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Current Affairs



UNION BUDGET

Union Budget 2023-24

The total expenditure in BE 2023-24 is estimated at **45,03,097 crore**, shows an increase of 7.5% over RE 2022-23.



ECONOMIC SURVEY

Economic Survey 2022-23

India's GDP is expected to be in the range of **6-6.8%** in 2023-24.



Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

FATF has **suspended** Russia's membership, and **"grey-listed"** Nigeria and South Africa



ICC Women's T20 World Cup

Australia beat South Africa to win the Women's T20 World Cup for the sixth time.



Jean-Eric Vergne

DS Penske's Jean-Eric Vergne won **Formula E's first race** in India held at Hyderabad



Ajay Banga

The first Indian-American nominated by Joe Biden to lead the **World Bank**



12th World Hindi Conference

It was held in Fiji from 15th to 17th Feb.2023 with the theme of **"Hindi - Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"**.



Grammy Award 2023

Bengaluru-Based Composer, **Ricky Kej** wins his third Grammy for the album "Divine Tides".



Pervez Musharraf

Former Pakistan President, **Pervez Musharraf** Dies in Dubai at 79.

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"Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow." – Albert Einstein

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**Current
Affairs
DIGEST
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Union Budget 2023-24 New Schemes and Initiatives

Mahila Samman Bachat Patra

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, a one-time small savings scheme, will be available for two years, i.e. up to March 2025. It will offer deposit facilities up to Rs.2 lakh in the name of girls or women for two years at a fixed interest rate of 7.5% with a partial withdrawal option.

MISHTI

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) is a new scheme. It will facilitate mangrove plantations along India's coastline and on saltpan lands.

Amrit Dharohar Scheme

This scheme will be implemented over the next three years to encourage the optimal use of wetlands, and enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities, and income generation for local communities.

PM PRANAM

"PM PRANAM (Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana) was launched to promote biofertilizers, organic fertilizers, and the balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

Atmanirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Programme

The Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme will be launched to boost the availability of quality and disease-free planting material for high-value horticultural crops at an outlay of Rs.2,200 crore.

PM Vishwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS)

Artisans are provided financial assistance under the PM Vishwakarma KAushal Samman scheme. The new scheme will enable artisans to improve their products' scale, quality, and reach, integrating them with the MSMEs value chain.

Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission

The Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This mission will saturate PVTG habitations and families with basic facilities such as clean drinking water and sanitation, safe housing, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, improved access to education, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The government will provide an amount of Rs.15,000 crore to implement this mission in the coming three years.

IACE

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ₹45.03 lakh cr The estimated total expenditure as seen by the government in 2023-24	NOMINAL GDP GROWTH 10.5% The projected rate of growth for India's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in the Budget calculations compared to the 6-8% real GDP growth projected by the Economic Survey tabled in the Parliament on Tuesday
₹33.61 lakh cr The estimated gross tax revenue	PERSONAL INCOME TAX
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ↑33% Increase in capital expenditure outlay	INCOME TAX RATES
₹10 lakh cr New capital investment outlay	₹0 to ₹3 lakh: NIL
Capex has now steeply increased for the third consecutive year	₹3 lakh to ₹6 lakh: 5%
FISCAL DEFICIT 5.9% The proportion of GDP that the government estimates will be the fiscal deficit in FY24	₹6 lakh to ₹9 lakh: 10%
The government has reiterated its intention to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26	₹9 lakh to ₹12 lakh: 15%
₹15.4 lakh cr Estimated gross market borrowings to finance the fiscal deficit in 2023-24. Net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at ₹11.8 lakh crore	₹12 lakh to ₹15 lakh: 20%
	>₹15 lakh: 30%
	RAILWAYS ₹2.40 lakh cr Capital outlay provided for Railways - the highest ever
	RURAL PUSH ₹79,000 cr Outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 65%
	SUBSIDIES ₹3.75 lakh cr Total subsidy allocation. Of this, ₹1,751 cr was for fertiliser, ₹1,911 cr for food, ₹2,257 cr for petroleum
	AGRICULTURE BOOST ₹20 lakh cr The new agriculture credit target will be increased to with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries
	GREEN GROWTH ₹35,000 cr Outlay for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by ministry of petroleum and natural gas

Union Budget 2023-24

The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the 1st of February 2023 presented the last full-fledged Union Budget (for 2023-24) before the Lok Sabha elections of 2024. Nirmala Sitharaman is the sixth minister in independent India to present five consecutive budgets and she also presented the paperless budget three consecutive times in a row. Ministers who also have presented five straight annual financial statements in past include Arun Jaitley, P Chidambaram, Yashwant Sinha, Manmohan Singh and Morarji Desai.

✓ **Budget Estimates 2023-24:** The total expenditure in BE 2023-24 is estimated at ₹45,03,097 crore of which total capital expenditure is ₹10,00,961 crore. Budget 2023-24 reflects continuing strong commitment of the Union Government to boost economic growth by investing in infrastructure development leading to an increase in capital expenditure by 37.4 per cent over RE 2022-23. Effective Capital Expenditure, at ₹13,70,949 crore

in BE 2023-24, shows an increase of 30.1 per cent over RE 2022-23. Capital expenditure for FY 2023-24 accounts for about 3.3% of the GDP.

- ✓ Total Receipts (other than borrowings): ₹27.2 lakh crores.
- ✓ Net Tax Receipts: ₹23.3 lakh crores
- ✓ **Revised Estimates 2022-23:** Total Expenditure: ₹41.9 lakh crores. Total Receipts (other than borrowings): ₹24.3 lakh crores. Net Tax Receipts: ₹20.9 lakh crore
- ✓ **Deficit:** The Revised Estimate (RE) of the Fiscal Deficit for FY 2022-23 is estimated at 6.4% of GDP adhering to the Budget Estimate.
- ✓ The Budget Estimates (BE) of the Fiscal Deficit for FY 2023-24 is estimated at 5.9% of GDP.
- ✓ The government plans to reduce Fiscal Deficit below 4.5% by 2025-26.
- ✓ **GDP:** Nominal GDP for BE 2023-2024 has been projected at ₹3,01,75,065 crore assuming 10.5 % growth over the estimated Nominal GDP of ₹2,73,07,751 crore as per the First Advance Estimates of FY 2022-23.



Key Numbers



In ₹ crore	2021-22 (Actuals)	2022-23 (Budget Estimates)	2022-23 (Revised Estimates)	2023-24 (Budget Estimates)
Revenue Receipts	21,69,905	22,04,422	23,48,413	26,32,281
Capital Receipts	16,23,896	17,40,487	18,38,819	1,870,816
Total Receipts	37,93,801	39,44,909	41,87,232	45,03,097
Total Expenditure	37,93,801	39,44,909	41,87,232	45,03,097
Revenue Deficit	10,31,021	9,90,241	11,10,546	8,69,855
Effective Revenue Deficit	7,88,375	6,72,598	7,84,958	4,99,867
Fiscal Deficit	15,84,521	16,61,196	17,55,319	17,86,816
Primary Deficit	7,79,022	7,20,545	8,14,668	7,06,845

Central Govt Expenditure

Budget Estimates for 2023-24

**Total
45,03,097**

(in ₹ crore)	Interest	10,79,971
Transport	5,17,034	
Defence	4,32,720	
Major Subsidies	3,74,707	
Transfer to States	3,24,641	
Rural Development	2,38,204	
Pension	2,34,359	
Tax Administration	1,94,749	
Home Affairs	1,34,917	
Education	1,12,899	
Energy	94,915	
IT and Telecom	93,478	
Health	88,956	

Agriculture & Allied Activities	84,214
Urban Development	76,432
Union Territories	61,118
PM-KISAN	60,000
Social Welfare	55,080
Commerce & Industry	48,169
Scientific Departments	32,225
External Affairs	18,050
Finance	13,574
Planning and Statistics	6,268
Development of North East	5,892
Others	1,20,524

- ✓ Budget 2023-24 is the first budget in Amrit Kaal which is roadmap of next 25 years – from India @75 to India @100(The 25-year period till 2047 when India will celebrate 100 years of Independence.) A Three-pronged focus driven by four transformative opportunities constitutes the foundation of Amrit Kaal.
- ✓ **Vision For Amrit Kaal (An Empowered and Inclusive Economy)**
 - Opportuinites for citizens with focus on youth
 - Growth in job creation.
 - Strong and stable Macro Economic Enviorment.
- ✓ **4 Transformative Opportunities**
 - Economic Empowerment of Women PM Vishwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS)
 - Tapping the potential of Tourism.
 - Green Growth leading to efficient use of energy across sectors and green jobs.
- ✓ Budget proposal for 2023-2024 rests on 7 guiding pillars - **'SAPTARISHI'** in the AMRIT KAAL. They include:
 - 1) Inclusive Development 2) Reaching the Last Mile
 - 3) Infrastructure and Investment
 - 4) Unleashing the Potential 5) Green Growth
 - 6) Youth Power 7) Financial Sector

1. Inclusive Development

Agriculture

- ✓ Open source, open standard and interoperable operable Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture
- ✓ Setting up of Agriculture Accelerator Fund
- ✓ Enhancing the productivity of cotton crops through the adoption of a cluster-based and value chain approach via the PPP model.
- ✓ Launch of an Atma Nirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Program.
- ✓ The agriculture credit target will be increased to ₹20 lakh crores with a focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sectors.
- ✓ Global Hub for Millets (referred to as 'Shree Anna'): For this Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence.
- ✓ Cooperation: Government is promoting cooperative-based economic development model especially for



small and marginal farmers, and other marginalised sections.

- ✓ Government has initiated computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and enabling them to become multipurpose PACS. Also aim is to facilitate setting up cooperative societies in uncovered panchayats and villages in the next 5 years.

Fisheries

- ✓ Introduction of a new sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana with a targeted investment of ₹6,000 crores.

Health

- ✓ 157 new nursing colleges will be set up in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges set up since 2014.
- ✓ Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047.
- ✓ Encouraging medical Research & Development
- ✓ A new initiative to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals
- ✓ Dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices will be encouraged

Education

- ✓ The mode of teachers' training will be revolutionised through the adoption of innovative pedagogy and ICT technologies.

- ✓ Establishment of a National Digital Library for children and adolescents.

2. Reaching the Last Mile

- ✓ **Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme** in line with the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- ✓ The launch of **Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission** and about ₹15,000 crores will be made available to implement the mission in the next 3 years.
- ✓ The aim is to extend the basic facilities to PVTG communities.
- ✓ The government will recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff in the next 3 years for the **740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools** which are serving 3.5 lakh tribal students across the country.
- ✓ ₹5,300 crore assistance to the Upper Bhadra Project to address the challenges of the drought-prone central region of Karnataka.
- ✓ The outlay for **PM Awas Yojana** has been increased by 66% to over ₹79,000 crores.
- ✓ Setting up **Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI)**, a digital epigraphy museum at Hyderabad by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ✓ Support for poor prisoners: For poor persons who are in prisons and unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount, required financial support will be provided.

3. Infrastructure & Investment

- ✓ Capital investment outlay has been increased for the third successive year by 33% to ₹10 lakh crore which would be 3.3% of GDP.
- ✓ Effective Capital Expenditure: It has been budgeted at **4.5% of GDP**.
- ✓ Support to State Governments for **Capital Investment with an increased outlay of ₹1.3 lakh crores**.
- ✓ A newly set up **Infrastructure Finance Secretariat** will aid in attracting more private investment in infrastructure.
- ✓ 100 important transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, fertiliser, food grains, etc. have been identified and will be supported.

- ✓ 50 more airports, heliports, aerodromes and advanced landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity.
- ✓ States will be encouraged to build “sustainable cities of tomorrow”.
- ✓ **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** will be set up through the use of a priority sector lending shortfall which will be managed by the National Housing Bank. For creation of urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- ✓ **Urban Sanitation:** 100% mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers to transition from manhole to machine-hole mode. Enhanced focus will be provided for scientific management of dry and wet waste.

4. Unleashing the Potential

- ✓ **Mission Karmayogi** has helped implement capacity-building plans for civil servants. With the launch of an integrated online training platform called “iGOT Karmayogi” government employees are provided learning opportunities.
- ✓ **Jan Vishwas Bill:** Introduced for furthering the trust based governance and amend 42 Central Acts.
- ✓ **National Data Governance Policy:** To unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.
- ✓ **Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence:** For realizing the vision of “Make AI in India and Make AI work for India”, three centres of excellence for AI will be set-up.
- ✓ **Simplification of Know Your Customer (KYC) process:** Adopting a ‘risk-based’ instead of ‘one size fits all’ approach.
- ✓ **One stop solution for identity and address updating:** By using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
- ✓ **Common Business Identifier:** The PAN (Permanent Account Number) will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.
- ✓ **Unified Filing Process:** For obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies.
- ✓ **Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief for MSMEs:** In cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during the Covid period, 95% of the forfeited amount relating

to bid or performance security, will be returned to them by government and government undertakings.

- ✓ **Vivad se Vishwas II** – Settling Contractual Disputes: Voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced.
- ✓ This will be done by offering graded settlement terms depending on pendency level of the dispute.
- ✓ **Result Based Financing:** 'input-based' to 'result-based' financing for better allocation of scarce resources.
- ✓ **E-Courts:** Phase-3 of the E-Courts project will be launched.
- ✓ **Fintech Services:** To enable more Fintech innovative services, the scope of documents available in DigiLocker for individuals will be expanded.
- ✓ **Entity DigiLocker:** An Entity DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts.
- ✓ **5G Services:** 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services will be set up in engineering institutions.
- ✓ **Lab Grown Diamonds:** It is a technology-and innovation-driven emerging sector with high employment potential.
- ✓ A research and development grant will be provided to one of the IITs for five years.

5.Green Growth

- ✓ **Green Hydrogen Mission:** Facilitate transition of the economy to low-carbon intensity. Target is to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.
- ✓ **Battery Energy Storage Systems:** Developing capacity of 4,000 MWH will be supported with Viability Gap Funding.
- ✓ **Renewable Energy Evacuation:** Inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh.
- ✓ **Amrit Dharohar:** Promote local communities unique conservation style for wetland. Implementing in next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands.
- ✓ **Green Credit Programme:** Will be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act. Inducing behavioural change and incentivize environmentally

sustainable and responsive actions by companies, individuals and local bodies.

- ✓ **PM-PRANAM** (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth): Aim to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- ✓ **GOBARDhan** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme: 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARDhan for promoting circular economy. It includes Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants, Urban Plants, community or cluster-based plants.
- ✓ **Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres:** 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up Creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network. Aim is that over the next 3 years, government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming.
- ✓ **MISHTI** (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes): Mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands. Through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.

6.Youth Power

- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0:** To skill youth for international opportunities, 30 Skill India International Centres will be set up across different States.
- ✓ **Unified Skill India Digital Platform:** For enabling demand-based formal skilling, Linking with employers including MSMEs, Facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- ✓ **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme:** To provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years, Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out.
- ✓ **Boosting Tourism:** At least 50 destinations will be selected through challenge mode and developed as complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
- ✓ Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development will be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.

- ✓ Under the **Vibrant Villages Programme**, tourism infrastructure and amenities will also be facilitated in border villages.
- ✓ **Setting up of Unity Mall in state:** In state capital or most prominent tourism centre or the financial capital. For promotion and sale of their own ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products.

7. Financial Sector

- ✓ **Credit Guarantee for MSMEs:** This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of ₹2 lakh crore. Cost of the credit will be reduced by about 1%.
- ✓ **National Financial Information Registry:** It will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information. This will facilitate efficient flow of credit, promote financial inclusion, and foster financial stability.
- ✓ A new legislative framework will govern this credit public infrastructure, and it will be designed in consultation with the RBI.
- ✓ **Financial Sector Regulations:** To simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance, financial sector regulators will be requested to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations.
- ✓ **Data Embassy:** For countries looking for digital continuity solutions, GIFT IFSC will facilitate setting up of their Data Embassies.
- ✓ **Capacity Building in Securities Market:** SEBI will be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets.
- ✓ **Digital Payments:** Fiscal support for digital public infrastructure will continue in 2023-24.
- ✓ **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mahila Samman Bachat Patra:** One-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025.
- ✓ This will offer deposit facility upto ₹2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5% with partial withdrawal option.

- ✓ **Benefits for Senior Citizens:** The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will be enhanced from ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh.
- ✓ The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme will be enhanced from ₹4.5 lakh to ₹9 lakh for single account and from ₹9 lakh to ₹15 lakh for joint account.
- ✓ **50 year interest free loan to States:** It has to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. The loan will be partly conditional.
- ✓ **Fiscal Deficit of States:** States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of GSDP of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.

