.

Avani Chaturvedi, India's first female pilot, to pilot Sukhoi fighter jet

- ✓ Su-30MKI pilot Squadron Leader Chaturvedi will be assigned to the Veer Guardian 2023 in Japan. First female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF), squadron commander Avani Chaturvedi, will participate in the inaugural air exercise Veer Guardian 2023. The goal of the exercise is to improve air defence cooperation between Japan and India.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

ICC annual awards 2022 announced

✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced its first individual award winners in the ICC Awards 2022, naming the stars honoured in the Associate, Emerging and T20I categories following a global vote conducted among the specialist panel of media representatives, the ICC Voting Academy and global fans who voted for their favourite stars. Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year, with winners announced across ICC digital channels.



ICC awards winners for 2022

✓ Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy: Babar Azam (Pakistan)
✓ Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy: Nat Sciver (England)
✓ Men's Test Cricketer of the Year: Ben Stokes (England)
✓ Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Babar Azam
✓ Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Nat Sciver
✓ Men's T20 International Cricketer of the Year: Suryakumar Yadav (India)
✓ Women's T20 International Cricketer of the Year: Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
✓ Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Marco Jansen (South Africa)
✓ Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Renuka Singh (India)
✓ Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year: Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)
✓ Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year: Esha Oza (India)
✓ David Shepherd Trophy: Richard Illingworth (England)
✓ Spirit of Cricket Award: Aasif Sheikh (Nepal)

Dr. Prabha Atre honoured with Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✓ Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Prabha Atre was conferred with the the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award at the hands of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The award was presented to her by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at Thane near Mumbai. The Chief Minister felicitated Dr Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadhkari Rangayatan. Shinde presented Dr Atre with a citation and Rs 1 lakh at the program, during which a symphony of 90 flutists was performed to mark her 90th birthday.
- ✓ Prabha Atre (born 13 September 1932) is an Indian classical vocalist from the Kirana gharana. She has been awarded all three of the Padma Awards by the Government of India. Her music training was in the Guru-shishya tradition.



Oscar 2023 nominations announced

- ✓ The 95th Academy Awards nominations for 23 categories were announced on Tuesday, with “Everything Everywhere All at Once” leading the pack with 11 accolades. Hollywood actors Riz Ahmed and Allison Williams made the nominations official here.
- ✓ On March 12, 2023, the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood will host the 95th Academy Awards ceremony.
- ✓ The Song ‘Naatu Naatu’ from India’s blockbuster film RRR and two documentaries from the country ‘All That Breathes’ and ‘The Elephant Whisperers’ have made it to the final nominations list at the 95th edition of the Academy Awards. However, India’s official entry Chhello Show (Last Film Show), Gujarati language coming-of-age drama did not score a nomination in the Best International Feature category at the 95th Academy Awards.

- ✓ The Naatu Naatu song from the movie RRR has been composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani and penned by Chandrabose. Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj have voiced the popular track. In a historic and jovial moment for Indian cinema.

Oscar 2023 Nominations: Best picture category	
✓	All Quiet on the Western Front
✓	Avatar: The Way of Water
✓	The Banshees of Inisherin
✓	Elvis
✓	Everything Everywhere All at Once
✓	The Fabelmans
✓	Tar
✓	Top Gun: Maverick
✓	Triangle of Sadness
✓	Women Talking
Oscar 2023 Nominations: Best actor category	
✓	Brendan Fraser- The Whale
✓	Colin Farrell- The Banshees of Inisherin
✓	Austin Butler- Elvis
✓	Bill Nighy- Living
✓	Paul Mescal- Aftersun
Oscar 2023 Nominations: Best actress category	
✓	Ana de Armas- Blonde
✓	Cate Blanchett- Tar
✓	Andrea Riseborough- To Leslie
✓	Michelle Williams- The Fabelmans
✓	Michelle Yeoh- Everything Everywhere All at Once
Oscar 2023 Nominations: Best director category	
✓	Martin McDonagh- The Banshees of Inisherin
✓	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert- Everything Everywhere All at Once
✓	Steven Spielberg- The Fabelmans
✓	Todd Field- Tar
✓	Ruben Ostlund- Triangle of Sadness

21st Dhaka International Film Festival: Two Indian films bagged awards for the best script writer and best actress

- ✓ Two Indian films bagged awards for the best script writer and best actress in the Asian Film Competition section at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), Bangladesh concluded. Anik Dutta directed film Aparajito (The Undefeated) got the best scriptwriting award while Ketaki Narayan was judged the best actress for her role in Krishnendu Kalesh directed film Prappeda (Hawk’s Muffin).
- ✓ Ikkei Watanabe from Japan got the best actor award for the film Nakodo- Matchmakers (Marriage Counsellor) The Iranian Film Bi-Mother (Motherless) got the best film award by the jury at the DIFF.
- ✓ In the Bangladesh panorama category, Khandaker Sumon directed film Saatao (Memories of Gloomy Monsoons) got the best film award



RV Prasad honoured the most distinguished scientist of the year award 2022

- ✓ R Vishnu Prasad was awarded “The most distinguished scientist of the year 2022” at Vigyan bhawan, Delhi. Prasad, a scientist with 69 patents has been honored with the Indian Achievers Award as the most distinguished scientist of the year. The award, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation. He contributed to smart cities, solid waste management, large-scale water treatment, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, was selected by a jury headed by Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra.
- ✓ The Indian Achievers Award is the india’s most prestigious award and a prestigious recognition that is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to society in a variety of fields.



Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023 announced

- ✓ For the year 2023, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram, both in the Institutional category, have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023 for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- ✓ For the award of year-2023, nominations were solicited from 1st July, 2022 onwards. The award scheme for the year 2023 was given wide publicity through print, electronic and social media. In response to the award scheme, 274 valid nominations were received from institutions and individuals.

About the award

- ✓ The Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.
- ✓ The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.
- ✓ Under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the country has significantly improved the disaster management practices, preparedness, mitigation and response mechanisms resulting in significant reduction in casualties during natural calamities

President Droupadi Murmu confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has conferred upon Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar at a ceremony in New Delhi. This year, 11 children have been selected for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar from which, four are from Art and Culture field, one for Bravery, two for

Innovation, one for Social Service, and three for Sports. 29 Children have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this Year, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories. There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs

Goa Manohar International Airport wins best sustainable greenfield airport award

- ✓ The New Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA), built by the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited, won the prestigious “Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport” award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 at New Delhi. The award was presented for “excellent initiatives” taken by GGIAL in implementing sustainability as one of core concepts. During the conference, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the award to the senior officials from GGIAL in the presence of industry dignitaries and participants.

28th Critics Choice Awards

- ✓ The 28th Critics Choice Awards were held, and once again, SS Rajamouli’s RRR has made India proud, as the film scored two awards. RRR won Best Song award for Naatu Naatu, as well as Best Foreign Language film. RRR was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture and Best Visual Effects.
- ✓ The American Canadian Critics Choice Association CCA show Who shows for the finest In cinematic achievement. The Critics Choice Movie award Formerly known as the Broadcast Film Critics Association award was held. Critics Choice Awards Winner 2023 shows were hosted by Chelsea Handler.

United States R'Bonney Gabriel crowned 71st Miss Universe 2022

- ✓ The United States candidate R'Bonney Gabriel has crowned Miss Universe 2022 at a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico. The crown was presented to her by India's Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu who had won the 2021 title. She was handed a bouquet of flowers, draped in the winner's sash and crowned with a tiara onstage at the 71st Miss Universe Competition. The second runner-up was Miss Dominican Republic, Andreina Martinez. Miss Curacao, Gabriela Dos Santos, and Miss Puerto Rico, Ashley Carino, rounded out the top five finalists.
- ✓ Divita Rai of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. India's participation in the 71st Miss Universe was restricted to the top 16 since she was unable to make it into the top 5. Ms. Rai, a native of Mangaluru, who could not make it to the top-5 cut, hails from a family in Thiruvail. Daughter of Dilip Rai and Pranita Rai, Ms. Divita studied in Mumbai. She was adjudged Liva Miss Diva Universe 2022 and got qualified for the Miss Universe contest. Only two Indians before Ms. Sandhu had won the title of Miss Universe—actors Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.



Indian peacekeepers honoured with UN Medal for Exemplary Service

- ✓ Over 1,000 Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have been honoured with the prestigious UN medals at an award ceremony where the parade was led for the first time by a woman officer of the Indian Army.
- ✓ At a special award ceremony in Upper Nile, 1,171 peacekeepers from India deployed with the UN mission in South Sudan were honoured with UN medals for their exemplary service. For the first time, a female officer of the Indian Army, Major Jasmine Chattha, led the parade of the large Indian contingent, comprising infantry, engineers and

medical officials, at the award ceremony in Upper Nile.

- ✓ UN peacekeeping began in 1948 when the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of UN military observers in the Middle East. It helps to bring countries from conflict to a difficult path of peace. It deploys soldiers and police from all over the world for peacekeeping.

