

**❖ India-Russia Business Dialogue 2023**

➤ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov attended the inaugural session of "India-Russia Business Dialogue" 2023 in New Delhi.

➤ They met representatives of Russian and Indian businesses. The participants in the business forum discussed issues of further enhancing Russian-Indian practical cooperation, including the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC).

➤ The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India and Russia have crossed the bilateral trade target of 30 billion dollars before the target year of 2025.

➤ The International North-South Transport Corridor as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor, which is the Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor, are being given due consideration.

➤ Prime Minister: **Mikhail Mishustin;**

Capital: **Moscow**

President: **Vladimir Putin**

**❖ Tribal Affairs Minister launches PTP-NER scheme in Manipur**

➤ Shri Arjun Munda Union Minister of Tribal Affairs launches Central Sector Scheme "Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North Eastern Region (PTP-NER)" in Manipur.

➤ The scheme has vision to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans of North East.

➤ The scheme will apply to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. As part of the scheme, it is planned to initiate empanelment of tribal artisans from North Eastern Region by organizing 68 Tribal Artisan Melas from today onwards in various districts of the region.

➤ Manipur Chief Minister: **N Biren Singh**

➤ Manipur Governor: **Anusuiya Uikey**

➤ Manipur Capital: **Imphal**

#### ❖ **Mangrove Pitta bird found in Odisha**

➤ Mangrove Pitta birds were counted in two coastal districts of Odisha, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur, in which 179 birds were found.

➤ Mangrove pitta (Pitta Megharencha) birds are near threatened and are found in parts of eastern India. 179 different mangrove pitta birds were counted in the mangroves near the mouth of the Mahipura River inside the Bhitarkanika National Park.

➤ Birds were counted by sight and by their chirping. 1,39,959 birds of 140 species arrived in Bhitarkanika National Park in January this year.

➤ Capital – **Bhubaneswar**;

Governor - **Ganeshi Lal**;

Chief Minister - **Naveen Patnaik**

#### ❖ **Kenya launches first operational satellite into space**

➤ Kenya has successfully launched its inaugural earth observation satellite, Taifa-1 using a SpaceX rocket from the United States.

➤ The satellite was carried by the Falcon 9 rocket, launched from Vandenberg Base in California.

- It was developed over a two-year period at a cost of 50 million Kenyan shillings, with assistance from the Bulgarian aerospace firm Endurosat.
- Additionally, under SpaceX's rideshare initiative, the launch rocket carried 50 payloads from other countries.

### ❖ **India saw a record of ₹149.5 trillion UPI, card transactions in 2022**

- In India, payment modes like UPI, debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments - Mobile and Prepaid cards -- processed 87.92 billion transactions worth Rs. 149.5 trillion during 2022.
- In terms of UPI, Person-to-Merchant (P2M) and Person-to-Person (P2P) are the most preferred payment modes among consumers with a market share of 40 percent and 44 percent in terms of transactions volume (UPI was 84 percent in total), according to Worldline in its India Digital Payments Annual Report.
- However, in terms of value, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) P2M accounted for 18 percent share whereas UPI P2P accounted for 66 percent of digital transactions by value. P2P transactions are not necessarily payments and can also be potentially money transfers among people.
- The silicone valley of India, Bengaluru has topped the list of Indian cities in terms of highest digital transactions in the year 2022, a report by French payment and transactional services firm has stated. The city recorded 29 million transaction worth ₹6500 crore in 2022.
- Second on the list is Delhi which amounted 19.6 million transaction worth ₹5000 crore followed by Mumbai with 18.7 million transactions worth ₹4950 crore. On number 4 is Pune with 15 million digital transactions worth ₹3280 crore and Chennai with 14.3 million transactions worth ₹3,550 crore.

### ❖ **Rare honour for CSIR-IICT scientist**

- CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) principal scientist Rambabu Chegondi has been admitted to the prestigious Fellow of the Royal

Society of Chemistry (FRSC), the UK, for his outstanding contributions in the area of asymmetric synthesis and development of new technologies for key APIs.