Ministries wise allocations

- ✓ In 2023-24, the ministries with the highest allocations account for 55% of the estimated total expenditure. Of these, the Ministry of Defence has the highest allocation in 2023-24, at Rs 5,93,538 crore. It accounts for 13.2% of the total budgeted expenditure of the central government. Other ministries with high allocation include: (i) Road Transport and Highways (6% of total expenditure), (ii) Railways (5.4%), (iii) Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution (4.6%).
- ✓ **Railways:** Allocation is estimated to increase by Rs 78,956 crore (48.6%) in 2023-24, over the revised estimate of 2022-23. This is mainly on account of increased capital outlay on commercial lines.
- ✓ **Jal Shakti:** Allocation to the Ministry of Jal Shakti is estimated to increase by Rs 23,249 crore (31.4%) in 2023-24, driven by an increase in the allocation for Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ **Road Transport and Highways:** Allocation in 2023-24 is estimated to increase by Rs 53,408 crore (24.6%), on account of an increase on capital outlay on roads and bridges (24.5%).
- ✓ Allocation towards the Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Chemicals and Fertilisers have decreased mainly on account of a reduction in food subsidy and fertiliser subsidy.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the total expenditure on subsidies is estimated to be Rs 4,03,084 crore, a decrease of 28.3% from the revised estimate of 2022-23

Ministry-wise expenditure in 2023-24 (Rs crore)					
	Actuals 2021-22	Budgeted 2022-23	Revised 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	% change (2022-23 RE to 2023-24 BE)
Defence	5,00,681	5,25,166	5,84,791	5,93,538	1.5%
Road Transport and Highways	1,23,551	1,99,108	2,17,027	2,70,435	24.6%
Railways	1,35,242	1,40,367	1,62,312	2,41,268	48.6%
Food and Public Distribution	3,06,571	2,17,684	2,96,523	2,05,765	-30.6%
Home Affairs	1,68,791	1,85,777	1,93,912	1,96,035	1.1%
Chemicals and Fertilisers	1,54,789	1,07,715	2,27,681	1,78,482	-21.6%
Rural Development	1,61,643	1,38,204	1,82,382	1,59,964	-12.3%
Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	1,22,836	1,32,514	1,18,913	1,25,036	5.1%
Communications	51,545	1,05,407	1,05,478	1,23,393	17.0%
Education	80,352	1,04,278	99,881	1,12,899	13.0%
Jal Shakti	83,467	86,189	74,029	97,278	31.4%
Health and Family Welfare	84,470	86,201	79,145	89,155	12.6%
Housing and Urban Affairs	1,06,840	76,549	74,546	76,432	2.5%
Other Ministries	17,13,022	18,39,751	17,70,613	20,33,419	14.8%
Total Expenditure	37,93,801	39,44,909	41,87,232	45,03,097	7.5%

- ✓ **Food subsidy:** Allocation to food subsidy is estimated at Rs 1,97,350 crore in 2023-24, a 31.3% decrease over the revised estimate of 2022-23. A higher level of food subsidy was budgeted in 2021-22 and 2022-23 mainly on account of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, which provides for free additional foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The provision of additional foodgrains was discontinued in December 2022.
- ✓ **Fertiliser subsidy:** Expenditure on fertiliser subsidy is estimated at Rs 1,75,100 crore in 2023-24. This is a decrease of Rs 50,120 crore (22.3%) from the revised estimate of 2022-23. Fertiliser subsidy for 2022-23 was increased substantially in response to a sharp increase in international prices of raw materials used in the manufacturing of fertilisers.
- ✓ **Other subsidies:** Expenditure on other subsidies includes interest subsidies for various government schemes, subsidies for the price support scheme for agricultural produce, and assistance to ship building research and development, among others.

Allocations for women, children, SCs, STs and NER

- ✓ Programmes for the welfare of women and children have been allocated Rs 3,27,010 crore in 2023-24,

- an increase of 6.3% over the revised estimate of 2022- 23. These allocations include programmes being implemented across all ministries.
- ✓ The allocation towards scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in 2023-24 is estimated to increase by 4.3% and 26.7%, respectively.
- ✓ The budget for road works under allocation for welfare of scheduled tribes has increased by 265% in 2023-24 as compared to revised estimate of 2022-23.
- ✓ The allocation towards North Eastern Region is estimated to increase by 30.5% in 2023-24 over the revised estimates of 2022-23.

Allocations for women, children, SCs, STs and NER (Rs crore)				
	Actuals 2021-22	Revised 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	% change (2022-23 RE to 2023-24 BE)
Welfare of Women	2,09,528	2,18,487	2,23,220	2.2%
Welfare of Children	73,199	89,008	1,03,791	16.6%
Scheduled Castes	1,21,614	1,52,604	1,59,126	4.3%
Scheduled Tribes	83,921	94,293	1,19,510	26.7%
North Eastern Region (NER)	-	72,540	94,680	30.5%

Expenditure on Major Schemes	Scheme wise allocation in 2023-24 (Rs crore)				
	Actuals 2021-22	Budgeted 2022-23	Revised 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	% change (2022-23 RE to 2023-24 BE)
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	90,020	48,000	77,130	79,590	3.2%
Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Mission	63,126	60,000	55,000	70,000	27.3%
PM-KISAN	66,825	68,000	60,000	60,000	0.0%
MGNREGS	98,468	73,000	89,400	60,000	-32.9%
National Education Mission	25,305	39,553	32,612	38,953	19.4%
National Health Mission	32,958	37,160	33,708	36,785	9.1%
Modified Interest Subvention Scheme*	-	19,500	22,000	23,000	4.5%
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0	18,382	20,263	20,263	20,554	1.4%
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	13,992	19,000	19,000	19,000	0.0%
AMRUT and Smart Cities Mission	13,868	14,100	15,300	16,000	4.6%
National Livelihood Mission-Ajeevika	10,177	14,236	13,886	14,129	1.7%
Guarantee Emergency Credit Line to MSME borrowers	7,445	15,000	10,500	14,100	34.3%
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	13,549	15,500	12,376	13,625	10.1%
Swachh Bharat Mission	5,050	9,492	7,000	12,192	74.2%
Reform Linked Distribution Scheme	814	7,566	6,000	12,072	101.2%

Allocations for Major Schemes

- ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (rural and urban components taken together) has the highest allocation in 2023-24 at Rs 79,590 crore. This is an increase of 3.2% over the revised estimate of 2022-23. As compared to the revised estimates of 2022-23, the allocation for the rural component of the scheme has increased by 13% and the urban component has declined by 13% in 2023-24. For 2022-23, the allocation towards the scheme has been increased by 60.7% as compared to the budget estimates.
- ✓ **The Jal Jeevan Mission** has the second highest allocation in 2023-24 at Rs 70,000 crore, an increase of 27.3% over the revised estimate of Rs 55,000 crore in 2022-23.
- ✓ Allocation for **PM-KISAN** has been kept constant at Rs 60,000 crore, and for **MGNREGS** has been reduced by 33% to Rs 60,000 crore.
- ✓ Some other schemes with a comparatively higher increase in allocation in 2023-24 include: (i) Reform Linked Distribution Scheme (101.2%), (ii) Swachh Bharat Mission (74.2%), and (iii) Guarantee Emergency Credit Line to MSME borrowers (34.3%).
- ✓ The Centre has budgeted Rs 1.3 lakh crore for special interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure. The revised estimates for 2022-23 at

Rs 76,000 crore were lower than the budgeted Rs 1 lakh crore.

Direct Taxes

Simplifying Personal Income Tax Regime

- ✓ No income tax for persons with income up to ₹7 lakh in the new tax regime.
- ✓ The tax structure in the new personal tax regime has been changed by reducing number of slabs to five and increasing the tax exemption limit to ₹3 lakh.
- ✓ Reduction of the highest surcharge rate from 37% to 25% under new tax regime for income above ₹2 crore. New income tax regime has been made the default tax regime.
- ✓ However, the citizens will continue to have the option to avail the benefit of the old tax regime.

CURRENT		PREVIOUS	
INCOME	TAX RATE	INCOME	TAX RATE
0-3 lakh	NIL	0-2.5 lakh	NIL
3-6 lakh	5%	2.5-5 lakh	5%
6-9 lakh	10%	5-7.5 lakh	10%
9-12 lakh	15%	7.5-10 lakh	15%
12-15 lakh	20%	10-12.5 lakh	20%
15+ lakh	30%	12.5-15 lakh	25%
		15+ lakh	30%

Roll Out Of Common IT Return Form

- ✓ For tax payer convenience and strengthening of grievance redressal mechanism to further improve Tax Payers Services.

MSMEs and Professionals

- ✓ Currently micro enterprises with turnover up to Rs 2 crore and certain professionals with turnover of up to Rs 50 lakh can avail the benefit of presumptive taxation.
- ✓ Budget proposed to enhance limits of presumptive taxation to ₹3 crores for Micro Enterprises and ₹75 lakh for professionals with cash payment less than 5%. Any payment made to MSME shall be allowed as expenditure only when payment is actually made.

Co-operatives Sector

- ✓ Benefit of concessional tax rate of 15% to new co-operatives that commence manufacturing by 31st March, 2024.
- ✓ Sugar co-operatives can claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure.
- ✓ TDS limit on cash withdrawals is increased to ₹3 crores for co-operatives societies.
- ✓ Higher limit of ₹2 lakh per member for cash deposits and loans by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs)

Start-ups

- ✓ Date of incorporation for income tax benefits to start-ups to be extended to 31st March 2024.
- ✓ Time limit for carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups increased from 7 years of incorporation to 10 years.

Reducing pendency of appeals

- ✓ 100 Joint Commissioners for disposal of small appeals to be deploy.

Better Targeting Of Tax Concessions

- ✓ To cap deduction from capital gains on investment in residential house to ₹10 Cr.

Improving Compliance And Tax Administration

- ✓ Reduction in the minimum time period required to be provided by the transfer pricing officer to assessee for production of documents and information from 30 days to 10 days.

Rationalization

- ✓ Removing the minimum threshold of ₹10,000/- for TDS and clarifying taxability relating to online gaming.
- ✓ Conversion of gold into electronic gold receipt and vice versa will not be treated as capital gain.
- ✓ TDS rate to be reduced from 30% to 20% on taxable portion of EPF withdrawal in non-PAN cases.
- ✓ Taxation on income from Market Linked Debentures.

EEE status to Agniveer Fund

- ✓ Payment received from the Agniveer Corpus Fund by the Agniveers enrolled in Agnipath Scheme, 2022 proposed to be exempt from taxes.

Others

- ✓ Extension of period of tax benefits to funds relocating to IFSC, GIFT City till 31st March 2025..

Indirect Taxes

Changes in GST Laws

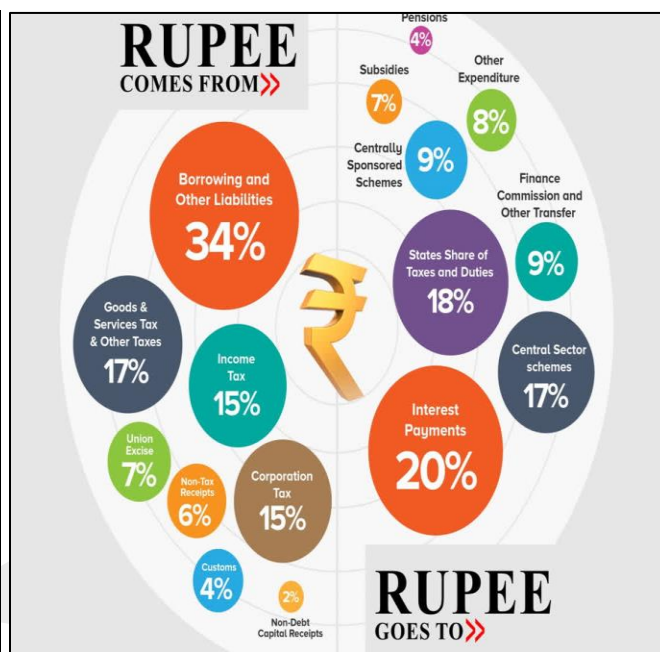
- ✓ Decriminalization of certain offences under section 132 of CGST Act, 2017 –
 - Obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties.
 - Deliberate tampering of material evidence.
 - Failure to supply the information.
- ✓ Reducing the compounding of offences from the present range of 50% to 150% of tax amount to the range of 25% to 100%.
- ✓ Raising the minimum threshold of tax amount for launching prosecution under GST from ₹ 1 crore to ₹2 crore.
- ✓ Sections 37, 39, 44 and 52 of CGST Act, 2017 are amended to restrict filing of returns to a maximum period of 3 years from due date.
- ✓ Proposed to enable unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs).

Changes in Customs Laws

- ✓ Customs Act, 1962 to be amended to specify a time limit of nine months from date of filing application for passing final order by Settlement Commission.
- ✓ Number of basic customs duty rates on goods, other than textiles and agriculture, reduced to 13 from 21.

Sector Specific Proposals

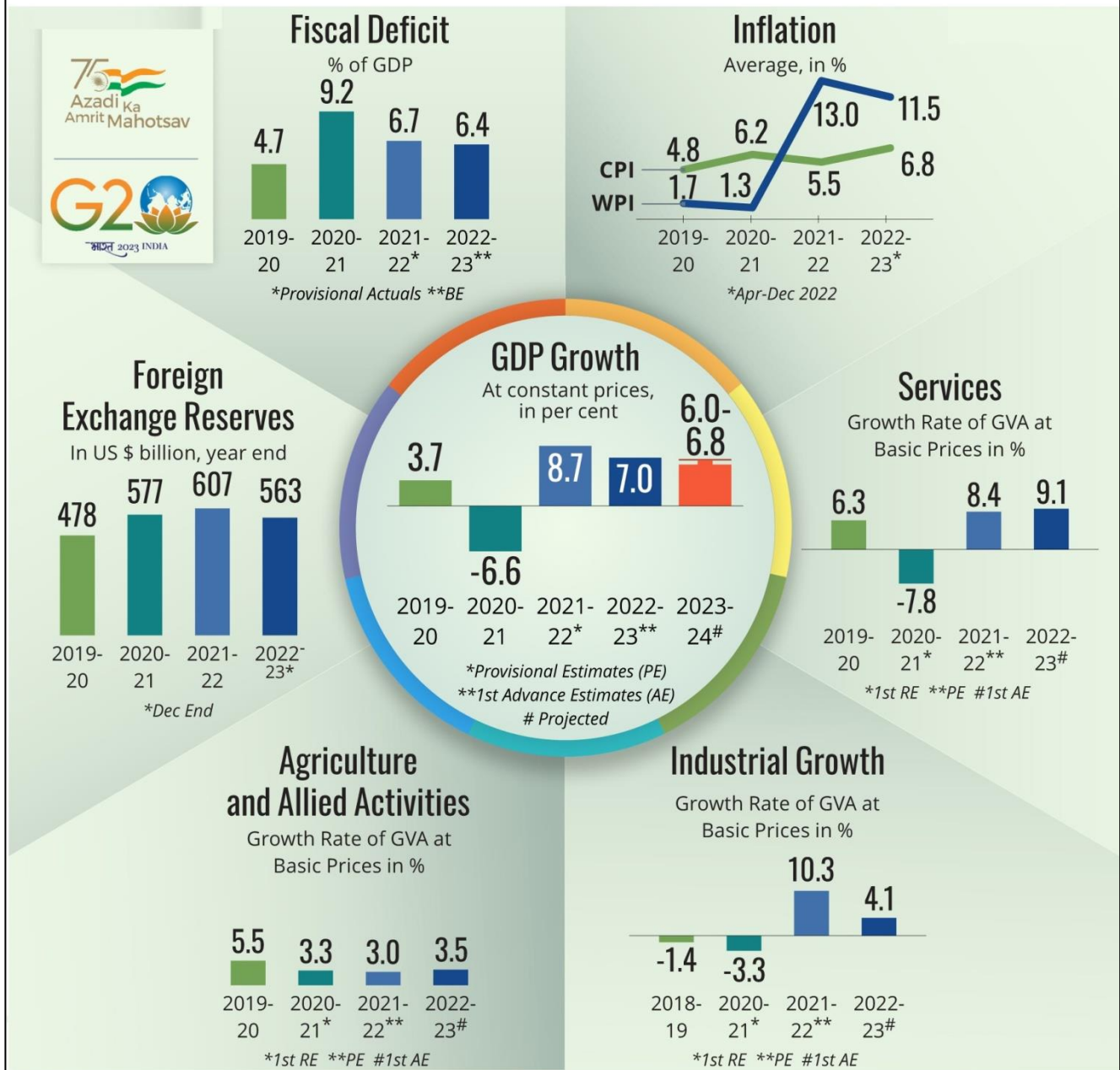
Green Mobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To avoid cascading of taxes, budget proposed to exempt excise duty on GST -paid compressed bio gas. •Customs duty exemption to be extended to import of capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicles.
It & Electronics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To deepen domestic value addition in manufacture of mobile phones relief in customs duty on import of certain parts and inputs like camera lens. Basic Custom Duty(BCD) to be reduced on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5%.
Electrical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To rectify inversion of duty structure and encourage manufacturing of electric kitchen chimneys - •Increase in the BCD on electric kitchen chimney from 7.5% to 15% and a reduction on heat coils from 20% to 15%.
Chemicals And Petrochemicals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To support Ethanol Blending Programme, exempting BCD on denatured ethyl alcohol. •Reducing BCD on acid grade fluorspar and on crude glycerine to 2.5 %.
Marine Products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduction in BCD on key inputs for domestic manufacture of shrimp feed to boost export.
Lab Grown Diamonds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •BCD on seeds used in the manufacturing of Lab Grown Diamonds to be nullified from the current 5% to support diamond industry
Precious Metals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To enhance the duty differential, Custom duties to be increased on articles made from gold and platinum. •To increase the import duty on silver dore, bars and articles to align them with that on gold and platinum.
Compounded Rubber
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To curb circumvention of duty, BCD rate on compounded rubber to be increased from 10% to 25 % or ₹ 30/kg whichever is lower .
Cigarettes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) , on specified cigarettes to be revised upwards by about 16%.