Aparna Sen Received Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✓ Actress Aparna Sen was honored with a lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the 15th Edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival. Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej, film script writer Kamlesh Pandey, screenplay writer-film producer Haider Hale and others were present during the opening ceremony. At the event, 282 films from 63 countries will be screened

The 80th Golden Globe Awards 2023

- ✓ The 80th edition of 2023 Golden Globes show, hosted by Jerrod Carmichael, airs live on NBC and Peacock. The 80th Golden Globe Awards is the first edition of the annual spectacle to be on TV since an ethics, finance and diversity scandal involving the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the group behind the awards, led NBC to decide not to air the 2022 ceremony. As in years past, the show will hand out honors in both film and TV categories.
- ✓ Composer MM Keeravani, along with singers Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, has won the Golden Globe for Best Original Song, for the track "Naatu Naatu," from epic drama "RRR". "Naatu Naatu," a dance number featuring stars Jr NTR and Ram Charan, was competing against Taylor Swift's "Carolina" from Where the Crawdads Sing, "Ciao Papa" from Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, Lady Gaga's "Hold My Hand" from Top Gun: Maverick, and "Lift Me Up" from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, performed by Rihanna.
- ✓ India previously made its presence felt in the Best Original Score category over a decade ago, when AR Rahman won for Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire.
- ✓

Golden Globes Winners 2023 complete list

Category	Winners
Best TV Series, Musical or Comedy	“Abbott Elementary”
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Drama	Kevin Costner, “Yellowstone”
Best Director, Motion Picture	Steven Spielberg, “The Fabelmans”
Best Screenplay, Motion Picture	Martin McDonagh, “The Banshees of Inisherin”
Best Motion Picture, Non-English Language	“Argentina, 1985”
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama	Cate Blanchett, “Tár”
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Drama	Zendaya, “Euphoria”
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama	Austin Butler, “Elvis”
Best Motion Picture, Animated	“Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio”
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Michelle Yeoh, “Everything Everywhere All at Once”
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy	Colin Farrell, “The Banshees of Inisherin”
Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Quinta Brunson, “Abbott Elementary”
Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Series, Musical or Comedy	Jeremy Allen White, “The Bear”
Best Original Song, Motion Picture	“Naatu Naatu,” “RRR”
Best Original Score, Motion Picture	Justin Hurwitz, “Babylon”.

Kerala University won ‘Overall Championship’ at youth festival

- ✓ University of Kerala bagged the ‘Overall Championship’ at Padma Tarang, the 36th Inter University South Zone Youth Festival at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (SPMVV) in Tirupati. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, came the runners-up. With more than 700 registered

participants from universities across South India converging on the campus.

CJI DY Chandrachud to be Conferred with “Award for Global Leadership”

- ✓ The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession (HLS CLP) has announced Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud as the 2022 recipient of its “Award for Global Leadership” in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and across the world. The award will be presented to him in a virtual event on 11th January 2023.

Odisha wins World Habitat Award 2023 for its JAGA Mission

- ✓ Odisha won the UN-Habitat’s World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state. The awards recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world. The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023 announced

- ✓ 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award: 27 Indians living overseas have been chosen by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA), for outstanding achievements both in India and abroad. The award is the highest honour conferred upon Indians living abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) or organisations/institutions established and run by them.
- ✓ The jury that selected the recipients comprised Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar as its chairman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as its Vice-Chair, among other distinguished dignitaries from different fields. The awards will be conferred upon the recipients by President Droupadi Murmu during the 17th edition of the PBSA, which is scheduled to be held from 8-10 January in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

- ✓ As per the Ministry of External Affairs, the theme for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 will be “Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India’s Progress in Amrit Kaal”. This theme highlights the importance of the Indian diaspora in contributing to India’s progress
- ✓ The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 Convention will be held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), India from 8-10 January, 2023.

Prabhu Chandra Mishra honoured with Atal Samman Award

- ✓ On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of the country Atal Bihari Vajpayee, many personalities who played an important role in various fields were honored, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi during 9th Atal Samman Samaroh. Prabhu Chandra Mishra has been awarded Atal Samman Award for his excellence in field of science & research. His area of work is Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails. The diseases like premature ovarian failure, thin endometrium, Asherman syndrome Etc have shown satisfactory results with body’s own cells. PRP & bone marrow-derived StemCells Research have shown promising hope for these patients/ couples who are struggling for their own child’s.

Visakhapatnam Railway Station receives ‘Green Railway Station Certification’ with Highest Platinum Rating

- ✓ Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railway has been awarded the “Green Railway Station Certification” with the highest Platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts thereby reducing the adverse environmental impact.
- ✓ Visakhapatnam station secured 82 out of 100 points in 6 environmental categories, such as sustainable facilities, health, hygiene, energy and water efficiency, smart green initiatives, and innovation and development.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal felicitates National Startup Awards 2022 Winners

- ✓ On the occasion of the National Start-up Day (16th January 2023), Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & Textiles felicitated the winners of the National Startup Awards(NSA) 2022 during the award ceremony held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ National Startup Awards 2022, focused on diversity, inclusion, and innovation, is the 3rd edition of the award which recognises outstanding startups that have demonstrated exceptional capabilities in terms of financial gains and measurable impact on society.
- ✓ He also released the National Startup Awards 2022 Report and launched the MAARG platform (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) during the award ceremony.

President Droupadi Murmu Presents Digital India Awards – 2022 (7th edition)

- ✓ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the Digital India Awards 2022, the 7th edition of the Digital India Awards (DIA), in New Delhi, Delhi, on January 7, 2023.
- ✓ The DIA awards are administered by the National Portal of India, which provides a single-window access to information and services offered by government institutions at all levels (centre, state, and local bodies).

Assam Govt confers Assam State Civilian Award 2023; Dr Tapan Saikia receives ‘Assam Baibhav’

- ✓ The Assam government has announced the list of winners of the Assam State Civilian Award 2023 which honours notable people for their admirable service to society. A total of 21 personalities were chosen for the Assam State Civilian Awards 2023.
- ✓ Renowned doctor Dr Tapan Saikia was honoured with the “Assam Baibhav” for his work in the healthcare (cancer treatment) and public service sectors, which included promoting early cancer detection in Assam and other northeastern regions.

SPORTS

Hockey World Cup 2023: Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the finals

- ✓ Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India. The scores were level at the end of regulation time at 3-3. This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006. With this, they draw level with Netherlands and Australia. Germany also became the fourth team to register a come-from-behind win in a World Cup final. From a 2-0 deficit to a 3-2 to lead and ultimately a shootout, they eventually became champions.
- ✓ Earlier the Netherlands beat Australia 3-1 to claim the bronze medal. It was the first time since 1998 that Australia failed to finish on podium at the FIH World Cup.
- ✓ Netherlands records biggest win in Hockey World Cup history: Netherlands defeated Chile's debutants by a score of a record-breaking 14-0.
- ✓ The matches held at two venues, Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, from January 13 to January 29.
- ✓ opening ceremony at the picturesque Barabati Stadium in Cuttack that was witnessed by thousands of hockey lovers in attendance from across the country and abroad. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, International Hockey Federation president Tayyab Ikram and Hockey India chairman Dilip Tirkey were present at the glittering ceremony. 16 teams are participating in the global tournament
- ✓ FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 standings – all teams: 1. Germany 2. Belgium 3. Netherlands 4. Australia 5. England 6. Spain 7. New Zealand 8. Korea 9. Argentina 9. India 11. South Africa 11. Wales 13. France 13. Malaysia. 15. Chile 15. Japan.
- ✓ The official mascot of FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 'Oilly'



India beat England to win the inaugural Women's U19 T20 World Cup

- ✓ India beat England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final in Potchefstroom, South Africa. India bowled out England for a paltry 68 and won by 7 wickets. This is the first ICC trophy India has won in women's cricket. The Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level. The seniors reached the World Cup final on three occasions across formats but failed to go the distance. Bowling first, India cleaned up the English side for mere 68 runs in 17.1 overs.
- ✓ England captain and stellar all-rounder Grace Scrivens has been named Player of the Tournament after a run of outstanding performances with bat and ball.
- ✓ Titas Sadhu of India poses after being named Player of the Match following the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 Final match.



Australian Open 2023



- ✓ Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of men's singles match of the Australian Open 2023. Djokovic wins 10th Australian Open and 22nd grand slam. He levels Rafael Nadal with his 22nd Grand Slam title. In the Women's Singles category, Aryna Sabalenka defeated Elena Rybakina in the final, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the women's singles tennis title at the 2023 Australian Open.

List of Australian Open 2023 Winners

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Singles	A. Sabalenka (Belarus)	E. Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	J. Kubler & R. Hijikata (Australia)	H. Nys (Monaco) & J. Zielinski (Poland)
Women's Doubles	B. Krejčíková & K. Siniaková (Czechia)	S. Aoyama & E. Shibahara (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	L. Stefani & R. Matos (Brazil)	R. Bopanna & S. Mirza (India)

- ✓ The 2023 Australian Open was a Grand Slam level tennis tournament held at Melbourne Park, from 16–29 January 2023. It was the 111th edition of the Australian Open, the 55th in the Open Era, and the first major of the year. There is a total prize pot of AUD \$76.5 million (around £43.3m) for the Australian Open 2023.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic has won his 10th Australian Open championship and record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam title overall by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final at Rod Laver Arena.

Women's IPL teams auction: Adani wins Ahmedabad team with top bid of Rs 1,289 cr

WINNING BID	CITY	AMOUNT IN INR CRORE
Adani Sportsline Pvt Ltd	Ahmedabad	1289 (158)
Indiawin Sports Pvt Ltd	Mumbai	913 (111)
Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd	Bengaluru	901 (110)
JSW GMRA Cricket Pvt Ltd	Delhi	810 (99)
Capri Global Holdings Pvt Ltd	Lucknow	757 (93)

- ✓ BCCI secretary Jay Shah has confirmed that the total bids received from the winners were worth Rs 4,669.99 crore (USD 572.78 million approx). The owners of men's IPL teams Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, as well as the Adani Group and Capri Global, have won bids to own the five women's IPL teams at the auction ahead of the inaugural edition to be played in March this year. The tournament will be known as the Women's Premier League (WPL), and the teams will be based in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Lucknow respectively.
- ✓ The Ahmedabad team was sold for the highest price: INR 1289 crore (USD 158 million approx), followed by Mumbai (INR 912.99 crore/USD 111 million approx), Bengaluru (INR 901 crore/USD 110 million approx), Delhi (INR 810 crore/USD 99.35 million approx) and Lucknow (INR 757 crore/USD 92.85 million approx).