➤ He has been chosen under the scheme “Leaders in the Field”, where the Royal Society of Chemistry identifies outstanding individuals in the chemical science community and invites them to become fellows. The scientist had published over 50 studies in peer-reviewed international journals of high impact.

### ❖ **Vice Admiral Swaminathan becomes Controller of Personnel Services in Navy**

➤ Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as Controller of Personnel Services. According to the statement, Swaminathan, who was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1 1987, is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare.

➤ A recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, the Admiral has held several key operational, staff and training appointments in his naval career.

➤ The charges held by him include the command of missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash; the missile corvette INS Kulish; the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore; and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

➤ On promotion to the Flag rank, he served as the Chief Staff Officer (Training) at Headquarters Southern Naval Command, Kochi and played a key role in the conduct of all training in the Indian Navy.

### ❖ **New York Senate appoints Rowan Wilson as state's first Black chief judge**

➤ The New York Senate has confirmed Judge Rowan Wilson (62) as the new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court. He is also New York’s first Black chief judge.

➤ He was appointed by the 57th governor of New York, Kathy Hochul. Since 2017, he has been an associate judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court.

- Wilson's nomination came after Hochul's first choice, Hector LaSalle, faced a barrage of criticism from liberal senators and their allies, who criticized decisions he made as an appeals judge.
- Wilson is more palatable to liberals, who have praised the Harvard Law School graduate's record on civil rights, labor and environmental issues.

### ❖ **World Liver Day: 19 April**

- World Liver Day is observed every year on 19 April to raise awareness about liver health and related diseases. It aims to educate people about the importance of early detection, prevention and treatment of liver diseases.
- The theme of World Liver Day 2023 is "Be alert, do regular liver check-ups, fatty liver can affect anyone,"
- The day is celebrated in partnership with various local and international organisations that focus on promoting liver health.
- Recent studies in India have shown that 75% of cases of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease are seen in patients who consume little or no alcohol and have a body mass index (BMI) of 25 kg/sq. less than a metre.
- According to the World Health Organisation, liver disease is the 10th leading cause of death in India.

### ❖ **Suryakumar Yadav named Wisden's leading T20I cricketer; Harmanpreet Kaur bags top honour**

- Wisden Cricketers Almanack (It is known as the Bible of Cricket) has released the list of top-5 cricketers of the year 2022. It also includes India's women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur.
- Apart from Kaur, the list also includes the names of Tom Blundell (New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England), Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand) and Matthew Potts (England).

- Suryakumar Yadav has been selected as the T20 Cricketer of the Year.
- Harmanpreet Kaur has become the first woman cricketer from India to make it to this esteemed list.
- Apart from this, Ben Stokes of England has been selected as the best cricketer in the world for the year 2022-23 among male players. At the same time, Beth Mooney (Australia) has received this award among women cricketers. Suryakumar Yadav has been selected as the T20 Cricketer of the Year.

### ❖ **Tim Cook inaugurates first store in India**

- Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook has launched the company's first retail store in India in the financial capital Mumbai.
- The design of the Mumbai store - which is located in an upscale neighbourhood - has been inspired by the black-and-yellow taxis that are ubiquitous in the city.
- Mr Cook will also attend the opening of a second store in the capital Delhi.
- India is also rising as a manufacturing base for the iPhone as Apple diversifies its supply chains away from China. India now accounts for 5% of total iPhone production.

### ❖ **Karnataka Bags National Award For Fasal Bima Yojana**

- Karnataka was declared topper in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme, during a national conference in Chhattisgarh.
- Agriculture department officials said that Rs. 687.4 crore of 5.66 lakh farmers have been settled, pending since 2018.
- In 2021 Kharif season, 13.15 lakh farmers had enrolled in the scheme. The numbers increased to 23.86 lakh in 2022.
- The common service centres have also seen an enrolment of 4.66 lakh non-loanee farmers over the last six years. The central government has noted that for

2022 Kharif season, 5.60 lakh farmers, whose incurred losses due to natural calamities were compensated before December 2022.

➤ Insurance claims of Rs. 298.57 crore were settled under the add-on coverage including prevented sowing, localised calamities, mid-season adversity and post-harvest loss claims.