About Union Budget

- ✓ The Union Budget is also known as the Annual Financial Statement. **Article 112** of the Constitution of India lays down that it is a statement of the estimated expenditure and receipts of the Government for a particular year.
- ✓ The Budget keeps the account of the finances of the government for the fiscal year (from 1st April to 31st March).
- ✓ The Budget is presented on 1st February (until 2016, it was presented on the last working day of February) so that it can materialise before the commencement of the new financial year which starts on 1st April.
- ✓ In 2017, a 92-year-old tradition was broken when the railway budget was merged with the Union Budget and presented together.
- ✓ The Budget has to be passed by the Lok Sabha before it can come into effect.
- ✓ The Union Budget is divided into Revenue Budget and Capital Budget.
- ✓ In the Union Budget, the disbursements and receipts of the government comprise the various types of government funds in India namely, the Consolidated Fund of India, the Contingency Fund and the Public Account.
- ✓ The Economic Survey of India is released ahead of the presentation of the Budget.

Economic Survey 2022-2023



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman represents the country’s annual pre-budget economic survey at Parliament on January 31, 2023. According to the Economic Survey 2022-23, the following fiscal year will see real GDP growth of 6.5 percent. The Indian Economy would also increase by 7% for 2023-24. This growth also depicts that India has become the world's fifth-largest economy. The documents of Economic Survey 2023 are presented by the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran.

Key Figures	Economic Survey 2022-23
Growth estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economy is expected to grow at 7% in real terms for 2022-23.
GDP estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's GDP is expected to be in the range of 6-6.8% in 2023-24. The survey projects a baseline GDP growth of 6.5% in real terms in FY24.
Inflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI estimated 6.8% of retail inflation for 2022-23.
Fiscal Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fiscal deficit of the Union government has moderated at 6.7% of GDP in FY22. It is expected to reach 6.4% of GDP in FY23.
Gross Tax Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It registered a YoY growth of 15.5% from April to November 2022.
GST collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GST collections increased at 24.8% on a YoY basis during April – December 2022.
Capital Expenditure (Capex) of central government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It increased by 63.4% from April to November 2022. It was a major growth driver of the Indian Economy in FY22. It has steadily increased from a long-term average of 1.7% of GDP (FY09 to FY20) to 2.5% of GDP in FY22 PA.
Monetary Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) are at a five-year low of 5%. RBI raised the policy rate by cumulative 225 basis points (bps) since April 2022. Yield on a 10-year government bond is stable. Capital-to-Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) stands at 16.0.
Credit Growth to MSME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The credit growth to Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises was high at 30.6% on average from January to November 2022.
Service Sector Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growth rate of GVA at basic prices in 2021-22 was 8.4% (Provisional estimate). It is 9.1% in 2021-22 as per the first advanced estimate.
Urban Unemployment Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the urban unemployment rate decreased from 9.8% in the quarter ending September 2021 to 7.2% in the quarter ending September 2022.
Exports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merchandise exports stood at US\$ 332.8 bn for April-December 2022. This was a growth of 16% from 2021. India is the 7th largest service exporter in the world. The share of exports of goods and services as a percent of GDP in the first half of 2022-23 has been the highest since 2016.
Remittances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to World Bank, India was the largest recipient of remittances in the world in 2022.

Economic Survey 2022-23 Highlights

State of Economy: Recovery Complete

- ✓ India has recovered from three global shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict leading to rising inflation, and the rate hike by the U.S. Federal Bank.
- ✓ Increased private consumption, central government spending (capex), and crowding in the private capex led by the strengthening of the balance sheets of the corporates were the major drivers of growth of the Indian economy.
- ✓ The rebound in consumption was engineered by near-universal COVID-19 vaccination.
- ✓ Schemes like PM-Kisan and PM Garib Kalyan Yojana have helped in ensuring food security. Moreover, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) showed improvement in rural welfare indicators like gender, fertility, etc.

Fiscal Stability

- ✓ The government of India adopted a holistic policy towards fiscal stability in the past few years by transforming the tax ecosystem, rationalizing GST, simplifying tax compliance, etc.

Inflation

- ✓ Though India's retail inflation rate peaked at 7.8% in April 2022, it was one of the lowest in the world.
- ✓ The rise in prices was capped by various interventions like:
- ✓ Phase-wise reduction in the export duty of petrol and diesel.
- ✓ Import duty on major inputs was brought to zero.
- ✓ Exports were regulated. For instance, exports of wheat products were prohibited.

Social Infrastructure and Employment

- ✓ The budgeted expenditure of the Central and State Governments on the health sector increased to 2.1% of GDP in FY23 (BE) from 1.6% in FY21.
- ✓ Social sector expenditure reached approximately Rs. 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (Budget Estimates, BE).
- ✓ Unemployment rates reduced from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2020-21.
- ✓ The out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure decreased from 64.2% in FY14 to 48.2% in FY19.

- ✓ Around 220 crore COVID vaccines were administered (as on 6 January 2023).
- ✓ There are more than 22 crore beneficiaries that have been verified under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme (04 January 2023). And about 1.54 lakh Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized across India under the Ayushman Bharat initiative.

Climate Change and Environment

- ✓ India has achieved its target of 40% installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- ✓ LIFE– Lifestyle for Environment initiative was launched by the government of India.
- ✓ Initiatives like Sovereign Green Gold Bond and National Green Hydrogen Mission were also launched.
- ✓ It is highlighted that the installed solar power capacity reached 61.6 GW on October 2022.
- ✓ India is becoming a favoured destination for renewables. For instance, investments in 7 years stand at US\$ 78.1 billion.

Agriculture and Food Management

- ✓ Private investment in agriculture has risen to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- ✓ The production of food grains has consistently increased. It stood at around 315.7 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- ✓ The government is promoting several initiatives in different domains like organic farming, e-NAM, post-harvest support, etc.

Industry

- ✓ Overall gross value added by the industrial sector has increased.
- ✓ Electronics exports increased threefold. It rose from US \$4.4 bn in FY19 to US \$11.6 bn in FY22.
- ✓ India became the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally.
- ✓ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into the pharma industry in India have increased by nearly four times.
- ✓ To promote ease of doing business, around 39000 compliances were reduced and more than 3500 provisions were decriminalized.
- ✓ The government also introduced the Production linked incentive scheme for 14 sectors.

Service Sector

- ✓ India was one of the top ten services exporting countries in 2021. Its overall share in world commercial services exports increased from 3% in 2015 to 4% in 2021.
- ✓ FDI equity inflows in the services sector in FY22 were approximately US\$ 7.1 billion.
- ✓ There was sustained growth in the real estate sector.
- ✓ Hotel occupancy and the tourism sector significantly revived after the pandemic.
- ✓ India’s e-commerce market is projected to grow at 18% annually till 2025.

External Sector

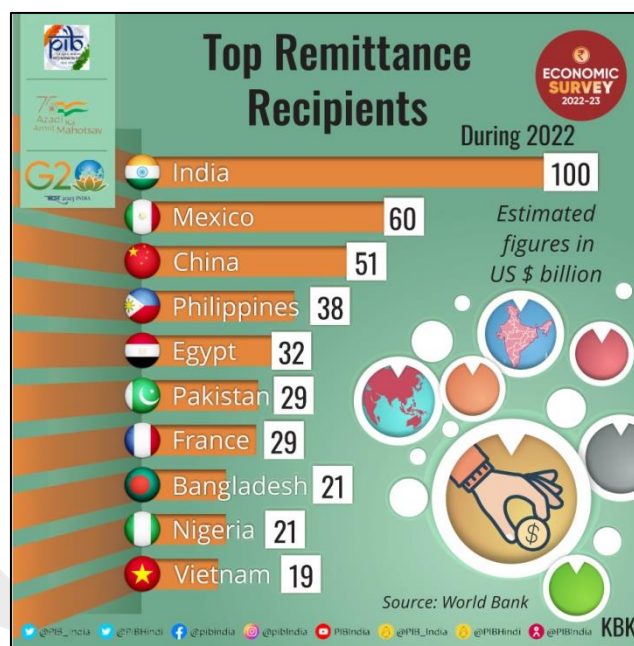
- ✓ India diversified its markets and increased its exports to countries like Brazil, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ CEPA with UAE and ECTA with Australia came into force in 2022. This would further strengthen India’s position in the global market.
- ✓ As of December 2022, India’s forex reserves stood at US\$ 563 bn covering 9.3 months of imports. It should be noted that India is the sixth largest foreign reserves holder in the world.

Physical and Digital Infrastructure

- ✓ The government is looking forward to various schemes/initiatives for infrastructure development like:
 - ✓ National Monetization Pipeline
 - ✓ National Infrastructure Pipeline
 - ✓ Public Private Partnerships in various projects
 - ✓ PM GatiShakti National Master Plan
- ✓ In the field of logistics, various initiatives have been launched like the National Logistic Policy, Kisan rail, Inland Vessels Act, etc.
- ✓ To strengthen the digital infrastructure of the country, GEM, e-NAM, and UMANG have transformed the marketplace and have enabled citizens to access services across sectors.

Other Important facts

- ✓ UPI-based transactions grew 121% by value and 115% by volume between 2019-22.
- ✓ There was a 200% increase in rural internet subscriptions between 2015 and 2021.



About Economic Survey	
✓	The Economic Survey of India is an annual document released by the Ministry of Finance. It is usually presented in Parliament a day before the Union Budget.
✓	It is prepared by the Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor. The current CEA of India is Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran .
✓	It reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months and presents the economic outlook for the current fiscal year.
✓	It also presents the current state of the Indian economy, including data on gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, employment, and trade.
✓	The Economic Survey presents a comprehensive analysis of India's growth trajectory including the global optimism towards nation, focus on infra, growth in agriculture, industries and emphasis on futuristic sectors.
✓	The first Economic Survey in India was presented in the year 1950-51.
✓	Up to 1964, it was presented along with the Union Budget. From 1964 onwards, it has been delinked from the Budget.

UNION BUDGET 2023-24 TOP 50 MCQ

1. Consider following statements about Annual Financial Statement of 2023-24.
 1. This is provided in the Constitution under article 112.
 2. It shows the actuals for the fiscal year 2022-23.
 3. Government accounts are kept under the Consolidated Fund of India and the Contingency Fund of India.
 Which of the above statements are not correct?
 - a) 1 and 3
 - b) 1 and 2
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Consider following statements regarding Contingency Fund of India
 1. Currently, the Parliament is authorised for a corpus of ₹30000 crore.
 2. It is to look for unforeseen expenditures.
 3. It is placed at the disposal of Cabinet ministers.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2
 - b) 1 and 3
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
3. Consider the following statements
 1. Railways budget is presented together with the Union budget from financial year 2017-18.
 2. The total receipts and expenditure of the railways are incorporated in the Annual Financial Statement of the government of India.
 3. In the budget 2023-24, ₹2.4 lakh crore capital outlay has been sanctioned for railways.
 Which of the above statements are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2
 - b) 1 and 3
 - c) 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
4. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements.
 1. Our current year's economic growth i.e. FY23 is estimated to be at 7 per cent in nominal terms.
 2. This is the highest among all economies.
 Which of the above statements is/are not correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Consider following statements about the budget estimates of fiscal year 2023-24.
 1. The share of subsidies is more than the share of defence in Union budget allocations.
 2. Interest payment on borrowings is about 25% of total expenditure.
 3. Centrally sponsored schemes have higher allocation of funds than Central sector schemes.
 Which of the above statements are incorrect?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
6. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements. The Budget adopts the following seven priorities.
 1. Inclusive Development
 2. Reaching the Last Mile
 3. Infrastructure and Investment
 4. Unleashing the Potential
 Which among the following is/are not one among them?
 - a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 4
 - d) None of the above
7. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements.
 1. Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program will be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops at an outlay of 200 crore.
 2. To enhance the productivity of extra-long staple cotton, the government will adopt a cluster-based and value chain approach through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).
 Which of the above statements is/are not correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements.
 1. Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will provide PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education etc.
 2. An amount of 15,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
 Which of the above statements is/are not correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

17. According to Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements regarding MSMEs:
1. Medium enterprises with turnover up to Rs2 crore and certain professionals with turnover of up to Rs50 lakh can avail the benefit of presumptive taxation.
 2. It is proposed to provide enhanced limits of Rs3 crore and Rs75 lakh respectively to the taxpayers whose cash receipts are no more than 5 percent.
 3. It is proposed to allow deduction for expenditure incurred on payments made to them only when payment is actually made.
- Choose the correct option using the codes below:
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3
18. According to Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements regarding Cooperation:
1. New co-operatives that commence manufacturing activities till 31.3.2024 shall get the benefit of a lower tax rate of 15 percent
 2. Providing a higher limit of Rs2 lakh per member for cash deposits to and loans in cash by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs).
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
19. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements.
1. The Budget for FY 2023-24 provisions for above 10 lakh crore (3.3 per cent of GDP) for capital expenditure.
 2. Expenditure on revenue account has been estimated at about `35.02 lakh crore (11.6 per cent of GDP) in BE 2023-24.
- Which of the above statement is/are not correct?
- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 and 2
20. According to the Union Budget 2023-24, consider the following statements.
1. According to the First Advance Estimates, the real GDP in FY 2022-23 is expected to grow by 7.0 per cent compared to 6.7 per cent in FY 2021-22.
 2. The Fiscal Deficit was projected at 6.4 per cent of GDP in the Budget Estimates of FY 2022-23.
- Which of the above statement is/are correct?
- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 and 2
21. The Union Budget 2023-24 states that Per capita income has more than doubled to ₹ _____ in around nine years.
- a) 0.95 lakh b) 1.97 lakh
c) 1.56 lakh d) 1.40 lakh
22. The Vibrant Villages Programme launched in recent Union Budget 2022-23 focuses on the development of which villages?
- a) Backward Villages
b) Tribal Villages
c) Hill Areas
d) Border Villages
23. Amrit Dharohar scheme' will be implemented over the next _____ years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
- a) five
b) seven
c) three
d) four
24. The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs _____, as per the Union Budget 2023-24.
- a) 20 lakh
b) 25 lakh
c) 30 lakh
d) 35 lakh
25. Which of the following rate of Income Tax under the new regime is not applicable as per the Finance Bill 2023?
- a) 15%
b) 20%
c) 25%
d) 30%
26. The finance minister proposed to reduce the highest surcharge rate from 37 per cent to _____ in the new tax regime.
- a) 15 per cent
b) 25 per cent
c) 35 per cent
d) 45 per cent

27. In which year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replaced the Budget briefcase with the traditional 'Bahi Khata' having the National Emblem?
- 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017
 - 2019
28. Which of the following has the highest share in the Proposed Expenditure from the Union Budget 2023-24:
- Interest Payment
 - Defence
 - Centrally Sponsored Scheme
 - Central Sector Scheme
29. Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts have been introduced to:
- Further trust-based compliances
 - Further trust-based governance
 - Further privatization
 - Boost agriculture sector.
30. Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to be rolled out to provide stipend support to _____.
- 40 lakh youth in three years
 - 27 lakh youth in three years
 - 37 lakh youth in three years
 - 47 lakh youth in three years
31. Rs. 5,300 crore to be given as central assistance to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water, situated in which state?
- Telangana
 - Tamilnadu
 - Karnataka
 - Gujarat
32. Green Credit Programme to be notified under the _____.
- Agriculture Credit Scheme
 - Agriculture Accelerator Fund
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act
 - Environment (Protection) Act
33. MISHTI scheme will be launched for _____.
- Mangrove plantation in the hinterland
 - Mangrove plantation in North Eastern Region
 - Mangrove plantation along the coastline
 - Plantation along the coastline
34. National Data Governance Policy to be brought out in the Union Budget 2023-24 for:
- Start-ups and academia
 - Ease of Doing Business
 - Governance
 - Skill India
35. According to Union Budget 2023-24 presented by Indian Finance Minister, Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program related to:
- Organic Horticulture
 - Urban Horticulture
 - Horticulture Crops
 - Viticulture
36. What is vision for Amrit Kaal under Budget 2023-24?
- Opportunities for Citizens with focus on youth
 - Growth in Job Creation
 - Strong and Stable Macro-economic Environment
 - All of the Above
37. India is the largest producer and second largest exporter of 'Shree Anna', what is 'Shree Anna'?
- Millet
 - Rice
 - Pulses
 - Whea
38. Which one of the following is correct regarding Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BSRI)?
- Digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage
 - Digitization of two lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage
 - Digitization of three lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage
 - Digitization of four lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage
39. What is aim of National Digital Library?
- To provide high-quality books to children only
 - To provide high-quality books to adolescents only
 - To provide high-quality books in only two languages Hindi & English
 - To provide high-quality books to children and adolescents