Thai shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn wins India Open Badminton title

- ✓ Shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand won the India Open Badminton Championship 2023 by defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles by 22-20, 10-21 and 21-12. In the Women's Singles category, An Seyoung of South Korea won the title by defeating Japanese Akane Yamaguchi by 15-21, 21-16, and 21-12.
- ✓ The Championship, officially named 'Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2023' was held at KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi from January 17 – 22, 2023. It was the second tournament of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 750. The tournament was organised by Badminton Association of India (BAI) with sanction from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).



South Africa's Hashim Amla announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- ✓ Hashim Amla ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of South Africa's all-time cricketing greats. Amla was a key member of

one of South Africa's most powerful teams when they clinched the Test championship mace with a series win in England in 2012.

Amla made a South African record 311 not out in the first Test at The Oval in London.

He made his first-class debut for a Kwa-Zulu-Natal team, against the touring England team, as a 16-year-old in December 1999 and made his Test debut against India in Kolkata five years later.



- ✓ The 39-year-old Hashim Amla retired from international cricket in 2019,

Career of Hashim Amla

- ✓ It remains South Africa's only triple century in Test match cricket.
- ✓ It was one of Amla's 28 centuries in a 124-match Test career during which he scored 9,282 runs at an average of 46.64.
- ✓ He had an even better average in one-day internationals, hitting 27 centuries in 181 matches and scoring 8,113 runs at 49.46.
- ✓ He retired from international cricket after the 2019 Cricket World Cup and did not play in South African domestic cricket after the 2018/19 season.
- ✓ But he continued to be a prolific run-scorer for Surrey, scoring 1,712 runs at an average of 48.91 in his last two seasons.
- ✓ Amla is currently a batting consultant with the MI Cape Town franchise in the SA20 league

Akane Yamaguchi & Viktor Axelsen win Malaysia Open women's, men's singles crowns

- ✓ Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen won the Malaysia Open Super 1000 Badminton women's and men's singles titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Yamaguchi, the reigning world champion, registered a come-from-behind win over world no. 4 An Se Young to clinch the Super Series Premier title. Yamaguchi won her maiden Super Series Premier title at the China Open in 2017.



- ✓ The men's singles final saw a repeat of last month's World Tour Finals. Axelsen, the regaining Olympic and world champion, won the Malaysia Open title in straight games, beating Japanese youngster Kodai Naraoka in 40 minutes. This was Axelsen's ninth Super Series Premier title and third Malaysia Open crown.
- ✓ China's Chen Qingchen-Jia Yifan, the world no. 1 pairing in women's doubles, blew away South Korea's Baek Hana-Lee Yulim 21-16, 21-10 in 52 minutes.
- ✓ In mixed doubles, the world no. 1 pairing of Zheng Siwei-Huang Yaqiong, carrying on their last season's dominating display, claimed the season's first Super Series Premier title

Indian Opener Shubman Gill hits Double Century off 149 balls

- ✓ Indian batter Shubman Gill has smashed three sixes on the trot to reach his double century (208 off 149 balls with 4s-19 and 6s-9) and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI Cricket history. Shubman Gill completed his First Double Century against New Zealand.
- ✓ Shubman Gill also broke the record for the highest score at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium set by Sachin Tendulkar (175) against Australia in 2009. He also became the fastest Indian to complete 1000 runs in ODIs as he reached the mark in 19 innings, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.
- ✓ While Tendulkar and Sehwag have scored a double century in ODI once, current Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has achieved the feat thrice, including the highest-ever score of 264. Martin Guptill, Fakhar Zaman, and Chris Gayle are the other players to have reached the incredibly rare landmark



Falak Mumtaz bagged gold medal at National Sqay Championship

- ✓ Falak Mumtaz, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship. Falak Mumtaz has achieved a gold medal in the National Sqay Championship which

was held in Jammu. She is currently studying sixth standard at Aisha Ali Academy in Kulgam.

- ✓ The 23rd National Sqay Championship was organized by the SQAY Federation of India and hosted by Jammu and Kashmir SQAY Association at Indoor Stadium Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. In the 23rd National Sqay Championship, players from all over Jammu and Kashmir performed very well and bagged 1st place in the overall medal tally. 11-year-old Falak Mumtaz won a gold medal at the 23rd National Sqay Championship. Andhra Pradesh bagged 2nd place and Odisha was in 3rd place.

Harry Brook & Ashleigh Gardner named ICC Players of the Month for December

- ✓ Harry Brook received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after a blistering run of scores that helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan. On the other hand, Australia's Ashleigh Gardner bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her contributions with bat and ball in the T20I series against India.



France captain Hugo Lloris announces retirement from international football

- ✓ France team captain Hugo Lloris has announced his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36. Lloris represented France in four World Cups and three Euros and captained Les Blues to the World Cup trophy in 2018. The Tottenham Hotspur shotstopper led his team to the World Cup final in Qatar, where they were beaten by Argentina on penalties.
- ✓ he 36-year-old holds many records and is France's most capped player with 145 appearances to his name. Lloris made his debut for Les Blues back in November 2008. He was handed the armband two years after his international debut and would go on to captain France in 121 matches.



KKCL replaces MPL as Indian cricket team's official sponsor

- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has found a replacement for one of the two jersey sponsors of Team India. The cricket body has signed Kewal Kiran Clothing, the maker of Killer Jeans, as the official partner of the Indian cricket team for five months (until May 31, 2023). Kewal Kiran Clothing, which also owns brands such as Lawman and Integriti, replaces gaming firm MPL. Under this deal, the flagship brand (Killer) is on display on the right upper chest of the Team India jersey.



Anahat Singh Crowned Girls U-15 squash Title at British Junior Open Tournament

- ✓ Anahat Singh won the Girl's U-15 squash title at British Junior Open Tournament. Anahat Singh was also one of the youngest players at the Commonwealth Games 2022. She won one of the most prestigious tournaments of the season in Birmingham, U.K.
- ✓ Anahat Singh defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt by 3-1 in the finals of the Girls U-15 squash title at the British Junior Open Tournament.
- ✓ The British Junior Open is held in January every year in the UK in which all the best players from all over the world participate for the title.
- ✓ Anahat Singh is the most successful Indian player in the British Junior Open after winning this title.



Indian Tennis star Sania Mirza announced her retirement

- ✓ Indian Tennis Player Sania Mirza (36-year-old), the former doubles World No. 1, has confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis. She announced that the Dubai Tennis Championships, a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023 will



be her last match. Prior to her last appearance, she is going to play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in 16 to 29 January 2023 alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina.

Career graph of Sania Mirza

- ✓ She has won six Grand Slam doubles titles
- ✓ She won her first grand slam in 2009 by winning Australian Open Mixed doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi. The pair also won the French Open 2012.
- ✓ She won her 3rd mixed doubles title at the US Open in 2014 with Brazil's Bruno Soares.
- ✓ Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis of Switzerland won 3 women's doubles – Wimbledon 2015, the US Open 2015 and the Australian Open 2016
- ✓ Mirza became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005.
- ✓ In 2007, She was ranked among the 30 and also reached her career-high ranking of world number 27(Singles).
- ✓ She was ranked India's No 1 in Singles from 2003 till her retirement from Singles in 2013.

South Africa cricketer Dwaine Pretorius Announces International Retirement

- ✓ Cricket South Africa (CSA) has confirmed that Proteas all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius has retired from international cricket with immediate effect. Since making his international debut in 2016, the 33-year-old has represented South Africa across all three formats in 30 T20 Internationals (T20I), 27 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and three Tests. He has also featured in two World Cups. Pretorius showed his prowess both with the bat and ball in the international arena, aggregating 1895 runs and scalping 77 wickets across formats.

2023 Adelaide International 1 (Tennis)

- ✓ Novak Djokovic has defeated America's Sebastian Korda in a nerve-wracking final to win the Adelaide International men's singles title. Djokovic also equalled Rafael Nadal's tally of 92 ATP singles titles in the Open Era. Nadal and Djokovic are joint-fourth in the list after Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94). In the women's final at Adelaide International 1,

Aryna Sabalenka won the women's singles by defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic. This was her 11th WTA Tour singles title.

- ✓ It is the 3rd edition for women and the 2nd edition for men. It was held at the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre from January 1-8, 2023. The prize money for the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) is \$672,735, and for WTP (Women's Tennis Association) is \$826,837. It is a tennis tournament on the 2023 ATP Tour and the 2023 WTA Tour. It is a combined ATP Tour 250 and WTA 500 tournament.

List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	Sebastian Korda
Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Linda Noskova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Lloyd Glasspool (United Kingdom)/ Harri Heliövaara (Finland)	Jamie Murray (UK)/Michael Venus (New Zealand)
Women's Doubles	Asia Muhammad (United States)/ Taylor Townsend (United States)	Storm Hunter (Australia)/Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

Hyderabad to host First-Ever Formula E World Championship Race

- ✓ The government aims to make Hyderabad one of the top cities in the world by hosting Formula E World Championship.
- ✓ The event will be climate-friendly as it is a net zero-carbon sport.
- ✓ Hyderabad race on 11th February will be the fourth race of the season, season 9 of Formula E, the first three include Mexico City and Riyadh.
- ✓ A total of 11 teams with 23 cars with 22 cars would be racing here and they include some of the top racing companies.
- ✓ A total of about 22,500 tickets would be available for booking online.

- ✓ The world's fastest, lightest, most powerful, and most efficient electric race car, 'The Gen3' is coming to Hyderabad which is the highlight of the Formula E World Championship.
- ✓ Ace Nxt Gen is the official promoter of the Formula E Race in India in partnership with Formula E and the Telangana government

Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster

- ✓ Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster, having completed his three norms prior to this event. IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit. The 16-year-old from India, seeded 22nd, made a clean sweep of the field in Stockholm, winning eight games and finishing a full point ahead of IM Kaan Kucuksari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).