### ❖ **AU Small Finance Bank launches bill payments via video banking**

➤ AU Small Finance Bank has become the country's first commercial bank to connect with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and deliver bill payment services via video banking.

➤ Customers can use this platform to pay their bills without having to go to a branch, which is especially useful for senior persons and others with mobility challenges who live in distant locations.

➤ Customers can make payments directly from their AU account to more than 20,000 billers in 20+ categories with the assistance of the banking staff.

➤ Customers of AU Small Finance Bank can easily connect with the bank's video banker via the website (<https://www.aubank.in>) or AU 0101 app to access the recently announced bill payment service on video banking.

### ❖ **India contributes \$500,000 to UN entity for women empowerment**

➤ India has contributed USD 500,000 to the UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

➤ Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations handed over the cheque towards the Government of India's contribution to the core voluntary budget of UN Women. Ruchira Kamboj said in a tweet that India's model is one of women-led development with emphasis on entrepreneurship and STEM education.

➤ Sima Sami Bahous, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women, received the cheque.

➤ Ruchira Kamboj reaffirmed the Indian government's steadfast commitment to the goals of gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming, as mentioned in the mandate of UN Women, Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

### ❖ Kerala adopts water budget to tackle summer water shortage

➤ Kerala became the first state to adopt a water budget in a bid to come up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions there. The first phase of the project would cover 94 gram panchayats and 15 block panchayats.

➤ The Public Water Budget was released by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, along with the launch of the third phase of the Ini Njan Ozhukatte (Let me flow now) project, for the rehabilitation of irrigation networks in the Western Ghats.

➤ The idea of a water budget was first mooted by the state in 2019. The current Budget was prepared based on the availability and consumption of water in the state.

➤ The budget gives data about the availability of water at a particular place and its consumption based on the population in the region. The move is intended to create awareness among people regarding the proper use of water, avoiding its wastage.

### ❖ India violated global trading rules in IT tariff dispute: WTO

➤ The World Trade Organization (WTO) has found that India has breached global trading regulations in a dispute over import duties on IT products with the European Union (EU), Japan, and Taiwan. The WTO panel's report recommended that India should modify the measures to conform with its obligations.

➤ The dispute began in 2019 when the EU objected to India's introduction of import duties of between 7.5% and 20% on various IT products, including mobile phones, integrated circuits, and components, stating that the tariffs exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan also lodged similar complaints that year.

➤ The EU is India's third-largest trading partner, and its exports worth up to 600 million euros (\$654.66 million) are directly affected by India's tariffs on an annual basis, according to Brussels.



➤ The WTO panel found that India had already brought some of the tariffs under scrutiny in line with global trading regulations since 2020. While the panel supported the complaints against India, it dismissed one of Japan's claims that India's customs notification lacked "predictability".

### ❖ **Satinder Kumar Lambah's book 'In Pursuit of Peace' launched**

➤ The memoir of the late Satinder Kumar Lambah, 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations under Six Prime Ministers' was launched by Nina Lambah.

➤ It was forwarded by former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh.

➤ Satinder Kumar Lambah had served two tenures in Pakistan as Deputy Chief of Mission and High Commissioner and was Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board.

➤ He also served as a Special Representative for Afghanistan under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### ❖ **Namami Gange: 8 Projects Worth Rs. 638 Crores Approved**

➤ The Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) chaired by Director General G Ashok Kumar, approved eight projects worth approximately Rs. 638 crore.

➤ The focus of these projects is to reduce pollution in River Hindon, which is a tributary of River Yamuna. As part of the comprehensive 'Hindon Rejuvenation Plan', four projects costing Rs. 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district. These projects aim to prevent the flow of contaminated water into the Krishna River.

➤ The 48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved eight projects worth around Rs. 638 crore. Four projects costing Rs. 407.39 crore were approved for pollution reduction in the Shamli district as part of the comprehensive 'Hindon Rejuvenation Plan'.

➤ The projects aim to prevent the flow of polluted water from Krishna River into River Hindon, and include the construction of sewage treatment plants (STPs), septage co-treatment facilities, interception and diversion (I&D) systems, and other works in various locations in Shamli district.