- 40.** With reference to fiscal management in budget 2023-24, consider the following statements:
1. Interest-free loan to states for 50 years.
 2. States are allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5 percent of GSDP.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 41.** Consider the following statements regarding inflation in economic survey:
1. Retail Inflation rate is estimated at 6.8 percent in 2022-23.
 2. Whole sale Inflation rate is estimated at 11.5 percent in 2022-23.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 42.** Under Economic survey 2022-23, what is expected fiscal deficit in 2023-24?
- (a) 5.4 Percent (b) 6.4 Percent
(c) 7.4 Percent (d) 7.7 Percent
- 43.** With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements:
1. It is 5th largest service exporter in the world.
 2. India was the highest recipient of remittances in the world in 2022.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 44.** Consider the following statements regarding India's current employment trend:
1. Unemployment rate reducing from 8.3% to 7.2% by Mid-2022.
 2. Worker population ratio is improving.
 3. The demanding work under MGNREGS was seen to be around pre-pandemic levels.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3
- 45.** India declared the Net Zero Pledge to achieve a net zero emissions goal by:
- (a) 2045
(b) 2050
(c) 2060
(d) 2070

- 46.** Which sector is highest FDI Equity Inflows during April-September 2022?
- a) Service (b) Software and Hardware
c) Trading (d) Automobiles
- 47.** Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is presenting the Union Budget 2023 for the ___ time in a row.
- a) 6th (b) 4th
c) 7th (d) 5th
- 48.** Total resources being transferred to the States in The Union Budget 2023-24 is:
- a) 17.98 Lakh Crore (b) 15 Lakh Crore
c) 20 Lakh Crore (d) 18 Lakh Crore
- 49.** Which of the following is not correctly matched with regards to Proposed Expenditure from the Union Budget 2023-24:
- a) Interest payments-20% (b) Subsidies-7%
c) Defence-15% (d) Pensions-4%
- 50.** The proposed fiscal deficit for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 is at:
- a) 5.9 percent of GDP (b) 6.4 percent of GDP
c) 4.5 percent of GDP (d) 7 percent of GDP

1	c	11	d	21	b	31	c	41	c
2	a	12	c	22	d	32	d	42	b
3	d	13	d	23	c	33	c	43	a
4	c	14	d	24	c	34	a	44	d
5	d	15	c	25	c	35	c	45	d
6	d	16	c	26	b	36	d	46	b
7	a	17	c	27	d	37	a	47	d
8	d	18	c	28	a	38	a	48	a
9	c	19	d	29	b	39	d	49	c
10	c	20	b	30	d	40	c	50	a

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

Russia kicked out of FATF membership as South Africa and Nigeria added to grey list

- ✓ The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force has suspended Russia's membership. This is the first time that the international anti-money laundering organisation has suspended any member since it was established in 1989. The FATF's members voted for the move at its plenary session, which came on the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Two of Africa's largest economies and a G20 member, Nigeria and South Africa, have been added to the FATF's grey list of countries with deficiencies in their anti-money laundering procedures. At the same plenary on 24 February 2023 in Paris, Morocco and Cambodia were both removed from the FATF's grey list.
- ✓ South Africa is only the second G20 economy after Turkey to have been added to the FATF grey list. The United Arab Emirates, Albania and Yemen are also among those grey-listed. Only three countries — Iran, North Korea and Myanmar — are blacklisted.



India, Guyana set to ink pact on oil & gas sector

- ✓ India will explore buying oil from Guyana in a long term deal and participating in the South American country's oil and gas exploration sector.
- ✓ India and Guyana have agreed to cooperate in the oil and gas sector, including long-term crude purchase from the South American country and investment in its upstream sector. Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri met Guyana president Mohamed Irfaan Ali.
- ✓ The leaders agreed on direct government-to-government cooperation across the entire spectrum of the oil and gas sector including increased long-term offtake, participation in exploration and production activities in Guyana, technical

cooperation in the midstream and downstream sector and capacity building.

- ✓ India is the third-largest consumer and importer of oil worldwide and nearly 85 per cent of its oil demand is met through imports from abroad that includes nearly 10 per cent from Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC).

UAE and India launch the UAE Chapter of the Business Council

- ✓ India and the UAE are celebrating the first anniversary of their Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, signed on February 18, 2022. As part of continued efforts to boost bilateral trade, the UAE India Business Council – UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC) was launched on February 18, 2023 by the UAE's minister of state for foreign trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi. Others present at the signing of the agreement included India's ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir, general counsel of India in Dubai Aman Puri, and founding members of the UIBC- UC.



Australia's Deakin University to set up campus in GIFT city

- ✓ The first foreign university to establish a campus in India will be Deakin University of Australia. The autonomous campus will be built in Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City. While visiting Ahmedabad, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese is anticipated to make the official announcement.
- ✓ According to the QS World University Rankings, Deakin University is ranked 266 overall. It is one of the top 50 new universities worldwide.

India – Egypt hold 3rd 'Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism' meeting in New Delhi

- ✓ India has been collaborating with numerous countries and organizations to counter global terrorism at various levels. Egypt is one such

country with whom India has constantly worked to combat terrorism. The third meeting of the India-Egypt Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was conducted on February 16, 2023, in New Delhi.

- ✓ The Indian side of the meeting was spearheaded by Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), while the Egyptian side was led by Mohamed Fouad Ahmed, Director, Counter-Terrorism Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Switzerland becomes first WTO Member to Formally Accept New Agreement On Fisheries Subsidies

- ✓ Switzerland became the first World Trade Organization (WTO) member to formally submit its acceptance of the WTO's new "Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies".
- ✓ Minister Guy Parmelin of Switzerland, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research, submitted his country's instrument of acceptance to Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of WTO, at the informal WTO ministerial meeting conducted on the margins of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.
- ✓ The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies was adopted on June 17, 2022, at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in Geneva, Switzerland.

South Africa declares 'State of Disaster' over electricity crisis

- ✓ In order to speed up the government's reaction to an ongoing energy crisis, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa proclaimed a state of Disaster. He also promised to designate a minister in his office who will concentrate on increasing the supply of power.
- ✓ Since 2008, the nation has struggled with electricity shortages that have reached historic heights, resulting in rolling blackouts every day of this year.
- ✓ Since he assumed office in February 2018, Ramaphosa has promised to overhaul the monopoly state power provider Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd.

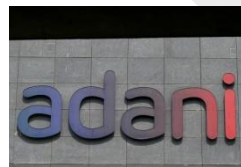


and bring new generation capacity online, but many projects have been hampered by bureaucracy and government apathy.

- ✓ The disruptions, colloquially referred to as "loadshedding," pose a threat to the African National Congress's ability to maintain power in the upcoming elections by seriously undermining public support.
- ✓ Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe claimed that the issues may be resolved in six to twelve months, but Eskom Chairman Mpho Makwana has warned that blackouts won't end until at least 2025 because the utility must keep shutting down its outdated coal-fired units for maintenance.

Sri Lanka approves USD 442 Million Adani Green Wind Power Plants

- ✓ On 22nd February 2023, the Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka issued a letter of approval to India's Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) for 2 wind power plants project in Mannar and Pooneryn areas of (northern province) Sri Lanka with a total investment of USD 442 million.
- ✓ The two wind power facilities of 350 megawatts (MW) will be commissioned in two years and will be added to the national grid by 2025. It will likely create around 1500 to 2,000 jobs.



Spanish Government Passed Law Providing 'Menstrual Leave' First Time in Europe

- ✓ The Spanish government approved a historic law granting paid medical leave to women suffering from severe menstrual pain is the first for any European country. These leave facilities are available in a handful of countries including Japan, Indonesia, and Zambia. Equality Minister Irene Montero informed that it is a historic day of progress in feminist rights.
- ✓ The new legislation also allows minors aged 16 and 17 to have an abortion without parental permission, reversing a requirement introduced by a previous conservative government in 201

NATIONAL

PM Modi Inaugurates & Lays Foundation Stone of Multiple Development Projects in Karnataka

- ✓ On February 27, 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated numerous development projects totaling more than Rs. 3,600 crore at Shivamogga, Karnataka.
- ✓ He also inaugurated the Shivamogga Airport, a new airport built at a cost of around Rs. 450 crore.
 - The Shivamogga airport is the 9th domestic airport in Karnataka
 - The Passenger Terminal Building of Shivamogga Airport can accommodate 300 people per hour.
 - This is intended to boost connectivity and accessibility in Shivamogga and other neighbouring areas in the Malnad region.
- ✓ In the first seven decades of freedom from 1947, India had 74 airports (as of 2014), but in the last nine years, 74 more airports have been added, connecting many smaller cities.
- ✓ In Shivamogga, the PM laid the foundation for two railway projects: The Shivamogga-Shikaripura-Ranebennur new railway line and the Koteganguru Railway coaching depot.
- ✓ The new Shivamogga—Shikaripura—Ranebennur railway line will be built at a cost of Rs. 990 crore and would connect the Malnad region to the Bengaluru—Mumbai mainline.
- ✓ The Koteganguru Railway coaching depot in Shivamogga city would be built at a cost of more than Rs. 100 crores to aid in the launch of new trains from Shivamogga and to relieve congestion at maintenance facilities in Bengaluru and Mysuru.
- ✓ The PM also laid the groundwork for multi-village schemes worth over Rs. 950 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ The PM also inaugurated 44 'Smart City' projects in Shivamogga worth more than Rs. 895 crore.
- ✓ The PM Modi also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several development projects worth



over Rs. 2,700 crore in Belagavi, Karnataka, and also distributed the 13th instalment amount of around Rs. 16,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to over 8 crore beneficiaries.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Vaibhav Fellowships Scheme for Indian Diaspora abroad

- ✓ On the occasion of National Science Day (28th February 2023), Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science and Technology, launched the Vaibhav Fellowship Scheme for Indian Diaspora abroad at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ Vaibhav Fellowship aims to enhance the research ecosystem of Indian higher education institutions by promoting academic and research collaboration between Indian institutions and the best of the world through the mobility of faculty/researchers from overseas institutions to India.
- ✓ The applicant for the Vaibhav Fellowship must be a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), a Person of Indian Origin (PIO) or an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and must have obtained a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)/Masters Dissertation (MD)/Master of Science (MS) degree from a recognized university.

India's 1st Container Feeder Service launched Between Chennai-Puducherry ports

- ✓ On 27th February 2023, a short-haul coastal container feeder service, first of its kind in India, was launched between Chennai – Puducherry ports. The container feeder ship, Hope Seven, with a container capacity of 106 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs), was flagged off by service between Chennai and Puducherry ports flagged off by Sunil Paliwal, Chairman of Chennai Port Trust at D P World Terminal at the Chennai Port.
- ✓ The coastal feeder service is a step forward towards the ambitious Sagarmala Project of the government of India.

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala launched 3 national flagship programmes at ICAR-CIBA, Chennai

- ✓ Parshotam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated and launched three national flagship programmes at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture(CIBA) campus, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The 3 flagship programmes were, the launch of the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) Phase II and Genetic Improvement Programme of Penaeus Indicus (Indian White Shrimp) (GIPPI), and laying the foundation stone for Indian White Shrimp Breeding and Improvement Facility at ICAR-CIBA campus.
- ✓ He also launched aquaculture insurance products brought out by CIBA during the event.

Govt approves 2,880-MW Dibang MPP in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ The 2,880-megawatt (MW) Dibang Multipurpose Project (MPP) in Arunachal Pradesh (AP), the largest ever hydropower project, has got approval from the Government of India with the investment of around Rs 31,876.39 crores (\$3.9 billion) to meet the power demand.
- ✓ The project which is bordering China will be developed by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited.
- ✓ The estimated time period for building the project was 9 years.
- ✓ The cabinet committee on Economic Affairs has approved an investment of Rs 1,600 crores for “pre-investment activities” of the project.
- ✓ The project will generate 11,223 million units of energy per year.

Government launches GAC Portal for Social Media Complaints

- ✓ On 28th February 2023, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State(MoS), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY) launched the Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) portal, a dispute resolution mechanism, to

ensure accountability of social media platforms to their users.

- ✓ The portal is launched under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021).
- ✓ The GAC platform will automatically segregate the complaints made to the Grievance Appellate Committees and escalate those that require intervention by one of the three Committees constituted by the government.

Union Cabinet approves Construction of Shinkun La tunnel in Ladakh

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security(CCS) approved the construction of the 4.1 kilometres (km) Shinkun La tunnel on the Nimu (Ladakh) - Padam (Ladakh) -Darcha(Himachal Pradesh) road link to provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh.
- ✓ The tunnel will be completed at a cost of Rs 1,681 crore by December 2025. An approach will also be built by December 2025.
- ✓ The Shinkun La tunnel will provide Ladakh all-weather road access, which will be the shortest route to reach the Union Territory (UT) border regions

Cabinet approves the extension of the term of the 22nd Law Commission of India upto 31st August, 2024

- ✓ The Union Cabinet also approved the extension of the term of the Twenty-second Law Commission of India upto 31st August, 2024 whose tenure was supposed to end on February 20, 2023.
- ✓ It was constituted for three years on February 21, 2020 and its chairperson is Justice Rituraj Awasthi (retd).

Composition of 22nd law commission:

- Full-time Chairperson;
- Four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary)
- Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member;

- Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and
- Not more than five part-time Members.

Key Responsibilities:

- ✓ Identification of laws which are no longer relevant and recommending for the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments.
- ✓ Suggesting enactment of new legislations
- ✓ Considering and conveying to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)
- ✓ Considering the requests for providing research to any foreign countries preparing and submitting reports on all issues, matters, studies and research undertaken by it to the Central Government and recommending such reports for effective measures to be taken by the Union or any State.
- ✓ Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body, constituted by the Government of India from time to time. It was originally constituted in 1955. So far, it has so far submitted 277 Reports.

CSS approves 7 new battalions; 9,400 personnel for Sino-India LAC guarding ITBP

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the raising of seven new battalions of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force by 2025-26.
- ✓ This will entail recruitment of 9,400 personnel for deployment in Arunachal Pradesh where 47 new border outposts and 12 staging camps are under construction.
- ✓ The outposts were sanctioned in January 2020. In all, there are 176 outposts of the ITBP along the 3,488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) i.e. India-China border.
- ✓ Under this decision, Rs 1,808.15 crore non-recurring expenditure has been approved for construction of official and residential buildings, land acquisition, arms and ammunition.

- ✓ A recurring expenditure of Rs 963.68 crore per year for the salary and ration of personnel has been approved.
- ✓ The decision will increase the strength of the ITBP from the current 88,000 to 97,000, making it the fourth largest Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

Cabinet approves plan to set up 2 lakh PACS in next 5 years

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has also approved the strengthening cooperative movement in India and deepening its reach up to the grassroots. In this regard, Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) has formulated a plan to establish 2 lakh Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in uncovered villages/panchayats, and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal Panchayat/village as well as Panchayat/village having large water bodies over the next 5 years.
- ✓ There will be strengthening of existing PACS/dairy/fishery cooperatives through convergence of various schemes of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying by leveraging the 'whole-of-Government' approach.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Chile for cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- ✓ The Cabinet has also approved the signing of MoU between GoI and Chile for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied sectors. This MoU will remain in force for 5 years which will be automatically renewed for a further period of 5 years.

The areas of cooperation include the following

- ✓ Agricultural policies for development of modern agriculture
- ✓ Organic agriculture to facilitate the bilateral trade of organic products
- ✓ Exchange of policies aimed to develop organic production in both countries
- ✓ Science and innovation to explore partnerships to promote innovation and collaboration in the agricultural sector among Indian Institutes and Chilean institutes.

Cabinet approves CSS 'Vibrant Villages Programme' for FY 2022-23 to 2025-26 worth Rs 4800cr

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)- Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) for FY 2022-23 to 2025-26, the action plan for which i.e. Vibrant Village Action Plans, will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- ✓ There will be 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes.
- ✓ This scheme will not overlap with Border Area Development Programme.
- ✓ Outlay: Rs 4800 Crore, Out of this, Rs 2500 crore will be used for roads.

India's First Electric AC Double-Decker Bus Inaugurated in Mumbai

- ✓ The first double-decker electric AC bus in India was unveiled in Mumbai, Maharashtra, by the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST).
- ✓ The regional transportation agency 'BEST' in Mumbai has not yet completed the registration process the electric bus and will begin offering the service to passengers after conducting a few tests.
- ✓ The bus will run between the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and the Kurla bus depot after all clearances have been granted.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates AMRITPEX 2023 at New Delhi

- ✓ On February 11, 2023, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications inaugurated a 5-day long AMRITPEX 2023, the National Philatelic Exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (Delhi) as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.
- ✓ It will culminate on February 15, 2023.
- ✓ AMRITPEX, the national platform will highlight 5000 years of India's history, culture, art, and heritage through stamps and pictorial collections.
- ✓ The exhibition displays more than 20,000 exhibits under 13 competitive categories and invitees.