Koustav Chatterjee becomes India's 78th Grandmaster

- ✓ Nineteen-year-old Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal. Koustav earned his first GM norm in October 2021 at a Grandmasters' chess tournament in Bangladesh. He got his second GM norm at the Asian championship in the first week of November 2022. He crossed FIDE rating 2500 in August. Koustav is in the joint-lead with GM Abhijeet Gupta at the National Senior Chess Championship with a score of 8/10 after 10 rounds.



Tennis: India's Yuki Bhambri-Saketh Myneni wins Men's doubles in Bangkok Open 2023(2)

- ✓ India's Tennis players, Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni (1st seed), have won the Men's doubles title at the Bangkok Open 2023(2) held in Nonthaburi, Thailand from 9th to 14th January 2023.
- ✓ The Indian duo defeated Christopher Rungkat of Indonesia and Akira Santillan of Australia in the finals.

- ✓ Winners of Bangkok Open 2 – 2023:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Arthur Cazaux (France)	Lloyd Harris (South Africa)
Men's Doubles	Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni (India)	Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia) and Akira Santillan (Australia)

Chetan Sharma retained as Chairman of the Senior Men's Selection Committee of BCCI

- ✓ Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has retained Chetan Sharma as the Chairman of the 5 members Senior Men's Selection Committee of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✓ Other Members of the committee: Shiv Sundar Das (Central Zone), Subroto Banerjee (East Zone), Salil Ankola (West Zone) and Sridharan Sharath (South Zone) as the other members of the selection committee.



5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022: Mascots, Smart Torch, Theme Song Unveiled

- ✓ Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (MP) Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister of State (MoS) Nisith Pramanik, Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) unveiled the Mascots, Smart Torch, Theme Song of the 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2022 during an event in Bhopal, MP.
- ✓ KIYG 2022 hosted by MP from January 30 to February 11, 2023, in MP's Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat and Khargone (Maheshwar).
- ✓ Mascots: Asha (Female Cheetah) and Mowgli; Torch: Amarkantak



PERSONS IN NEWS

Aruna Miller becomes Maryland's first Indian-American Lieutenant Governor

- ✓ Aruna Miller has scripted history by becoming the first Indian-American politician to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland, adjoining the US capital. Aruna, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, made history when she became the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state. The Lieutenant Governor is the state's highest official following the Governor and assumes the role when the Governor is out of state or incapacitated. Moore became Maryland's 63rd governor, the state's first and the country's only current Black chief executive. The newly sworn-in Lt Governor took her oath on the Bhagwat Gita.



115-years-old Branyas Morera becomes the world's oldest living person

- ✓ A Spanish great-grandmother who was born in the United States has likely become the world's oldest living person at 115, a Guinness World Records. The organisation shared that the woman named María Branyas Morera was born in March 1907 in the US and presently resides in Spain. Mrs Morera is 115 years 321 days old, as of 19 January 2023. María Branyas Morera (USA/Spain) is now confirmed as the world's oldest woman living and oldest person living, following the death of 118-year-old Lucile Randon (France).



UN Declares Pakistan Based Abdul Rehman Makki a Global Terrorist

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has listed Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist. Makki is the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-



Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. The development comes after India last year slammed China after it blocked the proposal to list Makki under the Sanctions Committee. Makki, who has been involved in raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing the youth to plan attacks in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, has already been listed as a terrorist by India and the United States. Makki has been in various leadership roles within the terrorist organization.

Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA

- ✓ Indian-origin Sikh woman, Manpreet Monica Singh became the first ever female Sikh judge in the US after she was sworn in as a Harris county judge. Born and brought up in Houston, after her father immigrated to the US early in the 1970s, Singh currently lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children. In her career expanding over two decades, the newly appointed judge has been involved in numerous civil rights organizations at the local, state, and national levels.



World's richest actor list, Shah Rukh Khan beats Tom Cruise

- ✓ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million), making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world. Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney, Shah Rukh Khan took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released by World of Statistics.



Election Commission of India appoints Maithili Thakur as Bihar's State Icon

- ✓ Maithili Thakur, a Folk Singer, was appointed as the State Icon for Bihar by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Maithili Thakur, an Indian classical and folk music-trained musician was recently chosen for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi (Akademi Award) for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar for 2021.



Veteran Telugu actor J Jamuna passes away at the age of 86

- ✓ Veteran Telugu film actor and former parliamentarian J Jamuna passed away at the age of 86. She was born in Hampi on August 30, 1936, Jamuna made her film debut at the age of 16 with Puttillu (1952) made by Garikapati Raja Rao of Praja Natya Mandali, cultural wing of the Communist Party of India (CPI). Before that she acted in several stage plays on behalf of Indian People's Theatre Association floated by Raja Rao.



Balkrishna Doshi, pioneer of modernist architecture in India, passes away

- ✓ Dr Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, who is widely revered for his contribution in the field of architecture, has passed away. He was 95. For his outstanding contribution to the field of architecture, he was conferred with Pritzker Prize in 2018 and the coveted Padma Shri in 1976. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced that Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi will be the recipient of the 2022 Royal Gold Medal.



Renowned Assamese poet Nilamani Phukan passes away

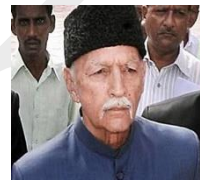
- ✓ Renowned Assamese poet and recipient of Jnanpith Award, Nilamani Phookan has passed away. He was 89. Phookan was one of the most celebrated

poet of Assam and has been awarded the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith for the year 2021. The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita', and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.



Mukarram Jah Bahadur, Hyderabad's Last Nizam passes away

- ✓ The last Nizam of Hyderabad, Mukarram Jah Bahadur, who passed away in Turkey, will be buried in the family vault in the Mecca Masjid courtyard. The preparation of the vault where other members of the Nizam's family who governed Hyderabad starting in 1724 are buried was overseen by representatives of the Nizam Trust.



Former JD-U Chief Sharad Yadav passed away

- ✓ Former JD-U President and Union Minister Sharad Yadav passed away at the age of 75 on Thursday, at a hospital in Gurugram. The news was confirmed by his daughter through a Facebook post.
- ✓ Yadav who had launched his own party Loktantrik Janata Dal, merged with Lalu Yadav's outfit RJD in March 2020 which he said was the "first step towards a united opposition".
- ✓ He was a politician from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) party. He had been elected to Lok Sabha seven times and to the Rajya Sabha thrice from JD(U). He was the first national president of Janata Dal (United) since its formation in 2003 till year 2016.
- ✓ Sharad Yadav had formed Loktantrik Janata Dal in 2018 merged with Janata Dal (United) returning to an alliance with the BJP in Bihar
- ✓ He was disqualified from Rajya Sabha and removed from party leadership positions for engaging in anti-party activities.



Apollo 7's last surviving astronaut, Walter Cunningham passes away

- ✓ On October 11, 1968, three men boarded NASA's Saturn IB and had what the agency described as a "perfect launch" into space in the first crewed Apollo mission. On Tuesday, Walter Cunningham—the last surviving astronaut on that mission who helped pave the way for humans to walk on the moon – died in Houston. Walter was a fighter pilot, physicist and entrepreneur, above all, "he was an explorer."
- ✓ One of his first encounters, however, ended in tragedy. He, along with Walter Schirra and Donn Eisele, were backup crew members on the Apollo 1 mission in 1967 when a flash fire occurred during a launch pad test. The incident resulted in the deaths of three other astronauts.



Former Pope Benedict XVI passes away at the age of 95

- ✓ Statement released by the Vatican, the former Pope Benedict XVI has passed away in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old. The head of the Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the present pope Francis. Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years. He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013. He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.



Padma Awardee Dr Tehemton E Udawadia "Father of laparoscopic surgery" passes Away

- ✓ Padma Awardee Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia, an Indian Surgeon and Gastroenterologist, who was known as the 'father of laparoscopic surgery in India' passed away, at the age of 88. He was born on 15th July 1934 in the Bombay Presidency, British India (now Mumbai, Maharashtra, India).

Former West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi passes away

- ✓ Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88. Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court. He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.



Leading Scientist A.D. Damodaran passes away

- ✓ AD Damodaran, leading scientist and former director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 87. He also served as the Chairman of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment.



Brazil World Cup winner and football legend, Pele passes away

- ✓ Brazilian football legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, famously called Pelé, has passed away aged 82. He is considered by many as one of the greatest footballers of all time. He was instrumental in Brazil's three World Cup victories in 1958, 1962, and 1970. He is still the top scorer for Brazil national team with 77 goals in 92 games. He retired from Santos in 1974 but a year later made a surprise comeback by signing a lucrative deal to join the New York Cosmos in the then nascent North American Soccer League
- ✓ Pele was named "Athlete of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee, co-"Football Player of the Century" by world soccer body FIFA, and a "national treasure" by Brazil's government.



APPOINTMENTS

Chris Hipkins becomes 41st Prime Minister of New Zealand; Jacinda Ardern resigned

- ✓ Chris Hipkins (44 years old), leader of the Labour Party, was sworn in as the 41st Prime Minister (PM) of New Zealand by the governor-general Cindy Kiro, King Charles representative in New Zealand, during a ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand.
- ✓ Chris Hipkins took over the premiership succeeding Jacinda Ardern (42 years old), after she tendered her resignation to Governor-General Cindy Kiro on 25th January 2023. Carmel Sepuloni was also sworn in as the deputy PM, the first time that a person with Pacific Island heritage has taken the role.
- ✓ The 2023 General Election of New Zealand will be held on 14 October 2023. Jacinda Ardern announced that she will not contest in the general elections set for October 2023.



Gol extends tenure of Sangeeta Verma as acting chairperson of CCI

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has extended the tenure of Sangeeta Verma as acting Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) noted that Sangeeta Verma will be the acting Chairperson of CCI until the date on which a new Chairperson is appointed or till any further orders in this regard.
- ✓ In October 2022, She was appointed as the acting Chairperson of CCI for a period of 3 months following the retirement of Full time chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta on 25th October 2022.

Justice Sabina appointed acting chief justice of Himachal Pradesh high court

- ✓ Justice Sabina, the senior-most judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC, in the exercise of the power conferred by Article

223 of the Constitution of India, with effect from 21st January 2023 following the retirement of Himachal Pradesh HC Chief Justice, Amjad Ahtesham Sayed.

ACC extends tenure of Bank of Baroda MD Sanjiv Chadha

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for extending the term of Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bank of Baroda (BoB) Sanjiv Chadha for about five months till June 30, 2023 i.e. when he attains 60 years, the retirement age. His tenure was about to end on January 19, 2023.



ACC approves appointment of Vikram Dev Dutt as Director General of DGCA

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has approved the appointment of Vikram Dev Dutt as Director General (DG) of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with effect from 28th February 2023.
- ✓ Vikram Dev Dutt will succeed Arun Kumar, DG of the DGCA, who retires on February 28, 2023.



Former BSF DG Pankaj Kumar Singh appointed Deputy NSA.

- ✓ The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Pankaj Kumar Singh, as Deputy National Security Adviser (Dy NSA) in the National Security Council Secretariat of India. He has been appointed on a re-employment contract of 2 years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until further orders. Current National Security Advisor (NSA)- Ajit Kumar Doval.

UNGA confirms Inger Andersen for Second Term as Executive Director of UNEP

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected Inger Andersen of Denmark as Executive Director (ED) of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for a second, 4-year term beginning from 15th June 2023 to 14th June 2027. She is currently serving her initial 4-year term from 2019 to 2023.
- ✓ UNEP HQ- Nairobi, Kenya; Establishment- 1972



UAE Names Oil Chief Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber as COP28 Climate President

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has named Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of UAE and Group Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), as President of the COP28 climate summit.
- ✓ The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held in Dubai, UAE, from 30th November to 12th December 2023.



✓ UAE: **Prime Minister**- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; **President**- Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Capital- Abu Dhabi; **Currency**- United Arab Emirates Dirham

Indian-American A.C. Charania Appointed as NASA's new Chief Technologist

- ✓ An Indian-American aerospace industry expert A.C. Charania has been appointed as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s new chief technologist. He will serve as the principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and



programmes at NASA's headquarters. He replaced Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal who has been serving as acting chief technologist, prior to Charania's appointment.

Cognizant appoints Ravi Kumar S as CEO; succeeds Brian Humphries

- ✓ Cognizant, an Information technology (IT) company, announced the appointment of Ravi Kumar S as its Chief Executive officer (CEO) with immediate effect. He was also named as a member of the Board of Directors of Cognizant.
- ✓ Ravi Kumar S succeeds Brian Humphries, who resigned from the post of CEO due to Cognizant's recent underperformance on 9th January 2023.
- ✓ Cognizant HQ- New Jersey, United States;



Michael Patra reappointed as RBI's Deputy Governor for One Year

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the reappointment of Michael Debabrata Patra as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a further period of one year with effect from the 15th January 2023.
- ✓ Michael Debabrata Patra was 1st appointed to a 3-year tenure as deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India on 15th January 2020, which comes to an end on 14th January 2023.
- ✓ He authored a book titled "The Global Economic Crisis through an Indian looking glass" which vividly captures the experience of the global financial crisis and the great recession of 2008-2009.



RBI approves appointment of Surinder Chawla as new CEO of Paytm Payments Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Surinder Chawla as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), for a period of 3 years.

- ✓ Surinder Chawla is currently serving as Head of Branch Banking at RBL Bank (formerly known as Ratnakar Bank).
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL): Chairman- Vijay Shekhar Sharma; HQ- Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Establishment- 2017

India takes over leadership of Asian Pacific Postal Union; Vinaya Prakash Singh elected as Secretary General

- ✓ Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, former Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board, will take over as Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) for a 4-year term, following the successful elections held during the 13th APPU Congress in Bangkok (Thailand) in August–September 2022.
- ✓ He will succeed Mr. Lin Hongliang of China, the outgoing Secretary General of the APPU, who was appointed in January 2014.
- ✓ This marked the first time an Indian has taken the lead of an international postal organisation. With this, [India will take over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union \(APPU\) in January 2023.](#)



Ajay Kumar Srivastava becomes new MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

- ✓ Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), a public sector bank (PSB), for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after 1st January 2023. Prior to this appointment, Ajay Kumar Srivastava was serving as the Executive Director of IOB.
- ✓ He was appointed following the superannuation of Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO of IOB, on 31st December 2022.
- ✓ IOB: Establishment – 1937; HQ – Chennai, Tagline – Good People to Grow With

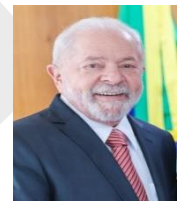


RBI approves re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as MD & CEO of Suryoday SFB

- ✓ On 26th December 2022 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited for a further period of three years with effect from 23rd January 2023.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva sworn in as 39th President of Brazil

- ✓ On 1st January 2023, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the veteran left-wing politician, known widely as Lula, was sworn in for the 3rd term as the President of the Republic of Brazil during the inauguration ceremony held at the National Congress, in Brasilia, Brazil.
- ✓ He was sworn in as the 39th president of Brazil by winning the 2022 Brazilian general election against far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro (incumbent President of Brazil (from 2019 to 2022)).



BharatPe CEO Suhail Sameer steps down & CFO Nalin Negi appointed interim CEO

- ✓ Suhail Sameer, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BharatPe, a Fintech startup, has announced has resigned from the CEO position and will transition into strategic adviser with effect from 7th January 2023. Nalin Negi, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of BharatPe, is set to take over as the interim CEO of BharatPe.
- ✓ BharatPe: Chairman- Rajnish Kumar; HQ- New Delhi, Delhi; Establishment- 2018

IDBI Bank re-appoints Suresh Khatanhar as Deputy MD for a Year

- ✓ The Board of Directors of IDBI Bank Limited re-appointed Suresh Kishinchand Khatanhar as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of IDBI Bank for 1 year with effect from 15th January 2023, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s approval.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

5 billion People globally unprotected from TFA leading to heart disease: WHO Report

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) in its 4th annual status report 'Countdown to 2023 WHO Report on global trans fat elimination 2022', stated that 5 billion people globally remain unprotected from harmful trans-fatty acids (TFA) resulting in increasing their risk of heart disease and death.
- ✓ WHO first called for the global elimination of industrially produced trans fats in 2018, with an elimination target set for 2023. 43 countries have implemented best-practice policies for tackling trans fat in food, with 2.8 billion people protected globally. Despite these efforts, the target remained unattainable leaving 5 billion worldwide at risk from trans fat's health impacts.

India among top 3 nations in Expanding Organic Farming in 2020; Argentina Tops

- ✓ According to "The World of Organic Agriculture Statistics & Emerging Trends 2022" report by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL & IFOAM – Organics International (formerly known as the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), India is among the top 3 countries in the world, where the total area under organic agriculture expanded the maximum in 2020.
- ✓ Argentina (Rank 1) topped the list with 7,81,000 hectares (up by 21%), followed by Uruguay (Rank 2) at 5,89,000 hectares (28%) and India (Rank 3) at 3,59,000 hectares (16%). The total increase under organic cultivation globally in 2020 was 3 million hectares (mh).

India ranks 4th globally for tech VC investments in 2022; US tops

- ✓ According to the report by the Dealroom and London & Partners, India ranked 4th globally, with USD 24.1 billion worth of tech venture capital (VC) investments in 2022.

- ✓ At a national level, the top 3 countries for tech investment in 2022 were the United States of America (USA) with USD 233.3 billion tech investment, followed by China with USD 48 billion and the United Kingdom (UK) with USD 29.9 billion.
- ✓ The research showed that USD 10.7 billion of the total tech investment to India (24.1 billion) went into companies based in Bengaluru (Karnataka). With this Bengaluru joins the top 5 hubs for tech VC investment.

Bengaluru tops Start-up Funding in India with USD 10.8 Billion in 2022: Tracxn Data

- ✓ According to data provided by Tracxn, a leading global market intelligence platform, Bengaluru (Karnataka) topped the startup funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022. It is followed by Mumbai (Maharashtra) at USD 3.9 billion, and Gurugram (Haryana) at USD 2.6 billion.
- ✓ Startups in Delhi and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) registered USD 1.2 billion each in funding, and Pune (Maharashtra) at \$1 billion.
- ✓ Byju's has topped the list of highest funding raised in 2022 with over USD 1.2 billion from existing investors. This amounted to almost 50% of the total funding received in the edtech sector.

Brand Guardianship Index 2023: Ambani tops among Indians, 2nd globally

- ✓ According to the Brand Finance Brand Guardianship Index 2023, Mukesh Ambani chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is ranked No 1 among Indians and second globally with Brand Guardianship Index (BGI) score of 81.7.
- ✓ 6 Indian CEOs or equivalents are featured among the top 100 on the index and 2 of them are among the top 10 (Mukesh Ambani (2nd) and Natarajan Chandrasekaran (8th)).

Russia is fourth biggest source of imports for India

Russia has now become India's fourth-largest trading partner, with imports from Russia increasing five-fold to USD 32.9 billion between April–December 2022. India's higher imports from Russia are mostly due to two commodities: fertilizers and crude oil.

IMD: 2022 fifth warmest year for India since 1901

- ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s Statement on Climate of India during 2022 stated that the year 2022 was the fifth warmest for India since 1901. The annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.51 degrees Celsius above the long-term average, which is the mean temperature for the 1981-2010 period.
- ✓ This was lower than the highest warming observed in India in 2016 (anomaly of +0.71 degrees Celsius) and higher than the previous year 2021 (anomaly of +0.44 degrees Celsius).
- ✓ During the 2022 winter season, the all-India mean temperatures were normal with an anomaly of -0.04 degrees Celsius.