PModi Launches E20 Fuel & Flags off Green Mobility Rally in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi unveiled 'E20 Fuel' as part of the IEW 2023 event and flagged off the Green Mobility Rally, which was organized by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on behalf of Petronet LNG (PLL) and the oil and gas PSUs.
- ✓ In accordance with the Ethanol Blending Roadmap, PM launched E20 fuel at 84 retail outlets of oil marketing companies (OMCs) in 11 states/union territories (UTs).
- ✓ The first phase of the E20 rollout will begin with 15 cities and will be expanded across the entire country within two years.

About E20 Fuel:

- ✓ E20 is a blend of 20% ethanol with petrol.
- ✓ In order to progress towards the GoI's target of a complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025, HPCL and other OMCs are developing 2G-3G ethanol plants.
- ✓ The Ethanol Blending Program (EBP) and the Biofuels Program have improved India's energy security.
- ✓ It resulted in a slew of other benefits, including a decrease of 318 lakh metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and a savings of almost Rs. 54,000 crore in foreign exchange (forex).
- ✓ Since 2013-14, ethanol production capacity has increased sixfold.
- ✓ As a result, between 2014 and 2022, around Rs. 81,800 crore was spent on ethanol supply, with farmers receiving more than Rs. 49,000 crore.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates India Energy Week 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- ✓ The India Energy Week (IEW) 2023, the first significant occasion under India's G20 (Group of Twenty) Presidency, was inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on February 6, 2023, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ IEW 2023 will take place from February 6 to 8, 2023, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Boeing launches its 1st Global Support Center in India at Gurugram

- ✓ On February 13, 2022, The Boeing Company, an aerospace company based in the United States of America (USA), launched its first Global Support Center (GSC) in India at Gurugram, Haryana, which will offer customized operational efficiency and safety improvement projects for Boeing's airline customers, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders.
- ✓ It will also transfer knowledge to enhance safety and efficiency for airline partners in India.

Union Education Minister Launches 'Jaadui Pitara' Learning-Teaching Material for Foundational Years

- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched "Jaadui Pitara," a play-based learning and teaching material for the foundational stage children in the age group of 3 to 8 years as envisioned by the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).
- ✓ "Jaadui Pitara" (magic collection) was created in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and is available in 13 Indian languages.
- ✓ The Amrit Generation, as envisioned in the NEP 2020, will benefit greatly from an environment that is more child-centric, lively and joyful for learning and teaching.

MoRD Minister Giriraj Singh launches Mission Antyodaya Survey 2022-23

- ✓ On February 9, 2023, the Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) inaugurated Mission Antyodaya Survey (MAS) 2022-23 including launching of its portal and mobile application at a function in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Based upon the Central Government's 'Whole of Government Approach', it is an annual survey at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level to monitor the progress in the development process in rural areas.

It is being conducted by the Department of Rural Development across all GPs in India since 2017-18.

- ✓ It is an important aspect of Mission Antyodaya Framework by ensuring effective utilization of resources through convergence of various government schemes for the sustainable livelihood of households.

MHA approves Renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad

- ✓ On 24th February 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as "Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar" and Osmanabad city as "Dharashiv" in Osmanabad district, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The renaming of Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv was the last Cabinet decision of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray. The demand was first raised by Bal Thackeray, founder of Shiv Sena.
- ✓ Aurangabad derives its name from the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, while Osmanabad was named for a 20th-century ruler of the princely state of Hyderabad.
- ✓ The new name of Aurangabad – 'Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar', is derived from Chhatrapati Sambhaji, the eldest son of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and 2nd ruler of the Maratha state (1681-1689). Sambhaji Maharaj was executed on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689.
- ✓ 'Dharashiv', a new name for Osmanabad, is derived from the name of a cave complex near Osmanabad city. According to researchers, Dharashiv dates back to the 8th century.

Govt forms Panel led by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to Monitor Mission Karmayogi

- ✓ Central Government (Govt) has formed a 12-member Cabinet Secretariat Coordination Unit (CSCU) panel headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to monitor the implementation of the government's National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) or Mission Karmayogi for training government employees.

- ✓ Members of the CSCU include a nominee of Prime Minister's Office (PMO), secretary (Coordination), cabinet secretariat, DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) secretary, home secretary, expenditure secretary,
- ✓ Environment, Forest & Climate Change secretary, Higher Education secretary and revenue secretary.
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer of Karmayogi Bharat and the secretary of the Capacity Building Commission will be the permanent invitees to the panel, the Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary (Training), and DoPT will be the Member Secretary.

India's 1st Hydrogen Train Will Come by Dec 2023 On Heritage Routes

- ✓ Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India's first hydrogen train will be designed and manufactured in India by December 2023, as the Union Budget 2023-24 focuses on green growth.
- ✓ Once operational, the hydrogen train will operate on heritage circuits such as Kalka- Shimla before being expanded to other places.
- ✓ The train's purpose is to exhibit India's cultural heritage through trains, which will be updated by adding new circuits to the list, such as the Guru Kripa circuit.
- ✓ The Union Budget 2023-24 has an allocation of Rs. 2.41 lakh crore for Railways.
- ✓ The "Amrit Bharat Station" scheme will redevelop 1275 stations while also revamping the production of Vande Bharat trains.

12 Cheetahs from South Africa released into enclosures at Kuno National Park

- ✓ On February 18, 2023, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister (CM) Shivraj Singh Chouhan released 12 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur, MP. The cheetahs include 7 males and 5 females from South Africa (SA).
- ✓ While 8 cheetahs were put up in separate quarantine enclosures, 4 others were kept in two bomas in pairs. Now, the total number of Cheetahs in KNP has increased to 20.

- ✓ KNP is situated on the northern side of the Vidhyachal mountains and is spread across more than 700 square km.
- ✓ The Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, is the world's fastest mammal. The average life span of a South African cheetah was 8-10 years.
- ✓ This is a continuation of 'Project Cheetah' under which eight cheetahs from Namibia were reintroduced in KNP on September 17 2022.

Ellora Ajanta International Festival 2023 held in Maharashtra- 25th to 28th February 2023

- ✓ The 3 day- Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 held in Chatrapati Sambhajinagar (formerly known as Aurangabad), Maharashtra, from 25th to 28th February 2023. The festival was organised at the historical place Soneri Mahal, under the campus of the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Chatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad).
- ✓ The festival was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad on 25th February 2023.
- ✓ The festival is a celebration of the cultural heritage and diversity of the region. The festival featured a range of events, including live music performances, dance shows, art exhibitions, and food festivals.

International 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2023' Begins in Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The International Khajuraho Dance Festival-2023 (49th edition) began on February 20, 2023, at the world- famous tourist destination of Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Vishnu Dutt Sharma, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president and Khajuraho MP (Member of Parliament), officially inaugurated the seven-day event, which will be held till February 26, 2023.
- ✓ The Khajuraho Dance Festival began in 1975.
- ✓ Since then, it has been successfully organised by the Ustad Allaiddin Khan Music and Arts Academy under the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

- ✓ Khajuraho is home to an outstanding collection of temples that are part of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

18th UIC World Security Congress organized by UIC & RPF in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- ✓ The 18th UIC World Security Congress, a 3-day Conference, was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan from 21st February to 23rd February 2023. It was jointly organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC – Union International Des Chemins) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF), India.
- ✓ The theme of Congress is “Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future”.
- ✓ The event was held in India for the 3rd time. Previously, in 2006 and 2015, RPF India successfully organized and hosted the UIC World Security Congress in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The 17th UIC World Security Congress was held on 14 and 15 June 2022 in Warsaw, Poland.
- ✓ On 23rd February 2023, the 18th UIC World Security Congress concluded with the adoption of the Jaipur Declaration for rail safety and security by the attendees.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates International Biotech Conclave in Imphal, Manipur

- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science and Technology inaugurated the International Bioresource Conclave & Ethno Pharmacology Congress at the City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur. The International Bio-resource Conclave 2023 along with the 22nd International Congress of the International Society for Ethno-pharmacology and the 10th International Congress of Society for Ethno-pharmacology (ISE SFEC-2023) was held from 24th to 26th February 2023 in Manipur.
- ✓ This is the first time, since Independence, North East Region (NER) organised an International Conference on Biotechnology.

- ✓ Theme: The events were themed upon Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalisation of Traditional Medicine

12th World Hindi Conference held in Fiji

- ✓ The 12th World Hindi Conference, which took place from February 15–17, 2023, in Nadi, Fiji, decided to promote Hindi as a language of contact-dialogue among all people around the world who speak, understand, and are fond of it.
- ✓ The Conference was jointly inaugurated by Fijian President Rato Wiliame Katonivere and Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, who was on his maiden visit to Fiji.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) organized the conference in collaboration with the Government of Fiji.
- ✓ The main theme of the conference is “Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence.”

MEA launched ‘mPassport Police App’ to Fast Track Passport Verification Process

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India launched ‘mPassport Police App’ to streamline and expedite the passport issuance system. This app will also help with the timely updation and issuance of passports.
- ✓ This will result in the entire process of police verification and submission reports digital and paperless.
- ✓ Passport verification using tablets will reduce the verification time from 15 days to 5 days, effectively reducing the passport issuance timeline by 10 days.

GoI launched Mobile app: ‘Khanan Prahari’ & Web App: CMSMS to Curb Illegal Mining

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has launched a mobile application of the Ministry of Coal, “Khanan Prahari”, and a web app “Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System” (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorised coal mining activities so

that the responsible Law & Order enforcing body can monitor them and take appropriate action.

- ✓ CMSMS was developed by the Ministry of Coal in coordination with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ The CMSMS is a satellite-based monitoring system which can serve as a signal for any coal mining activities near active coal mining sites.

CJI DY Chandrachud Launched “Neutral Citations”

- ✓ The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud announced that the Supreme Court has launched “neutral citations” of judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citing its decisions. Earlier, the Supreme court informed that steps had been taken for the introduction and implementation of a uniform, reliable and secure methodology for identifying and citing decisions in the apex court, namely the neutral citations system, to ensure a uniform pattern of citing all decisions of the top court.
- ✓ The Chief Justice of India informed that they have launched neutral citations. All judgments of the court will have neutral citations,” adding that around 30,000 verdicts of the apex court would have neutral citations.

PM Modi Inaugurated ‘Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava’ Festival.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ‘Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi on 25th February 2023. Modi addressed the gathering on the occasion ‘Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava’ cultural festival is being organized to celebrate Karnataka’s culture, traditions, and history.
- ✓ It is in line with the Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’.
- ✓ The festival, being held under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, will provide an opportunity for hundreds of artists to showcase Karnataka’s cultural heritage through dance, music, drama, and poetry.
- ✓ The “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ekta

Diwas, 31st October 2015, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

PM Modi inaugurates world’s longest railway platform in Hubballi, Karnataka

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated World’s longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of Karnataka. The inauguration of the platform was done during the PM’s Karnataka visit in the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.
- ✓ It is to be noted that Indian Railways, South Western Railway Zones Hubballi is now registered in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest platform

President of India Inaugurated the 2nd Indian Rice Congress at Cuttack

- ✓ The 2nd Indian Rice Congress 2023 was inaugurated in Cuttack by President Droupadi Murmu in the presence of Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, and Odisha Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Fisheries, and Animal Resource Development, Ranendra Pratap Swain.
- ✓ President Murmu informed that India is the leading consumer and exporter of rice, for which a lot of credit goes to the institute, but when the country became independent, the situation was different

World Government Summit 2023 held in Dubai

- ✓ On 13th February 2023 The World Government Summit 2023 was held in Dubai under the theme of “Shaping Future Governments”. It was bring together global thought leaders, global experts, and decision-makers to share and contribute to the development of tools, policies, and models that will be critical in shaping future governments.

The World Government Summit will feature 20 presidents, including Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi; President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan; President of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, Macky Sall, among others.

Aero India 2023 (14th Edition) Held in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- ✓ PM Modi, inaugurated the 14th addition of Aero India 2023, Bengaluru Airshow, at IAF Yelahanka Airforce Station, in Bengaluru from February 13 to 17, 2023 to highlight India's expanding aerospace and defence capabilities.
- ✓ Aero India is a premier global aviation trade fair, which provides an opportunity for the Indian aviation-defence industry, including the aerospace industry, to showcase its products, technologies and solutions to the national decision makers.
- ✓ The event aims to promote export of indigenous air platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas, HTT-40, Dornier Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- ✓ Participation: 98 countries, 32 defence ministers, 29 air chiefs, and 73 chief executive officers of international and Indian original equipment manufacturers participated in the event.

Key Highlights:

- ✓ Theme for 2023: “The runway to a billion opportunities”.
- ✓ The Aero India show is held every 2 years.
- ✓ It was held by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) this year on behalf of the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The first edition of the air show was held in 1996.

Main attractions at Aero India 2023

- ✓ A number of Made-in-India defence products were showcased at Aero India 2023 which included:
- ✓ India's futuristic indigenous aircraft E.g. 5th Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, LCA Mark2, Naval Twin Engine Deck-based Fighter jet, etc.

Jetpack Suits:

- ✓ A model of a soldier wearing a jetpack being developed by an Indian start-up will be inaugurated.
- ✓ Made-in-India Light Combat Helicopter Prachand



- ✓ BrahMos Aerospace: Showcasing the models of the air-launched version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile along with BrahMos NG missile.
- ✓ HLFT-42: HAL is showcasing the supersonic trainer aircraft named HLFT-42 full-scale model at Aero India.

Ministry of Tourism Selected Four Pilgrim Centres under PRASHAD Scheme

- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism under its schemes of ‘Swadesh Darshan’ and ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’ has identified four pilgrim centers for development. They provide financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations etc. for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country.
- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations. Under SD2.0, the Ministry has identified ‘Hampi’ and ‘Mysuru’ as destinations for development
- ✓ Pilgrim Centres Identified by Ministry of Tourism in Karnataka
 - (i) Development of Maa Chamundeshwari Devi Temple, Mysuru, Karnataka
 - (ii) Sri Madhwa Vana, Kunjarugiri, Udupi District
 - (iii) Papnash Temple, Bidar District
 - (iv) Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple, Saudatti, Belagavi District

About PRASAD Scheme

- ✓ The Government of India launched the PRASAD scheme in the year 2014-2015 under the Ministry of Tourism. The full form of the PRASAD scheme is the ‘Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive’.

This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience. It aims to integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritized, planned, and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience. The growth of domestic tourism hugely depends on pilgrimage tourism.

Namami Gange Mission-II Approved with Budgetary Outlay of ₹22,500 cr till 2026

- ✓ Namami Gange Programme was launched from June 2014 till 31st March 2021 to rejuvenate River Ganga and its tributaries with a budget of Rs.20,000 crore. The Government of India has approved Namami Gange Mission-II with a budgetary outlay of Rs.22,500 crore till 2026 including projects for existing liabilities (Rs.11,225 Cr) and new projects/interventions (Rs.11,275 crore)
- ✓ A total of Rs.14,084.72 crore has been released by the Government of India to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), from Financial Year 2014-15 till 31st January 2023, out of which Rs.13,607.18 crore have been released by NMCG to State Governments.

Bhupender Yadav Launched 'Save Wetlands Campaign' For Wetland Conservation

- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched the 'Save Wetlands Campaign' in the presence of the Chief Minister of Goa. This campaign is structured on a "whole of society" approach to wetlands conservation, enabling affirmative actions for wetlands conservation at all levels of society and involving all strata of society.

This campaign over the next year will include sensitizing people to the value of wetlands, increasing the coverage of wetland mitras, and building citizen partnerships for wetlands conservation.

Government Extends PM-KUSUM Scheme till March 2026

- ✓ The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026 as its implementation was significantly affected due to the pandemic. Launched in 2019, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) aimed at adding solar capacity of 30,800 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore, including service charges to the implementing agencies.

UNESCO to Declare the World's First Living Heritage University

- ✓ Visva-Bharati University was founded by Rabindranath in 1921. It will soon receive the UNESCO 'heritage' tag. This will allow it to be the first university of living heritage. Bidyut Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, stated that the university would be designated a heritage university.
- ✓ According to UNESCO, in 1922, Visva-Bharati was inaugurated as a Centre for Culture with exploration into the arts, language, humanities, music and these are reflected in diverse institutes that continue in their educational programmes like including Hindi studies, Sino-Asian studies, humanities, fine arts, and music.
- ✓ According to reports, this development is 11 years after Union Culture Ministry applied for the status as UNESCO heritage site Santiniketan ("Visva Bharati") and secured recognition for Tagore's cultural ark during his 150th birthday.

World's Highest Weather Station Rebuilt on Mount Everest

- ✓ The world's highest altitude weather station was destroyed due to hurricane-force winds on Mount Everest and a team of scientists and Sherpa have again placed its new version atop Mount Everest. The group has been led by a 31-year-old electrician and mountain guide Tenzing Gyalzen Sherpa.
- ✓ According to the Guinness World Records report, the team of mountaineers and scientists has installed a record-breaking weather station at an altitude of 8,810 meters just 39 meters (128 ft) below Everest's summit

First nuclear plant of North India to be built in Haryana

- ✓ The first nuclear power plant in North India would be built in Gorakhpur, Haryana, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. He claimed that one of the major accomplishments under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership would be the installation of nuclear and atomic energy plants across the nation.