Henley Passport Index 2023: Indian Passport Ranks 85th in the List; Japan Tops

- ✓ According to the 'Henley Passport Index 2023' released by Henley & Partners, a London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm, the Indian passport ranks 85th in the Henley Passport Index 2023, the world's most powerful passport index, and gives visa-free entry to 59 destinations worldwide.
- ✓ Based on data available from the International Air Transport Association, the index ranks passports of countries, "according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa." With access to 193 countries, Japan tops the list as the world's most powerful passport, while Afghanistan is ranked last in the list, its passport giving access to only 27 countries.
- ✓ Previously, India was ranked 82nd, 84th, 85th, and 83rd in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively.

Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 59 countries, including Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Macao, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Iran, and Qatar.

- ✓ When the first edition of the Henley Passport Index was published in 2006 India was ranked 71, with visa-free access to only 25 countries.

Nikkei Asia Report: India surpasses Japan to become the world's 3rd largest auto market

- ✓ According to the Nikkei Asia report, India surpassed Japan as the world's third-largest auto market in 2022. According to preliminary results, India's new vehicle sales were at 4.25 million units, surpassing Japan's 4.2 million units.
- ✓ China remained the global leader in automobile sales in 2021, with 26.27 million units, followed by the United States (US) in second place with 15.4 million vehicles and Japan in third place with 4.44 million units.

UNU-INWEH: 3,700 Indian Dams will lose 26% storage capacity by 2050; world to lose 26% storage by 2050 to trapped sediment

- ✓ According to a new study by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment, and Health (UNU-INWEH), around 3,700 large dams in India could lose on average 26% of their initial total storage by 2050 owing to sediment deposition, which might affect future water security, irrigation, and power generation.
- ✓ The findings were originally published in the journal 'Sustainability' in an article titled "Present and Future Losses of Storage in Large Reservoirs Due to Sedimentation: A Country-Wise Global Assessment" by the UNU-INWEH.

People aged 65+ worldwide to more than double from 761 mn in 2021 to 1.6 bn in 2050: UN

- ✓ The United Nations (UN) in its World Social Report 2023 projected that the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide will more than double from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in

2050. It is published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

- ✓ Northern Africa, Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to experience the fastest growth in the number of older people over the next three decades. Currently, Europe and Northern America have the highest share of older persons.

UN Reports: 5 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2021; 1.9 million stillborn in 2021 globally

- ✓ According to the recent data published in the "Levels & Trends in Child Mortality" report by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), an estimated 5 million children died before turning five, with nearly half (47%) dying during their first month.
- ✓ UN IGME is led by UNICEF and includes the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank Group and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. It was formed in 2004. According to a separate report titled "Never Forgotten" by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 1.9 million babies were stillborn in 2021, with more than three-quarters (77%) occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

TB Research Funding Trends 2005-2021: Funding for TB R&D hits a billion dollars worldwide in 2021

- ✓ According to the Tuberculosis (TB) Research Funding Trends 2005-2021 released by Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the Stop TB Partnership, for the first time in history, funding of TB Research and Development (R&D) hits a billion dollars worldwide in 2021.
- ✓ The Stop TB Partnership is a Geneva (Switzerland) based United Nations (UN)-hosted entity that aims to end the disease by 2030.

CIRIUM: Delhi & Bengaluru among the top 10 performing global airports of 2022

- ✓ According to the On-Time Performance Review 2022 released by CIRIUM, the aviation analytics company, Kempegowda International Airport,

Bengaluru, Karnataka, and Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, were listed among the top 10 in the Top Performing Global Airports of 2022.

- ✓ Top Performing Global Airports of 2022: 1. Haneda Airport Tokyo, Japan, 2. Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, 3. Salt Lake City International Airport Utah, United States (US), 4. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport Michigan, the United States (US), 5. Philadelphia International Airport Pennsylvania, the US and 7. Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi, India.

CEBR's WELT 2023: India to rise to 3rd in WELT by 2037 from 5th in 2022

- ✓ According to the World Economic League Table (WELT) 2023 released by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), India is set to rise from 5th place on the WELT in 2022 to 3rd in the global rankings by 2037. WELT 2023 is the 14th edition.
- ✓ India is ranked 5th in WELT 2022 and it is projected to remain the 5th in WELT 2023.
- ✓ United States of America (USA) has topped the WELT in 2022 followed by China, Japan and Germany in 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank.
- ✓ In 2023 table, the USA is projected to top the ranking followed by China, Germany and Japan in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Rank.

1668 Journalists killed in the Past 20 years between 2003 to 2022

- ✓ According to the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) report, A total of 1,668 Journalists have been killed worldwide with murders, contract killings, ambushes, war zone deaths, and fatal injuries. These journalists have been killed in connection with their work in the last two decades from 2003 to 2022. The reports gave an average of more than 80 journalists being killed every year.
- ✓ Christopher Deloire, RSF Secretary General said that behind the figures, there are the faces, personalities, talent, and commitment of those who have paid with their lives for their information gathering their search for the truth, and their passion for journalism.

IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme/ Description
January 25	National Tourism Day 2023	National Tourism Day is annually observed across India on January 25 to raise awareness and promote tourism for India's economic and financial growth and development. The day highlights the importance of tourism for India's economy, which contributes 8.1% of employment and 9.2% of the nation's overall Gross domestic product (GDP).
January 25	13th National Voters' Day	On 25th January 2023, the Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated the 13th edition of National Voters' Day across India to spread awareness about the importance of voting in the electoral process. Theme of 2023: 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.
January 24	National Girl Child Day 2023	National Girl Child Day was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD). The 1st ever National Girl Child Day was observed on 24th January 2008.
January 24	International Day of Education 2023	United Nations's International Day of Education is annually observed across the globe on January 24 to celebrate the role of education in peace and development. 24th January 2023 marks the 5th observation of International Day of Education. The 1st ever International Day of Education was observed on 24th January 2019. Theme of 2023: "to invest in people, prioritize education".
January 23	Parakram Diwas 2023	Parakram Diwas annually observed across India on January 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose, fondly known as "Netaji". 23rd January 2023 marks the 126th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose. In 2021, the Government of India declared January 23 as Parakram Diwas. Netaji was born on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division of Bengal Presidency (Now in Odisha).
January 19	18th National Disaster Response Force Raising Day	National Disaster Response Force Raising Day annually observed across India on January 19 to commemorate the establishment of the NDRF, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). January 19, 2023 marks the observance of the 18th NDRF Raising Day. The 1st ever NDRF Raising Day was observed on 19 th January 2006.

January 16	National Startup Day 2023	6th January, the founding day of Startup India is commemorated as the National Startup Day. The event is being celebrated since 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement last year by calling startups as backbone of new India. Startup India Innovation Week from 10th – 16th January 2023.
January 15	75th Indian Army Day	75th Indian Army Day annually observed across India on January 15 to celebrate the achievements of the first Indian Commander in Chief of the Indian Army General (later Field Marshal) Kodandera Madappa (KM) Cariappa. January 15, 2023 marked the 75 th anniversary of the Indian Army Day. On this day, He took over the command of IA from General Sir Francis Robert Roy Bucher, the last British Commander-in- Chief in 1949.
January 12	National Youth Day 2023	National Youth Day annually celebrated across India on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. 12th January 2023 marks the 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. On National Youth Day 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the 26th National Youth Festival (from 12th to 16th January 2023) in Hubballi, Karnataka. Theme of 2023: “Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat”.
January 11-17	National Road Safety Week	National Road Safety Week annually observed across India from 11th to 17th January to create awareness about the importance of road safety and to highlight the importance of road safety measures to prevent accidents. The observance of the week is led by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH). 2023 marks the observance of the 34 th Road Safety Week. Road Safety Week 2023 is observed under “Swachhata Pakhwada 2023”.
January 10	World Hindi Day 2023	World Hindi Day annually observed across the globe on January 10 marks the anniversary of the first time that Hindi was spoken in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1949. The day also marks the anniversary of the 1st World Hindi Conference held from 10th to 12th January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The 12th World Hindi Conference (2023) will be held in the Republic of Fiji in February 2023, with the theme “Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence”.