STATES

Telangana govt launches Telangana Mobility Valley, India's 1st mobility-focused cluster to attract investments

- ✓ On 6th February 2023, K T Rama Rao, Minister for Information Technology(IT) and Industries, the Government of Telangana, launched the Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV), India's 1st mobility focused cluster with an aim to attract investments of around Rs 50,000 crore and generate more than 4 lakh jobs in the next 5 years.
- ✓ The TMV was unveiled during the Mobility Next Hyderabad Summit 2023 (1st edition) held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ The summit was organised as a part of the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week (5th to 11th February 2023).

About Telangana Mobility Valley(TMV)

- ✓ The TMV will create a best-in-class infrastructure and make Telangana a destination for both manufacturing and Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) in India.
- ✓ The TMV aims to facilitate the companies across all segments of sustainable mobility including Electric 2-Wheelers, 3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, Advanced Cell Chemistry and Hydrogen fuel cells, Tier 1 and Tier 2 Component manufacturers and Auto Engineering R&D companies among others.

GSI discovered Lithium Reserves for the 1st Time in India at Salal-Haimana, J&K

- ✓ Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, has discovered lithium inferred resources(G3) for the first time in India. A 5.9 million tonnes of lithium inferred resources have been established at Salal-Haimana in the Reasi district of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
- ✓ This was announced on 9th February 2023 by Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, during the 62nd Central Geological

Programming Board (CGPB) meeting in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ He handed over 16 resource-bearing geological reports (G2 & G3 stage) and 35 Geological memorandums to respective state governments during the 62nd CGPB meeting.
- ✓ Mines at the preliminary stage of exploration are also known as G3.

About Lithium

- ✓ Lithium, a non-ferrous metal. is a vital part of rechargeable batteries used in electric vehicles, laptops, digital cameras, mobile phones, and other electronic devices.
- ✓ It is also used in some non-rechargeable batteries for devices like clocks, toys, and heart pacemakers.

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Ladli Behna Yojana to Empower Women

- ✓ On 25th February 2023, The Cabinet of Madhya Pradesh headed by Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan, approved the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana 2023 with the aim to empower women at every level.
- ✓ Under this scheme, married women aged between 23 and 60 years, will be offered financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month.
- ✓ The scheme aims to ensure the all-round development of women in MP, their economic independence, better health and nutritional level.

Ola Electric to set up World's largest EV hub in Tamil Nadu with Rs. 7,614 crore investment

- ✓ Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu(TN) committing investments worth Rs 7,614 crore in the presence of TN Chief Minister(CM) Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin (M.K. Stalin) and Bhavish Aggarwal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ola, at the Secretariat in Chennai, TN.
- ✓ The investments include setting up of world's largest Electric Vehicle (EV) hub with an integrated

two-wheeler, electric car and lithium-cell Gigafactories with a capacity of 20 GW in SIPCOT Bargur, Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Ola will invest Rs 5,114 crore for making lithium cells and Rs 2,500 crore for the car plant.
- ✓ This will generate employment for around 3111 people in TN.

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal launched India's 1st Agri Chatbot – Ama KrushAI

- ✓ Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha, launched “Ama KrushAI”, India’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered ChatBot for the agriculture sector, at the valedictory session of ‘Krusha Odisha 2023’. It is designed to help farmers access agronomic practices, government schemes, and loan products from more than 40 commercial and cooperative banks.
- ✓ The ChatBot will run under a pilot project involving more than 10,000 farmers and will be implemented in full-fledged in the next two months.
- ✓ Ama KrushAI is created using Bhashini (a language interpretation platform) and the ChatGPT system by the Indian Institute Of Technology–Madras (IIT Madras).
- ✓ Krushi Odisha 2023: Three-day event under the theme “Emerging Technologies in Agriculture”, organised by Odisha’s Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment department in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to promote farm mechanisation and enhancement in farmers’ income. More than 20,000 farmers and agri-entrepreneurs from across Odisha.

Kerala HC became the First in India to Publish Judgements in Regional Language

- ✓ On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (21st February 2023), the Kerala High Court (HC) published 2 of its recent judgments in and became the 1st HC in India to publish its judgments in the regional language.
- ✓ The judgements passed by a division bench of Chief Justice S. Manikumar (WA 926/2016) and

Justice Shaji P. Chaly (WA 1638/2022) in January 2023 were published in Malayalam on the High Court’s website.

- ✓ On 2023 Republic Day, the supreme court also proposed to release 1,268 of its judgments in 13 Indian languages.

J&K Govt Approves Rs 30.40 cr ‘Sensor-based Smart Agriculture’ Project

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government (Govt) has approved a ‘Sensor-based Smart Agriculture’ project worth Rs 30.40 crore for integration of agriculture with technology driven by Artificial Insemination (AI) and IoT (Internet of Things) for automation of practices, and make it efficient and profitable for the farmers.
- ✓ Under the project, a sensor-based pilot study will be conducted on high-density apple orchards, protected cultivation and smart livestock farming.
- ✓ Hi-tech poly houses would be used for the cultivation of cash crops around the year with the application of IoT and automation for monitoring the microclimatic parameters of plants.
- ✓ The greenhouse technology will increase yields and produce off-season vegetables as early production or late availability as compared to open field conditions.
- ✓ As 70% of the J&K’s economy is based on agriculture, the adoption of digital agriculture, particularly AI and IoT, will increase efficiency, production, productivity, and profitability.
- ✓ The project intends to increase the use of resources and improve efficiency by up to 80% and automate agricultural operations with precision in HDPs (High-Density Plantings) of Apple, vegetables, and livestock.
- ✓ Identifying pests and diseases via AI-based detection using handheld sensor devices would reduce the drudgery and cost of cultivation by 20%.
- ✓ Real-time detection and variable rate spray using robotics and drones will reduce the production cost by 80%.
- ✓ The project also aims to build a sensor corridor for livestock and phenotyping and yield prediction.

Indore's Solar Plant Project funded by Rs 720 crore through Green Bonds

- ✓ Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) has successfully managed to raise about Rs 720 crores through their green bonds which will be utilized for developing a 60-megawatt solar plant.
- ✓ The green bonds floated by the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) as a public issue for setting up solar power plants have received an overwhelming response from investors and attracted a subscription of around Rs 721 crore.
- ✓ IMC floated the green bonds to raise a total of Rs 244 crore for setting up a 60 MW solar power plant, the first of its kind offering by any civic body in the country in the capital market.
- ✓ The bond attracted a subscription of Rs 661.52 crore on February 10, the first day of its opening, and reached Rs 720.75 crore by the time it closed on 14th February 2023. This is almost six times more than the base price of the issue of Rs 122 crore.

Assam Govt approves Assam Industrial and Investment Policy (Amendment), 2023

- ✓ On February 9, 2023, the State Cabinet of Assam chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma cleared the Assam Industrial and Investment Policy (Amendment), 2023.
- ✓ Objective behind this amendment: To amend the existing policy for attracting global investment through customized incentives for implementation of mega projects in the state and to make Assam a globally-competitive investment destination.
- ✓ Under the customized incentives for implementation of mega projects, there will be initial investment of Rs 100 crore and 200 permanent employments with all non-skilled/ grade 3 and 4 employees to be from within the state.
- ✓ ii.The amended policy will include capital investment/ production linked subsidy, subsidy on power tariff, land, stamp duty reimbursement etc.

Telangana Budget FY24: FM Harish Rao Presents Tax-Free Budget of Rs 2.9 lakhcr



- ✓ On February 6, 2023, the Finance Minister of Telangana, Thaneeru Harish Rao, presented the tax-free State Budget worth Rs 2.90 lakh crore for next financial year (FY) 2023-24 while giving priority to infrastructure development and public welfare in the latest budget.

Fiscal Parameters Projections:

- i.Revenue Expenditure- Rs 2,11,685 crore
- ii.Capital Expenditure- Rs 37,525 crore
- iii.Revenue Surplus- Rs 4,881 crore
- iv.Fiscal Deficit- Rs 38,234 crore
- v.Primary Deficit- Rs 15,827 crore
- vi.Revenue Receipts- Rs 2.16 lakh crore

Key Points:

- i.The revenue receipts for FY24 are close to Rs 40,000 crore higher than the FY23 revised estimates at Rs 1.75 lakh crore.
- ii.Tax revenue for FY24 is projected at Rs 1.31 lakh crore against the Rs 1.1 lakh crore in FY23.
- iii.Non-tax revenue is expected to be Rs 22,808 crore, around Rs 6,500 crore higher than the FY23's Rs 15,291 crore.

- iv. The State's share of central taxes for the FY24 grew marginally from Rs 19,668 crore in FY23 to Rs 21,470 crore.
- v. A provision of Rs 22,407 crore for Interest payment burden has been made for FY24, around Rs 3,500 crore higher than the Rs. 18,911 crore of FY23.
- vi. Open market borrowings for the year FY24 pegged to Rs 40,615 crore.
- vii. Loans from the Central Government for FY24 had been pegged at Rs 4,102 crore and other loans are estimated at Rs 1,500 crore.
- viii. The Government is anticipating reimbursement of Rs 17,828 crore towards power dues pending from Andhra Pradesh by the Central Government.
- ✓ The State Government has made provision of Rs 6,375 crore towards waiver of farm loans upto Rs 90,000 in FY24.
 - ✓ Rs 2,500 crore were allotted to maintenance of Roads and Buildings roads, and Rs 2,000 crore budgeted for maintenance of Panchayat Raj roads.
 - ✓ The highest allocation of Rs 31,426 crore will be for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development departments.
 - ✓ Around Rs 1,000 crore have been set aside towards new recruitments in different government departments.
 - ✓ For the State government's flagship programme of Dalit Bandhu, Rs 12,980 crore sanctioned to ensure benefit for 1,100 beneficiaries per each of the 118 constituencies in the State in FY24.
 - ✓ Around Rs 7,890 crore have been allocated for construction of double bedroom houses for the benefit of 2,000 eligible persons per each of 119 constituencies in the State.
 - ✓ Around Rs 26,831 crore allocated for the Agriculture department, Rs 2,071 crore for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries department.
 - ✓ vRs 15,075 crore assigned for Rythu Bandhu, Rs 1,589 crore towards Rythu Bima insurance and increased the farm loan waiver scheme amount from Rs 4,000 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 6,385 crore in 2023- 24.
 - ✓ A total Rs 26,885 crore were sanctioned to the Irrigation department.

- ✓ Rs 49,749 crore allocated towards salaries, pensions and other expenditure at its disposal.

Punjab Cabinet Approves New Industrial and Electric Vehicle Policies

- ✓ The new "Industrial and Business Development Policy (IBDP)-2022" and "Punjab Electric Vehicle Policy (PEVP)-2022" have been approved by the Punjab Cabinet, which is presided over by Chief Minister (CM) Bhagwant Mann.
- ✓ The cabinet approved both policies ahead of an investors' summit scheduled for February 23-24, 2023, in Mohali, Punjab.
- ✓ The PEVP-2022 is designed to reduce environmental pollution in the state brought on by automobile emissions.
- ✓ The policy aims to minimize vehicular emissions, build infrastructure, manufacturing, research and development, and job creation, while also establishing Punjab as a preferred destination for the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs), components, and batteries.

Goa CM Pramod Sawant launches Heli-Tourism Service in Panaji

- ✓ On 3rd February 2023, Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, launched a Heli-Tourism Service, the 1st premium Helicopter service, under the public-private partnership (PPP) model from the Dauji-Ella helipad (Old Goa) in Panaji, Goa.
- ✓ PPP- The services are provided by Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) in association with Soaring Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
- ✓ The Helipad at Dauji-Ella, Old Goa, has been constructed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism (MOT).

Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang launched 'Mero Rukh Mero Santati'

- ✓ On 2nd February 2023, Prem Singh Tamang, Chief Minister (CM) of Sikkim, launched the initiative, named 'Mero Rukh Mero Santati' (Plant a Tree, Leave a Legacy), under which 100 trees will be planted for every child born in Sikkim.

ECONOMY AND BANKING

ADB to fund Rs 1,311.20 cr Tourism Projects in Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to provide Rs 1,311.20 crore under Phase-1 of the proposed Infrastructure Development Investment Programme in Himachal Pradesh (HP).
- ✓ This funding will be utilized to strengthen the tourism infrastructure in HP.
- ✓ The total cost of the project is Rs 2357 crore.
- ✓ The information was provided by Chief Minister (CM) of HP Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

IDFC & Federal Bank partner with Sa-Dhan and NextGen on UPI123PAY

- ✓ To encourage feature phone users to use “UPI123Pay” to make digital payments, private sector lenders IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. and The Federal Bank Ltd will collaborate with the association of microfinance institutions (MFIs) Sa-Dhan and Delhi-based fintech solutions vendor NextGen.
- ✓ The collaboration with NextGen, the Federal Bank, and IDFC First will facilitate the creation of a new payment and collection system based on feature phones with technological assistance from them. Sa-Dhan is an association of Impact Finance Institutions and a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for MFIs appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Angel One received SEBI approval for Mutual Fund Business

- ✓ Angel One Limited (formerly Angel Broking Limited), an Indian stockbroker firm, has received in-principle approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to sponsor a Mutual Fund.
- ✓ The company will establish an asset management company and the trustee company in compliance with the SEBI Regulations and other applicable laws.

- ✓ Angel One is a technology-led financial services company providing broking and advisory services, margin funding, loans against shares and financial products distribution to its clients under the brand ‘Angel Broking’.

India's GDP grows at 4.4% in Q3FY23; 7% in FY23: NSO

- ✓ As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MOSPI), India's gross domestic product (GDP) decelerated to 4.4% in the 3rd quarter of 2022 i.e. October-December(Q3FY23) due to a contraction in the manufacturing sector.
- ✓ It was 6.3% in Q2FY23 (July-September 2022).
- ✓ GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q3FY23 is estimated at Rs 40.19 lakh crore, as against Rs 38.51 lakh crore in Q3FY22, showing a growth of 4.4%.
- ✓ GDP at Current Prices in Q3FY23 is estimated at Rs 69.38 lakh crore, as against Rs 62.39 lakh crore in Q3 2021-22, showing a growth of 11.2%.
- ✓ The manufacturing sector's output, as per the Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Q3FY23, contracted by 1.1% as compared to a growth of 1.3% in Q3FY22.
- ✓ The GVA growth in farm sector – Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing was 3.7% in Q3FY23 compared to a growth of 2.3% in Q2FY22.
- ✓ GVA growth in the services sector viz. trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting was 9.7% during the Q3FY23 as against 9.2% in Q3FY22.
- ✓ Financial, real estate and professional services grew by 5.8% in Q3FY23 over 4.3% in Q2FY22.
- ✓ vii.Public administration, defence and other services posted 2% growth against 10.6% in the Q3FY22.
- ✓ The construction sector has grown by 8.4% in Q3FY23 compared to 0.2 % in Q3FY22.
- ✓ The electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment have grown by 8.2% compared to 6% in the Q3FY22.

Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2023-24: India's growth forecast hiked to 5.5% for 2023; Global economic to slow in 2023

- ✓ Global credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service (MIS) increased India's economic growth projection for 2023 to 5.5% from 4.8% in November 2022 in its "Global Macro Outlook 2023-24 (February 2023 Update)"
- ✓ This upward revision is made in light of a strong increase in capital expenditure (capex) in the Budget 2023–24 and a resilient economic momentum.
- ✓ India's economic growth is projected to be 6.5% in 2024.
- ✓ However, it reduced India's growth projection for 2022 from the 7% it had predicted in November 2022 to 6.8%.
- ✓ According to Moody's, economic activity and employment will be adversely affected by cumulative monetary policy tightening in most major economies, which will slow down global growth in 2023.
- ✓ It projects that the G20 (Group of Twenty) would have 2% global economic growth in 2023, down from 2.7% in 2022, before rising to 2.4% in 2024.

SEBI Notifies Stronger Framework for Green Bonds; Introduces Concept of Blue, Yellow Bonds

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), India's capital market regulator, has strengthened the green bond framework by introducing "Blue" and "Yellow" bonds as new modes of sustainable finance.
- ✓ These bonds are subcategories of Green Debt Securities (GDS), with 'Blue Bonds' pertaining to water management and the marine sector and 'Yellow Bonds' pertaining to solar energy.
- ✓ A proposal in this regard was approved by the SEBI board in December 2022, and as a result, it has amended the rules governing the issuance and listing of non-convertible securities.
- ✓ Green Debt Securities (GDS): According to the regulatory framework, GDS are debt securities that

are issued to raise funds for projects or assets that belong into specific categories.

ADB approves USD 130 million loan for Horticultural Sector in HP

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 130 million (over Rs. 1,072 crore) loan to Himachal Pradesh (HP) under the 'Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition Project' to boost agricultural production, promote horticulture agribusinesses, and increase farmers' income.
- ✓ The Project will help at least 15,000 agricultural households in Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una in HP to enhance their income and resilience to the effects of climate change.

ADB Proposes up to \$25 Billion Support to India's Development Priorities

- ✓ On 21 February 2023, under the meeting of the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi with Asian Development Bank (ADB) president Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB committed to provide \$20 billion–\$25 billion resources over 5 years to advance India's aspirations for fast, inclusive, and green growth.
- ✓ ADB stated its assistance to meet India's priority development needs, and its country partnership strategy (CPS) for India, 2023–2027. ADB is now finalizing the new 5-year CPS following a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process.
- ✓ ADB president also admitted that India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy after the COVID 19 recovery with an anticipated 7% growth in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

Bank of Maharashtra tops list of PSBs in Loan Growth

- ✓ As per an analysis of the latest financial results of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Pune (Maharashtra) based Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) tops the list of PSBs in terms of loan growth percentage for the third quarter of FY23 (Q3 FY23).
- ✓ It shows a growth of 21.67% in gross advances year-on-year (y-o-y) in Q3FY23.

- ✓ BoM is followed by Union Bank with a growth rate of 19.80% in advances.
- ✓ PSBs had a robust profit growth of 65% at Rs 29,175 crore during Q3FY23, with BoM emerging as the top performer in terms of percentage growth in profit. It recorded a 139% jump in profit at Rs 775 crore.
- ✓ BoM was followed by UCO Bank which posted a profit of Rs 653 crore, 110% higher than its earnings in Q3FY22.
- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) with a growth rate of 16.91% YoY in lending platforms held the 4th spot.
- ✓ However, in value terms, SBI's total loan book is at Rs 26,47,205 crore, which is more than 17 times higher than BOM's lending book of Rs 1,56,962 crore.
- ✓ BoM has maintained the top slot in credit growth in percentage terms consistently for the past 10 quarters despite COVID-19 pressures.
- ✓ In terms of Retail-Agriculture-MSME (RAM) loans, BoM attained the highest growth of 19.18%, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with a growth rate of 19.07%, and Bank of Baroda (BoB) with a growth of 18.85% on an annual basis.
- ✓ In terms of asset quality, BoM and SBI were in the lowest quartile w.r.t. non-performing assets (NPAs) and net NPAs.
- ✓ As of December 31, 2022, BoM and SBI's gross NPA were at 2.94% and 3.14% respectively.
- ✓ • Their net NPAs stood at 0.47% and 0.77%.
- ✓ With regard to deposit growth, BoB topped the charts among PSBs with a growth rate of 14.50%, followed by Union Bank of India which recorded an upside of 13.48% year-on-year. BoM was in the third spot in terms of deposit growth.
- ✓ In terms of total business growth, Union Bank of India recorded the highest growth of 16.07% during Q3FY23. It was followed by BoM with a 15.77% rise and BoB with a 15.23%.
- ✓ With regard to Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), BoM recorded 17.53%, the highest among PSBs, followed by Canara Bank at 16.72% and Indian Bank at 15.74% as on December 31, 2022.

MobiKwik became 1st Fintech App to Offer UPI Payments through RuPay Credit Cards

- ✓ MobiKwik, payment app of One MobiKwik Systems Limited, has become the first fintech app in India to support RuPay Credit Cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has allowed Mobikwik to offer its customers the facility to make UPI payments through the RuPay credit cards.
- ✓ Objective: To make financial services accessible to all Indians and lead the way to financial inclusion.

HDFC Bank Launches "OfflinePay" Pilot Program for Offline Digital Payments

- ✓ HDFC Bank, the largest private sector bank in India, and Crunchfish Digital Cash established a pilot programme called "OfflinePay" to test offline digital payments for customers and merchants, as part of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regulatory Sandbox Program.
- ✓ HDFC Bank is the industry's first bank to provide an entirely offline digital payment service.
- ✓ OfflinePay is a first-of-its-kind digital solution that allows for quick and easy low-value offline transactions.
- ✓ OfflinePay enables users and merchants to accept and process payments even when there is little to no internet connection or network.
- ✓ This OfflinePay digital payment solution has the potential to increase digital payment usage in smaller towns and rural locations with limited network connectivity.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Implements RBI's First Phase of Digital Rupee

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has announced the implementation of the first phase of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), referred to as the "Digital Rupee" (₹).
- ✓ The "Digital Rupee" (₹) is a legal tender equivalent to bank notes and coins but issued in a digital form by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- ✓ The RBI has shortlisted KMBL as one of eight banks to implement a pilot project for the issuance of e- currencies.
- ✓ KMBL launched the CBDC to a Closed User Group (CUG) of customers, including retail customers and businesses.

Reliance Retail Becomes First Retailer to Begin Accepting Digital Rupee for Sales

- ✓ Reliance Retail has become the first organized retail chain in India to accept the RBI-created and blockchain-based CBDC [₹] payments at its gourmet food store, Freshpik.
- ✓ All Reliance Retail outlets in India will gradually accept digital rupee payments. The CBDC is a digital version of fiat money that will coexist with actual cash.

Airtel Payments Bank launches BizKhata for Small Businesses & Merchant Partners

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has announced the launch of BizKhata, a current account with unlimited transactions and instant activation for small merchants and business partners in India.
- ✓ BizKhata by Airtel Payments Bank was created exclusively for small merchants and business owners who utilize savings accounts for business purposes since they cannot meet the minimum balance requirement of their business accounts. This current account has no minimum balance requirement.
- ✓ Business owners can use Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), and IFT to make online payments to any bank in India.
- ✓ In order to accept payments from any UPI app, the account is also linked to a QR (quick response) code.

Paytm launches G20-Theme QR Code to celebrate India's Presidency

- ✓ On 10th February 2023, One97 Communications Limited, which owns financial services company Paytm, launched a G20 theme QR Code to celebrate

India's Presidency of the Inter-governmental forum and India's leadership in mobile payments.

- ✓ Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways and Information Technology, launched the QR Code during the "Digital Payments Utsav" at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The special commemorative QR Code includes the "DigiDhan Mission" logo from MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) along with the logos of the G20 in 2023 and the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

SBI launched new term deposit scheme Amrit Kalash with 7.6% interest rate for Senior Citizens

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched Amrit Kalash, a new limited-period term deposit scheme with an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others.
- ✓ SBI staff and pensioners are applicable for an additional 1% interest rate. The scheme is launched for both domestic and NRI (Non-Resident Indian) customers.

About Amrit Kalash deposit scheme:

- ✓ i. Tenure: The deposit period under the scheme was 400 days
- ✓ ii. Interest rate: The interest rate is 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others.
- ✓ • For the case of depositing Rs 1 lakh under the Amrit Kalash scheme, it will provide an interest of around Rs 8600 to senior citizens and Rs 8017 for others.

HDFC Bank Became 1st Private Sector Bank to Enable Linking of RuPay Credit Card on UPI

- ✓ HDFC Bank has become the 1st private sector bank in India to enable its customers to use (link) their RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) App and other UPI-enabled apps.
- ✓ Objective: HDFC Bank RuPay Credit Cards are connected to a UPI ID to enable safe and secure payment transactions.

- ✓ HDFC raised Rs 25,000 crore by issuing India's largest privately-placed 10-year corporate bonds at a coupon of 7.97% on a private placement basis.
- ✓ The issue received 92 bids worth Rs 27,863 crore, of which the company retained 55 bids worth Rs 25,000 crore.
- ✓ It has now raised an aggregate of Rs 78,414 crore through bond issuance in FY23, the highest by any company.
- ✓ Note – The merging of HDFC with HDFC Bank is pending approval from the National Company Law Tribunal and is likely to be completed by July 2023.

India to Singapore Fund Transfers: SBI integrated 'BHIM SBIPay' with UPI-PayNow linkage

- ✓ On February 22, 2023, the State Bank of India (SBI) integrated its mobile application 'BHIM SBIPay' with UPI- PayNow linkage to facilitate fund transfers from India to Singapore through registered mobile numbers and from Singapore to India using UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID.
- ✓ Backdrop: SBI was one of the banking partners which would carry out both inward and outward remittances through the UPI-PayNow linkage.
- ✓ 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)' is India's mobile-based fast payment system for quick digital payments through apps like BharatPe and Paytm, and its equivalent network for fast payment system in Singapore called PayNow.
- ✓ The PayNow-UPI linkage is India's first cross-border, real-time system linkage and Singapore's second. This initiative is a part of the joint initiative between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to develop cross-border payments between India and Singapore.

What is UPI-PayNow linkage

- ✓ It is a linkage between Fast Payment Systems of India and Singapore i.e. linkage between 'UPI' and 'PayNow' which will enable users of the two fast payment systems in either country to make convenient, safe, instant, and cost-effective cross-border funds transfers using their respective mobile apps.

- ✓ On 21 February 2023, the cross-border Fintech connectivity between India and Singapore through the UPI- PayNow linkage was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong, and RBI (Reserve Bank of India) governor Shaktikanta Das.
- ✓ It is the product of collaboration between RBI, MAS and Payment System Operators of both countries i.e. the NPCI International Payments Limited and Banking Computer Services Pte Ltd.

NSE Indices launches India's 1st Municipal Bond Index: Nifty India Municipal Bond Index

- ✓ India's first ever municipal bond index namely 'Nifty India Municipal Bond Index' has been launched by NSE Indices Limited, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE). It has a base date of January 1, 2021, and a base value of 1,000.
- ✓ It was launched at a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) workshop on Municipal Debt Securities in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ This index will track the performance of municipal bonds issued by Indian municipal corporations across maturities and having investment grade credit rating.

NIA Launches its 'Pay As You Drive' Vehicle Insurance Policy

- ✓ New India Assurance (NIA) has launched its 'Pay as You Drive' (PAYD) vehicle Insurance Policy to offer charges premium based on the usage of the vehicle.
- ✓ Usage-based insurance (UBI), also known as pay as you drive (PAYD), pay how you drive (PHYD) and mile-based auto insurance, is a type of vehicle insurance whereby the costs are dependent upon type of vehicle used, measured against time, distance, behavior and place.
- ✓ Features of PAYD include discounts on renewals, coverage beyond distance limit, and enhanced protections such as zero depreciation, roadside assistance, engine protection, return to invoice, etc.
- ✓ In the PHYD policy, insurance premiums are calculated based on driving and distance travelled instead of a fixed amount paid in a conventional car insurance policy.

Phonepe Becomes India's First Fintech Platform to Support Cross-Border UPI Payments

- ✓ PhonePe has launched support for “UPI international” payments, making it India’s first fintech platform to enable cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments.
- ✓ Indian users of PhonePe can utilize this feature to instantly pay foreign merchants using UPI when they are travelling abroad.
- ✓ UPI International is intended to make transactions safe and simple for millions of Indians travelling abroad.
- ✓ It supports all international merchant outlets with a local QR (quick response) code in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Paytm Payments Bank becomes the first in India to launch UPI LITE feature

- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has launched UPI LITE, a feature enabled by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for multiple small-value UPI transactions.
- ✓ PPBL has become the first payments bank to deploy such a UPI LITE feature as part of its commitment to promote innovation.
- ✓ UPI Lite allows transactions of up to Rs 200 without using a UPI PIN.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the UPI LITE feature, designed by NPCI, in September 2022.
- ✓ UPI LITE offers customers a better experience by enabling faster and safer real-time small value payments.
- ✓ A UPI LITE wallet, once loaded, enables a user to make instant transactions of up to Rs. 200, making the entire experience quick and seamless.
- ✓ •A maximum of Rs. 2,000 can be added to UPI LITE twice daily, increasing the cumulative daily usage to Rs. 4,000.
- ✓ At present, only debit from the customers’ wallet is permitted and all credits to UPI Lite, including refunds, will directly go to their bank account.

NSE lists first Green Bonds issued by Indore Municipal Corporation

- ✓ The Indore Municipal Corporation’s (IMC) Green Bonds have been listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), marking the first-ever green bond issue by a municipal corporation in India.
- ✓ The public issue of IMC green bonds was subscribed 5.91 times the issue size.
- ✓ This issue will provide momentum for the advancement of green financing and aid in India’s goal of moving towards clean and sustainable energy.
- ✓ The Green bonds are debt securities designated to finance environment-friendly projects.

DPIIT: FDI Equity Inflows Decline 15% to \$36.75 Billion in April-December FY23

- ✓ As per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows declined 15% year-on-year to \$36.75 billion during the first three quarters (April-December) of financial year 2022-23 (FY23).
- ✓ Total FDI inflows, which includes the equity capital of unincorporated bodies, reinvest earnings, and other capital, decreased by 8% to \$55.27 billion in April-December FY23 from \$60.4 billion in April-December FY22.

EbixCash becomes 1st Entity in India to enable UPI Transactions for Foreign Nationals

- ✓ EbixCash World Money Limited, a subsidiary of US-based Ebix Inc, became the first company in India to launch the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for foreign nationals visiting India.
- ✓ The launch of UPI for exchanging currencies across airports in India would enable passengers to convert their foreign currency into digital Indian currency, with a UPI interface to pay for goods and services across the country.
- ✓ Background: In February 2023, under its Monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed

to permit all inbound travellers to India to use UPI for their merchant payments (P2M) while they are in India. Initially, it was planned to be extended to travellers from G-20 countries arriving at selected international airports.

SBI Ecowrap pegs India's Q3FY23 GDP growth at 4.6%

- ✓ As per the research report by the State Bank of India (SBI) Ecowrap, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for Q3 FY23 is estimated at 4.6%. The annual GDP projection for FY23 is estimated to grow between 6.8 and 7%.

Basis of Estimate

- ✓ This estimate is based upon an in-house SBI Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model. ANN is a computational network model that has artificial neural networks like biological neurons that are linked to each other in various layers of the networks. These neurons are known as nodes.
- ✓ The SBI ANN model has been developed with 30 high frequency indicators, and has been trained for the quarterly GDP data from Q4 2011 to Q4 2020.

Key Points

- ✓ i. This Q3FY23 projection by SBI is higher than the 4.4% growth projected by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Statistical office (NSO).
- ✓ Notably India's GDP grew at 0.7% and 5.4% in Q3 FY21 and Q3 FY22, respectively.
- ✓ In Q1FY23 the growth has been pegged at 13.5%, and for Q2FY23, it was at 6.3%.
- ✓ The corporate results, excluding BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), for Q3 FY23 shows a decline in EBIDTA (earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation) by 9% year-on-year (y-o-y) against 18% EBIDTA growth in Q3 FY22
- ✓ Net sales grew by 15% in Q3 FY23.

India's GDP to Grow at 6.2% in FY24: Morgan Stanley

- ✓ On February 16, 2023, Morgan Stanley in its research report projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 6.2% in FY24 as drivers of domestic demand remain intact amid fears of an impending slowdown.

January 2023: India's WPI inflation eases to 2-year low of 4.73%; CPI inflation rises to 3-month high at 6.52%

- ✓ As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's annual rate of a wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation in January 2023 (provisional) was eased to a two-year low of 4.73% from 4.95% in December 2022.
- ✓ Considering the month-on-month change the WPI index increased by 0.13% in January 2023 as against a contraction of 1.12% in December 2022.
- ✓ The decrease in the rate of inflation in January 2023 was mainly due to a fall in the price of mineral oils, chemicals & chemical products, textiles, crude petroleum & natural gas, textiles, and food products.
- ✓ The rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased from 0.65% in December 2022 to 2.95% in January 2023.
- ✓ In contrast to the WPI, the retail inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) or retail inflation increased to 3 months high of 6.52% in January 2023, from 5.72% in December 2022, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- ✓ The retail inflation rate decreased to 5.72% in December 2022. It was 5.88% in November, and 6.77% in October 2022.

Assets totaling Rs 26,000 crore monetized in FY23: NITI Aayog

- ✓ The government has generated assets worth 26,000 crore during FY23, and a pipeline of proposals totaling 1.23 lakh crore is now being processed at various levels. This is in contrast to the aim of 1.6 lakh crore for the current fiscal year.
- ✓ With 88,000 crore realised in FY22, the overall monetisation value realised in FY22 and FY23 is now 1.14 lakh crore, or 19% of the 6 lakh crore target established under the National Monetisation Pipeline over a four-year period (FY22–25).
- ✓ The objective set for FY22 (Rs 88,000 crores), according to the NITI Aayog, was met, and the

pipeline of proposals totaling Rs 1.4 lakh crore are currently being processed by the relevant ministries

HDFC Bank, Lulu Exchange ink deal to enhance cross-border payments between India-Gulf Region

- ✓ HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange, have partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. Both sides have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enable remittances to India through HDFC's online and mobile banking powered by LuLu Exchange.

ICICI Bank signs pact with BNP Paribas

- ✓ ICICI Bank and BNP Paribas have signed an initial pact to cater to the banking requirements of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union.
- ✓ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities establishes a framework of a partnership between the two banks for providing financial services to corporate customers operating in the India, Europe corridor, private sector lender ICICI Bank said in a statement.
- ✓ BNP Paribas is a French international banking group, founded in 2000 from the merger between Banque Nationale de Paris and Paribas, formerly known as the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

Philips Domestic Appliances Globally Renamed as Versuni

- ✓ Philips Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to Versuni. The new name 'Versuni' is the next step after the Domestic Appliances business became independent in September 2021. Although the visual identity of the company is changing, its mission to turn houses into homes remains constant.
- ✓ As a licensee of Royal Philips, the company will continue to use the Philips consumer brand, as well as Saeco, Gaggia, and Philips Walita, on its products and services. Consumers can also continue to use products from its other brands: Preethi, L'OR Barista, and Senseo.