January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas annually celebrated across India on January 09 to commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) is also known as the “Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day”.
January 6	World Day of War Orphans 2023	
January 4	World Braille Day 2023	World Braille Day annually observed across the globe on January 04 to commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, a 19th- century French educator, who invented Braille in 1824. ✓ 4th January 2023 marks the observance of the 5th World Braille Day and the 214th birth anniversary of Louis Braille. Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in Coupvray, France.
January 1	Global Family Day 2023	
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2022	United Nations (UN)’s International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is annually observed across the globe on December 27 to raise awareness of the importance of prevention of, preparedness for, and collaboration against epidemics.27th December 2022 marks the observance of the 3rd International Day of Epidemic Preparedness. • The 1st International Day of Epidemic Preparedness was observed on 27 th December 2020.
December 26	Veer Bal Diwas 2022	Veer Bal Diwas is observed across India on December 26 to mark the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas- Sri Guru Gobind Singh’s 4 sons of the 10th Sikh guru- Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the 17 th century.26th December 2022 marks the 1 st observance of Veer Bal Diwas. On 9th January 2022, on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, PM Narendra Modi announced ‘Veer Bal Diwas’.
	International Year of millets 2023	The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM. PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a ‘People’s Movement’ alongside positioning India as the ‘Global Hub for Millets’. Millet is a common term for categorising small-seeded grasses that are often called Nutri-cereals.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 2023 Padma Award?
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced the 106 Padma Awards in 2023 which includes 19 awards to women and 2 to Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI.
 - Mulayam Singh Yadav, served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh 3 times, was named for Padma Vibhushan (posthumously) in the field of Public Affairs.
 - Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi (BV Doshi) is the only Indian to have received the Pritzker Architecture Prize, was named for Padma Vibhushan (posthumously) in the field of others.
 - Only C
 - Only A & B
 - Only A & C
 - Only B & C
 - All A, B & C
- Which of the following is 'Incorrect' with respect to 2023 Padma Bhushan awardees and their field?
 - Deepak Dhar - Science & Engineering
 - Kumar Mangalam Birla - Trade and Industry
 - Vani Jairam - Art
 - S L Bhyrappa - Sports
 - Sudha Murty - Social Work
- Name the United Nations organisation that has recently (in Jan '23) announced the launch of a Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) Education Program in Asia along with Solvay, a Belgian multinational chemical company.
 - United Nations Children's Fund
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - United Nations Institute for Training and Research
 - United Nations Human Settlement Programme
- Which country has recently (in Jan '23) conducted the 1st edition of the bilateral Air Exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' along with India?
 - Singapore
 - Sri Lanka
 - Indonesia
 - Japan
 - Bangladesh
- Name the Insurance Company that has recently (in Jan '23) partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to allow policyholders to pay their premiums via "UPI 123PAY".
 - HDFC Life Insurance
 - Exide Life Insurance
 - Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
 - Canara HSBC Life Insurance
 - Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- In January 2023, India sold its first sovereign green bonds worth a total of _____ at 5-6 Basis Points below Sovereign Yields.
 - Rs 80 billion
 - Rs 100 billion
 - Rs 60 billion
 - Rs 30 billion
 - Rs 50 billion
- Name the country that has recently (in Jan '23) elected as Vice-Chair at the 12th session of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO's) Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) held in Rome, Italy.
 - Brazil
 - Spain
 - Germany
 - Japan
 - India
- Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the International Cricket Council (ICC) awards 2022?
 - India's Suryakumar Yadav has won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2022 and became the 2nd batter after Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to score more than 1000 runs in 2022 in T20Is.
 - Renuka Singh has won the ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022 award.
 - Pakistan's Babar Azam won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2022 as well as ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2022.
 - Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C

- 20.** Which country's Naval Group has recently (in Jan '23) signed an agreement with the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to safely integrate indigenous systems in Kalvari-class submarines?
- a) Germany b) United States of America
c) Japan d) Russia
e) France
- 21.** According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2023 Report released by the United Nations (UN) in January 2023, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast decreased by _____ (basis points) to 5.8% for 2023.
- a) 40bps b) 30bps
c) 20bps d) 10bps
e) 30bps
- 22.** Which company has recently (in Jan '23) signed an MoU with the Rolls Royce Solutions of Germany to manufacture Rolls Royce Marine Diesel Engines in India?
- a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
b) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
c) Cochin Shipyard Limited
d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
e) Goa Shipyard Limited
- 23.** Who was appointed as the brand ambassador of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited?
- a) Vinesh Phogat b) PV Sindhu
c) Amit Panghal d) Nikhat Zareen
e) Neeraj Chopra
- 24.** Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the 111th edition of the Australian Open (AO) held in January 2023?
- A) Novak Djokovic of Serbia claimed the men's singles title at the Australian Open (AO) 2023 defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece.
B) Aryna Sabalenka of Poland won the women's singles title at AO 2023, her first major singles title, by defeating Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan.
C) In Mixed Doubles, Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos of Brazil defeated the pair of India's Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna.
- a) Only A b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C
- 25.** Name the country that has recently (in Jan '23) defeated Belgium to win the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 and claimed their 3rd hockey world cup title.
- a) Netherlands
b) Germany
c) Australia
d) Spain
e) New Zealand
- 26.** Which company has recently (in Jan '23) launched India's first indigenously developed human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) "CERVAVAC," against cervical cancer in women?
- a) Biocon Limited
b) GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals
c) Panacea Biotech Limited
d) Serum Institute of India
e) Bharat Biotech International Limited
- 27.** In which city, PM Narendra Modi has recently (in Jan '23) flagged off the 'MV Ganga Vilas', the world's longest river cruise?
- a) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
b) Kolkata, West Bengal
c) Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
d) Begusarai, Bihar
e) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 28.** Which city plans to set up India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Online Gaming in March 2023?
- a) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
c) Shillong, Meghalaya
d) Guwahati, Assam
e) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 29.** Name the country that has recently (in Jan '23) signed an agreement with India on cooperation in the field of Green Hydrogen Development and Investment.
- a) United Arab Emirates b) France
c) Australia
d) Russia
e) Japan
- 30.** The _____ Indian Army (IA) Day was observed across India on 15th January 2023.
- a) 74th b) 72nd
c) 75th d) 73rd
e) 76th

31. What edition is the India-France Naval Exercise "VARUNA 2023," which commenced on the Western Seaboard in January 2023?
- a) 19th
b) 17th
c) 21st
d) 18th
e) 20th
32. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (in Jan '23) announced that any person looking to acquire more than _____ stake in a bank will need prior approval from RBI.
- a) 5%
b) 4%
c) 3%
d) 2%
e) 1%
33. According to the State Bank of India (SBI)'s Ecowrap report released in January 2023, India's fiscal deficit is expected to grow at _____ for FY23.
- a) Rs 18.01 lakh crore
b) Rs 15.82 lakh crore
c) Rs 20.23 lakh crore
d) Rs 17.5 lakh crore
e) Rs 19.34 lakh crore
34. How many Indian Peacekeepers were recently (in Jan '23) honoured with the prestigious United Nations (UN) medals for their vital work in the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in South Sudan?
- a) 530
b) 820
c) 990
d) 2000
e) 1171
35. Name the country that has recently (in Jan '23) assumed the presidency of the 13th assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- a) United Arab Emirates
b) India
c) France
d) Australia
e) Germany
36. Name the plant species that has recently (in Jan '23) listed in the protected plants list under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- a) Neelakurinji
b) Paper Plant
c) Canna Lily
d) Royal Purple Plant
e) Silver Fern
37. Name the Scheme that was recently (in Jan '23) discontinued by the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA).
- a) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
b) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram
c) Seekho aur Kamao Scheme
d) Padho Pardesh Scheme
e) Hamari Dharohar Scheme
38. With which country, the Indian Army has recently (in Jan '23) conducted the 1st edition of the Exercise Cyclone-I, at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan?
- a) Mongolia
b) Kazakhstan
c) Egypt
d) Thailand
e) Kyrgyzstan
39. Name the Guaranteed Return Life Insurance Plan that was recently (in Jan '23) launched by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- a) Jeevan Tarun
b) Jeevan Azad
c) Jeevan Lakshya
d) Jeevan Bima
e) Jeevan Umang
40. According to the Brand Finance Brand Guardianship Index 2023 released in January 2023, Mukesh Ambani is ranked No 1 among Indians and _____ globally, while _____ from the USA ranked No 1 in the Index.
- a) 3rd; Jensen Huang
b) 2nd; Satya Nadella
c) 3rd; Shantanu Narayen
d) 2nd; Jensen Huang
e) 4th; Satya Nadella
41. Which airport has recently (in Jan '23) won the 'Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport' award?
- a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Telangana)
b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra)
c) Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)
d) Manohar International Airport (Goa)
e) Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka)

42. Name the company that has recently (in Jan '23) delivered the 1st fuselage for the Indian Army's contract for six AH-64E Apache Combat helicopters.
- BAE Systems Limited
 - Lockheed Martin India Private Limited
 - BrahMos Aerospace Limited
 - Horizon Aerospace Limited
 - Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited
43. The American India Foundation (AIF) has recently (in Jan '23) inaugurated India's 1st STEM Innovation and Learning Centre (SILC) and launched the Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLTV) Mission in _____.
- Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Chandipur, Odisha
 - Pokhran, Rajasthan
 - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
44. According to the article "State of the Economy" published in "January 2023 bulletin" of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the 2023 Monetary Policy of RBI is objective to Direct Inflation Towards a target _____ by 2024.
- 2%
 - 4%
 - 6%
 - 5%
 - 3%
45. When was Parakram Diwas 2023 observed across India to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose?
- 22nd January 2023
 - 20th January 2023
 - 23rd January 2023
 - 21st January 2023
 - 19th January 2023
46. Name the Russian Bank that has recently (in Jan '23) launched direct payments in rupees to increase bilateral trade and investment?
- Gazprombank
 - Sberbank
 - Alfa Bank
 - VTB Bank
 - Promsvyazbank
47. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the World Economic Forum 2023 Summit?
- The WEF held its 53rd Annual Meeting, "World Economic Forum—2023" in Davos, Switzerland with the theme of "Cooperation in a Fragmented World."
 - According to Oxfam India's report, "Survival of the Richest: The India Supplement," the top 1% of Indians currently own more than 40.5% of the nation's entire wealth in 2021.
 - The WEF has designated Hyderabad (Telangana) as its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), which will focus on healthcare and life sciences.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
48. The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the phased roll-out of E20 (20% ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on _____.
- 1st March, 2023
 - 1st April, 2023
 - 1st May, 2023
 - 1st June, 2023
 - 1st July, 2023
49. Indian Railways has recently (in Jan '23) announced the plan to introduce India's 1st hydrogen-powered trains on its narrow-gauge heritage lines to transform Indian locomotive mobility by _____.
- July 2023
 - December 2023
 - May 2023
 - March 2023
 - August 2023
50. In which state 'Cherchera harvest festival' was celebrated in January 2023?
- Madhya Pradesh
 - Gujarat
 - Assam
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Jharkhand
51. In January 2023, _____ became the first state in India to go fully digital in its banking service.
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Delhi
 - Kerala

- 52.** In January 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) received the extension till _____ to the Frame Rules for Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 for the 7th Consecutive Time.
- 31st March 2023
 - 31st August 2023
 - 30th June 2023
 - 31st July 2023
 - 30th April 2023
- 53.** In which state, the International Kite Festival 2023 was inaugurated in January 2023?
- Maharashtra
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Goa
 - Kerala
 - Gujarat
- 54.** Who has recently (in Jan '23) released the theme for the National Science Day 2023 titled "Global Science for Global Wellbeing" in New Delhi, Delhi?
- Amit Shah
 - Jitendra Singh
 - Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
 - Narendra Modi
 - Ashwini Vaishnaw
- 55.** In January 2023, GoI has allotted _____ for the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) for a 5-year period, from fiscal years 2022-23 (FY23) to 2026-27 (FY27).
- Rs. 3762.34 crore
 - Rs. 2092.56 crore
 - Rs. 4905.12 crore
 - Rs. 1037.90 crore
 - Rs. 5067.70 crore
- 56.** Name the organisation that has recently (in Jan '23) formulated identity standards for basmati rice for the 1st time in India.
- Bureau of Indian Standards
 - Food Corporation of India
 - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
 - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- 57.** Which of the following countries have recently (in Jan '23) joined the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2 years along with Japan and Malta?
- Ecuador
 - Switzerland
 - Mozambique
 - Only 1 & 2
 - All 1, 2 & 3
- 58.** According to the Nikkei Asia report released in January 2023, India surpassed _____ as the world's third-largest auto market in 2022.
- Russia
 - Germany
 - Japan
 - Australia
 - United Arab Emirates
- 59.** What is the rank of India according to the 'Henley Passport Index 2023' released by Henley & Partners in January 2023?
- 85th Rank
 - 79th Rank
 - 89th Rank
 - 76th Rank
 - 82nd Rank
- 60.** In January 2023, RBI announced that the maiden Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) for an aggregate sum of _____ will be issued in two tranches in January and February 2023.
- Rs 20, 000 crores
 - Rs. 8, 000 crores
 - Rs. 10, 000 crores
 - Rs. 12,000 crores
 - Rs. 16,000 crores
- 61.** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently (Jan '23) raised around Rs 5,000 crore through how many year bonds?
- 2 years
 - 4 years
 - 5 years
 - 3 years
 - 6 years
- 62.** In January 2023, RBI issued the revised list of accredited Credit Rating agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of assigning risk weight to assets for capital adequacy purposes by the banks. How many credit rating agencies are listed, as of January 2023?
- Seven
 - Eight
 - Six
 - Five
 - Four
- 63.** Which bank has recently (in Jan '23) signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at IISc?
- HDFC Bank
 - Axis Bank
 - YES Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - IndusInd Bank

64. Name India's fastest payment app, which was launched in January 2023.
- MoneyPayment
 - PayFast
 - PayMoney
 - FastPay
 - PayRup
65. Name the organisation that has recently (in Jan '23) allowed UPI transactions for nonresident bank accounts linked to international mobile numbers.
- Reserve Bank of India
 - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
 - Securities and Exchange Board of India
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India
 - National Payments Corporation of India
66. In which city, ReNew Power has recently (in Jan '23) installed India's first 3x-platform wind turbine generators (WTGs)?
- Pune, Maharashtra
 - Patan, Gujarat
 - Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
 - Gadag, Karnataka
 - Jodhpur, Rajasthan
67. Which bank has recently (in Jan '23) launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?
- State Bank of India
 - Punjab National Bank
 - Canara Bank
 - Union Bank of India
 - Bank of India
68. As per the latest Global Economic Prospects (January 2023) report released by the World Bank (WB), what is the projected growth of the Indian economy in fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24)?
- 7.9%
 - 6.6%
 - 6.9%
 - 8.9%
 - 8.6%
69. As per the data provided by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in January 2023, Retail Inflation has decreased to a one-year low of _____ in December 2022.
- 2.56%
 - 1.98%
 - 5.72%
 - 3.98%
 - 4.89%
70. Which university has recently (in Jan' 23) signed an MoU with the Indian High Commission to establish a Hindi Chair?
- University of Southern California
 - Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
 - Arizona State University
 - Harvard University
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
71. In January 2023, Surinder Chawla was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which Payments Bank?
- Paytm Payments Bank
 - Fino Payments Bank
 - India Post Payment Bank
 - Airtel Payments Bank
 - Jio Payments Bank
72. Who has recently (in Jan '23) re-appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for one year?
- Michael Debabrata Patra
 - Shyamala Gopinath
 - Urjit R. Patel
 - Anand Sinha
 - Subir Gokarn
73. Who has recently (in Jan '23) appointed as NASA's new chief technologist?
- A.C Charania
 - Bhavya Lal
 - Kamlesh Lulla
 - Meyya Meyyappan
 - Sharmila Bhattacharya
74. Who has been recently (in Jan '23) named as the President-designate for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) by the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?
- Khaldoon Al Mubarak
 - Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi
 - Reem Al Hashimy
 - Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
 - Mohammad Al Gergawi
75. In January 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the _____ edition of the Digital India Awards (DIA).
- 4th
 - 7th
 - 5th
 - 3rd
 - 6th

- 76.** Name the personality who has recently (in Jan '23) received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 15th edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF 2023).
- Amitabh Bachchan
 - Subhash Ghai
 - Nandita Das
 - Aparna Sen
 - Ramesh Sippy
- 77.** Who were the composer and lyricist of the song "Naatu Naatu" of the movie "RRR", who won the Best Original Song- Motion Picture at the 80th Annual Golden Globe® Awards 2023?
- Arijit Singh & Sameer Anjaan
 - Shakti & Jaideep Sahni
 - Kumar Sanu & A. M. Turaz
 - M M Keeravani & Chandrabose
 - A. R. Rahman & Kumaar
- 78.** Name the bank that recently (in Jan '23) won Best Digital Channel/Platform Implementation: Best Project Implementation' at IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022 along with Clayfin Technologies?
- City Union Bank Ltd.
 - Bandhan Bank Ltd.
 - Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.
 - IDFC First Bank Ltd.
 - CSB Bank Ltd.
- 79.** In January 2023, China's Alibaba Group sold a _____ stake in Paytm for USD 125 million through a block deal.
- 3.1%
 - 5.2%
 - 2.5%
 - 1.9%
 - 4.9%
- 80.** India successfully test launched nuclear capable tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. What type of ballistic missile is Prithvi-II?
- Surface-to-Surface Missile
 - Surface-to-Air Missile
 - Air-to-Air Missile
 - Air-to-Surface Missile
 - Surface (Coast)-to-Sea Missile
- 81.** Which organisation's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has recently (in Jan' 23) discovered its first exoplanet, a planet that orbits another star?
- European Space Agency
 - SpaceX
 - Canadian Space Agency
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- 82.** Name the 5th & last vessel in the series of fast-patrol vessels (FPVs), that was recently (in Jan '23) commissioned in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ICGS Rajdhvaj
 - ICGS Vishwast
 - ICGS Sankalp
 - ICGS Kamla Devi
 - ICGS Samrat
- 83.** Indian Tennis Player Sania Mirza announced her retirement from professional Tennis in February 2023. In which year, she won her 1st Grand slam by winning the Australian Open Mixed doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi?
- 2009
 - 2015
 - 2010
 - 2008
 - 2012
- 84.** What are the Mascots of 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2022 that was unveiled by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan in January 2023?
- Veera & Dhakad
 - Asha & Mowgli
 - Jaya & Vijay
 - Ammu & Rongmon
 - Saavaj & Panda
- 85.** In January 2023, Serbian Tennis Player _____ won the Men's singles in the 2023 Adelaide International 1 and Aryna Sabalenka from _____ won the Women's Singles in the tournament.
- Sebastian Korda; Belarus
 - Novak Djokovic; Czech Republic
 - Sebastian Korda; New Zealand
 - Novak Djokovic; Belarus
 - Viktor Troicki; Czech Republic

97. In January 2023, the Union Cabinet approved continuation of Schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) with an outlay of Rs 12882.2 crore for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission, from 2022-23 to_____.
- 2027-28
 - 2026-27
 - 2024-25
 - 2025-26
 - 2023-24
98. Name the country that has recently (in Jan '23) adopted the 'Euro' currency, and became a part of Europe's border-free Schengen zone.
- Togo
 - Algeria
 - Burkina Faso
 - Croatia
 - Mali

99. Which finance company has recently (in Jan '23) applied for Universal Bank License to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?
- Muthoot Finance Ltd
 - Repc Micro Finance Ltd
 - Asirvad Micro Finance Ltd
 - Annapurna Finance Pvt Ltd
 - Aditya Birla Finance Ltd
100. Which organisation has recently (in Jan '23) launched the "Utkarsh 2.0" Medium-Term Strategy Framework for the period 2023-2025?
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
 - Securities and Exchange Board of India
 - Reserve Bank of India
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India
 - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Answers

1	e	11	c	21	c	31	c	41	d	51	e	61	c	71	a	81	d	91	a
2	d	12	e	22	b	32	a	42	e	52	c	62	c	72	a	82	d	92	e
3	b	13	c	23	d	33	d	43	d	53	e	63	b	73	a	83	a	93	c
4	d	14	e	24	e	34	e	44	b	54	b	64	e	74	d	84	b	94	b
5	a	15	c	25	b	35	b	45	c	55	d	65	e	75	b	85	d	95	a
6	a	16	c	26	d	36	a	46	d	56	e	66	d	76	d	86	e	96	b
7	e	17	a	27	a	37	d	47	e	57	e	67	a	77	d	87	b	97	d
8	e	18	d	28	c	38	c	48	b	58	c	68	b	78	b	88	c	98	d
9	e	19	b	29	a	39	b	49	b	59	a	69	c	79	a	89	c	99	d
10	a	20	e	30	c	40	d	50	d	60	e	70	b	80	a	90	a	100	c

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