Alibaba exits India's Paytm, selling shares for \$167 million

- ✓ China's Alibaba Group has sold its remaining stake in Indian digital payments firm Paytm for about 13.78 billion rupees (\$167.14 million) through a block deal, stock exchange data showed.
- ✓ The exit comes days after Paytm posted its first-ever quarterly operating profit as a listed firm, nine months ahead of its own target. Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce Pvt Ltd sold 21.4 million shares of Paytm at 642.74 rupees apiece, a 9% discount to Thursday's close, NSE stock exchange data showed.
- ✓ Paytm's stock tumbled nearly 8% to close at 650.55 rupees, but it is still up nearly 23% so far this year. It was not immediately clear why Alibaba sold the stake.
- ✓ In January, Alibaba sold a 3.1% stake in the company through a block deal worth \$125 million. Before that, the Chinese firm had a 6.26% stake in Paytm.

1,49,577 Crore gross GST revenue collected in February 2023

- ✓ The gross goods and service tax (GST) revenue collection in the month of February 2023 stood at Rs 1,49,577 crore, up around 12% on an annual basis. With this, the monthly GST revenues remained over Rs 1.4 lakh crore for 12 straight months in a row, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. India's GST revenue in February 2022 was Rs 1,33,026 crore.

India received highest ever Foreign Inward Remittances in a single year of \$89,127 million in FY 2021-22.

- ✓ During 2021-22, India received foreign inward remittances of USD 89,127 million which was the highest ever inward remittances received in a single year. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The minister further stated that the value of the Indian Rupee is market-determined and the RBI closely monitors the foreign exchange markets.

RBI UPDATES

RBI Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY23; Repo Rate raised to 6.50%

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on February 6-8, 2023, and released the Monetary Policy Statement, 2022-23 Resolution of the MPC which projected India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.4% for FY24 (lower than 7% in FY23) with FY24's Q1 at 7.8%, Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 6%, and Q4 at 5.8%

Inflation:

- ✓ Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation or retail inflation is projected at 5.3% for FY24, with FY24's Q1 at 5%, Q2 at 5.4%, Q3 at 5.4%, and Q4 at 5.6%.
- ✓ Inflation is projected at 6.5% in FY23, with Q4FY23 at 5.7%.
- ✓ This is on the assumption of average crude oil price (Indian basket) at US\$ 95 per barrel, and all other compatible factors.
- ✓ RBI set an objective of achieving the medium-term target for CPI inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth.
- ✓ iCPI headline inflation moderated to 5.7 per cent (y-o-y) in December 2022 – after easing to 5.9 per cent in November
- ✓ Core CPI (i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel) inflation rose to 6.1 per cent in December due to sustained price pressures in health, education and personal care and effects.

RBI's Policy Rates:

- ✓ The MPC raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50% from 6.25%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate was adjusted to 6.25% and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate to 6.75%.
- ✓ Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) rate 4.50%, Statutory Liquidity Ratio rate (SLR) 18% and Reverse Repo Rate 3.35%.

Domestic Economy:

- ✓ As per the First Advance Estimates (FAE) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on January 6, 2023, India's GDP growth at 7% year-on-year

(y-o-y) in FY23 was driven by private consumption and investment.

- ✓ The Gross Value Added (GVA) was estimated at 6.7% in FY23.
- ✓ The economic activity has remained strong in Q3 and Q4FY23.
- ✓ The overall liquidity remains in surplus, with average daily absorption under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) increasing to Rs 1.6 lakh crore during December 2022-January 2023 from an average of Rs 1.4 lakh crore in October-November, 2022.
- ✓ As on January 27, 2023, on a y-o-y basis, money supply (M3) expanded by 9.8%, and non-food bank credit rose by 16.7%.
- ✓ As on January 27, 2023, India's foreign exchange reserves are at US\$ 576.8 billion.
- ✓ Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows remain strong at US \$ 22.3 billion during April-December 2022 as compared to US\$ 24.8 billion in April-December 2021.
- ✓ Foreign portfolio flows have shown signs of improvement with flows of US\$ 8.5 billion during July 2022 to February 6, 2023.
- ✓ Net inflows under non-resident deposits increased to US\$ 3.6 billion during April-November 2022 from US \$2.6 billion in April-November 2021.
- ✓ Industrial production is expanded by 7.1% in November 2022, after contracting by 4.2% in October 2022.
- ✓ Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMIs) for manufacturing and services remained in expansion at 55.4 and 57.2 respectively in January 2023.
- ✓ Non-oil non-gold imports expanded in December 2022. However, merchandise exports contracted in December amid weak global demand.
- ✓ Area coverage under rabi crops: Rabi acreage exceeded 2022's area by 3.3 % as on February 3, 2023.

Global Economy:

- ✓ Global growth is expected to decelerate during 2023.

- ✓ Weak external demand in major advanced economies (AEs), the rising incidence of protectionist policies, volatile capital flows and debt distress may impact adversely on prospects for emerging market economies (EMEs).

RBI permits lending, borrowing of G-secs

- ✓ RBI permitted lending and borrowing against Government Securities (G-secs) to increase the depth of the bond market. It also restored the market trading hours in G-Sec to pre-pandemic levels i.e. 9 am to 5 pm, from current timings of 9 am to 3:30 pm w.e.f. February 13, 2023 to normalize liquidity and market operations.
- ✓ This measure will also add depth and liquidity to the G-sec market; aid efficient price discovery; and work towards a smooth completion of the market borrowing programme of the centre and states.

RBI to launch Pilot Project for QR-code based Coin Vending Machines

- ✓ RBI will launch a pilot project on QR Code based Coin Vending Machine (QCVM) in 12 cities. These vending machines will dispense coins against debit to the customer's account using UPI instead of physical tendering of banknotes.
- ✓ This will enhance the ease of accessibility to coins.
- ✓ Based on the learnings from the pilot, guidelines will be issued to banks to promote distribution of coins using these machines.
- ✓ The pilot project is planned to be initially rolled out at 19 locations in 12 cities across the country.

RBI's Digital Payments Index for September 2022 Increased to 377.46

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – Digital Payments Index (DPI), a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country for September 2022 increased to 377.46 as against 349.30 in March 2022 and 304.06 in September 2021.
- ✓ As per the index, Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 24.13 % in a year.

- ✓ The RBI-DPI has increased across all parameters with significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance.

- ✓ **5 Parameters of RBI-DPI:** • Payment Enablers (25%) • Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%) • Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%) • Payment Performance (45%) • Consumer Centricity (5%).

RBI announces 2nd Global Hackathon

- ✓ On February 14, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched its 2nd global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2023 – Innovation for Transformation' on the theme 'Inclusive Digital Services'.
- ✓ Registration for the hackathon starts from February 22, 2023.
- ✓ The hackathon is owned and sponsored by RBI and is hosted on Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform.

Problem Statements:

- ✓ HARBINGER 2023 aims to identify and enable solutions and/or business models to solve the following challenges in the digital financial services landscape.
- ✓ Innovative, easy-to-use, digital banking services for differently abled (Divyaang).
- ✓ RegTech solutions to facilitate more efficient compliance by Regulated Entities (REs).
- ✓ Exploring use cases/solutions for CBDC-Retail transactions, including transactions in offline mode.
- ✓ Increasing Transactions Per Second (TPS)/throughput and scalability of blockchains.

Key Points:

- ✓ In each of the Problem Statement Categories, The winner gets Rs 40 Lakh and Runner-Up Rs 20 Lakh.
- ✓ The participants can register to HARBINGER 2023 in <https://hackolosseum.apixplatform.com/h1/harbin ger2023>
- ✓ It also gives an opportunity to the participants to get mentored by industry experts and exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes in each category.

- ✓ The first hackathon was announced in November 2021 and results were declared in June 2022. It had received 363 proposals submitted by teams from within India and from 22 other countries including the US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel.

RBI introduced FCRA related Transaction Code in NEFT, RTGS Systems

- ✓ On February 16, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transaction code in National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Systems.
- ✓ The instructions for the same were issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).
- ✓ It will be effective from March 15, 2023.
- ✓ The changes mandate the member banks participating in payment systems to modify their core banking solutions to capture the requisite details while forwarding the foreign donations through NEFT and RTGS systems to State Bank of India (SBI).

RBI Issues Final Guidelines on Interest Rate Risk in Banking Book

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued final guidelines on “Interest Rate Risk in Banking Book” (IRRBB), which mandate banks to measure, monitor, and disclose their exposure to IRRBB, which may have an impact on lenders’ capital base and future earnings.
- ✓ The final IRRBB guidelines are consistent with the revised framework issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).
- ✓ The implementation date of the guidelines will be announced in due course.

Interest Rate Risk in Banking Book (IRRBB)

- ✓ IRRBB refers to the current or future risk to banks’ capital and earnings resulting from unfavourable changes in interest rates that affect their banking book positions. Increased IRRBB can adversely impact a bank’s current capital base and/or future earnings.

Banking mergers in India have been Beneficial to the Banking Sector: RBI paper

- ✓ As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) occasional paper Vol. 43, No.1, 2022 titled ‘Do Bank Mergers Improve Efficiency? The Indian Experience’, banking mergers in India have been, on average, beneficial to the banking sector as the financial performance and efficiency of acquirers improved post-merger.
- ✓ The paper is authored by Snehal S. Herwadkar, Shubham Gupta and Vaishnavi Chavan, Director, Department of Economic and Policy Research, RBI.
- ✓ It has evaluated bank mergers in India since 1997 to gauge their impact on acquirers’ efficiency.

Assessment:

- ✓ The Findings of data envelopment analysis (DEA) are for the period 1997-2017. The study covered all registered Mergers and Acquisitions (M&As) in the Indian commercial banking industry, between 1997 and 2020.
- ✓ The sample was reduced to include 17 merger cases during 1997- 2017 and five merger cases during 2019-2020.

RBI Data: The Number of Micro ATMs Surged in 2022,But Cash Withdrawals Dropped

- ✓ According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there was a sharp increase in the number of micro Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) installed all over India in 2022. However, no major increase in the value of money withdrawn through these devices has occurred since June 2022.
- ✓ As of December 2022, there were 14.19 lakh micro ATMs operating across India.
- ✓ As the term indicates, micro ATMs are compact ATMs or card-swipe machines that are portable and handheld. Additionally, they provide cardless money transfers using the Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AePS) in remote regions. According to the RBI, the micro-platform will enable functioning via low-cost devices (micro ATMs) linked to banks across India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO successfully conducts flight acceptance hot test of CE-20 Cryogenic Engine for 'Chandrayaan-3'

- ✓ On 24th February 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine that will



power the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) for the Chandrayaan-3 Mission at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu(TN).

- ✓ As planned, the hot test was carried out for 25 seconds at the High Altitude Test Facility. During the test, all the propulsion parameters were found satisfactory and closely matched with the predictions.
- ✓ The cryogenic engine will be further integrated with the propellant tanks, stage structures and associated fluid lines to realise the fully integrated flight cryogenic stage.

DRDO Develops Unfurlable Antenna for Space Radar

- ✓ Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s lab based in Bengaluru(Karnataka), has developed an UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA), one of the major subsystems of radar.
- ✓ The UFRA has a significant role in both Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) and the Military.
- ✓ LRDE has developed the UFRA system with a rim truss-based deployable mechanism, primary arm, reflector mesh, tension ties, nets, and motor.



- ✓ The deployment of the antenna to the required height was achieved by an unfurlable deployment mechanism .
- ✓ Working:A cable is routed through the diagonal members of the rim truss elements where one end of the cable is fixed and the other end is pulled by a motor.
- ✓ The antenna made up of metallic mesh will be deployed to the desired size when the cable is pulled by a motor.

Gaganyaan Mission: ISRO & Indian Navy conducts Initial Recovery Trials

- ✓ On 7th February 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Navy carried out initial recovery trials of the Crew Module in the Water Survival Test Facility (WSTF) in Kochi, Kerala for the Gaganyaan mission, India's human space flight mission.
- ✓ A Crew Module Recovery Model (CMRM) was used for the trial that simulates the mass, the centre of gravity, outer dimensions, and externals of the actual Crew Module at touchdown.
- ✓ According to ISRO, the Gaganyaan project will demonstrate the capability of human spaceflight by sending its three crew members into a 400 km orbit for a 3-day mission and safely bringing them back to land in Indian sea waters.

Roscosmos launches Soyuz MS-23 Spacecraft to bring back 3 Astronauts stranded on ISS

- ✓ On 24th February 2023, State Space Corporation ROSCOSMOS (Roscosmos), the Russian Space Agency, launched a Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft to bring back 3 astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) due to the coolant leak on their original return capsule, Soyuz MS-22 capsule. The unmanned Soyuz MS-23 was launched from Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan and had been placed in Orbit.

- ✓ Soyuz MS-23 will bring back 3 Astronauts: Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin, cosmonauts from Russia, and Frank Rubio, a NASA astronaut from the United States of America (USA) who had been due to end their mission in March.
- ✓ The three astronauts would return to Earth aboard Soyuz MS-23 in September 2023.
- ✓ Aim: To achieve growth and sustainability in the management of ocean resources and preservation of coastal environments.


India's 1st Marine Spatial Planning Framework launched in Puducherry

- ✓ India's first Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework was launched in Puducherry as a part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative.
- ✓ Puducherry and Lakshadweep were chosen as coastlines to pilot the MSP initiative after the 2019 Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Norway that envisaged the collaboration on implementing MSP in Oceanic space. Lt. Governor of Puducherry Tamilisai Soundararajan along with Chief Minister of Puducherry N. Rangasamy, released 'The Shoreline Change Atlas of the UT of Puducherry' during the event.

Velocity launches India's first ChatGPT-powered AI chatbot 'Lexi'

- ✓ Velocity, a Homegrown financial technology firm, launched "Lexi", India's 1st Artificial intelligence (AI) Chatbot with OpenAI's ChatGPT, an AI computer program.
- ✓ The company has integrated this latest advancement in AI with its existing analytics tool, 'Velocity Insights'.
- ✓ Indian eCommerce brands that utilise Velocity Insights receive a daily business report on Whatsapp, which led the company also integrate ChatGPT in the same Whatsapp interface.
- ✓ By providing AI-powered business insights in a conversational way and saving time for important business operations, the combination of ChatGPT and Velocity Insights empowers eCommerce entrepreneurs.

ISRO's new rocket SSLV-D2 launched from Satish Dhawan space centre at Sriharikota

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the second edition of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2) from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan space centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. 
- ✓ According to ISRO, the SSLV caters to the launch of up to 500 kg satellites to low earth orbits on a 'launch-on-demand' basis. The rocket provides low-cost access to space, offers low turn-around time and flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, and demands minimal launch infrastructure.
- ✓ The SSLV is a 34 m tall, 2 m diameter vehicle having a lift-off mass of 120 tonnes.
- ✓ The rocket is configured with three solid propulsion stages and a velocity terminal module.
- ✓ The first test flight of SSLV ended in partial failure on August 9 last year after the upper stage of the launch vehicle injected the satellite into a highly elliptical unstable orbit due to a shortfall in velocity. The investigation into the failure also revealed that there was a vibration disturbance for a short duration on the Equipment Bay (EB) deck during the second stage separation, according to ISRO.

All the 3 Rockets of ISRO

- ✓ With the new rocket in its portfolio, ISRO will have three rockets — Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and its variants (cost about Rs 200 crore), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-MkII cost about Rs 272 crore and LVM3 Rs 434 crore) and SSLV (Development cost of three rockets about Rs 56 crore each) and production cost may go down later.

About SSLV(Small Satellite Launch Vehicle)

- ✓ SSLV was designed for smaller satellites. These launch vehicles were designed to carry 500 kg of payload. The main objective was to reduce the burden of PSLV.

Garuda Aerospace unveils its Solar-Powered Drone SURAJ

- ✓ On 15th February 2023, drone startup Garuda Aerospace Private Limited unveiled its “SURAJ”, a solar- powered unmanned reconnaissance J-Glider, at Aero India 2023, which is being held from 13th to 17th February at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ SURAJ, an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)high-altitude drone, is designed specifically for surveillance operations, providing high command real-time data and protecting jawans on the ground.
- ✓ The 1:1 prototype of SURAJ will be ready to fly by August 2023.
- ✓ SURAJ will carry a versatile payload of high-resolution zoom cameras with thermal imagery and foliage-penetrating lidar sensors with a maximum capacity of 10 Kilograms(Kg).
- ✓ This will capture, process, and transmit photos and videos in real time and ensure access to vital information before planning strategic operations and terms.
- ✓ It can fly at an altitude of 3,000 feet for 12 hours.

Qualcomm introduced Snapdragon Satellite, World's 1st Satellite-based 2-way messaging smartphones

- ✓ Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. introduced “Snapdragon Satellite” the world's 1st satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution for premium smartphones, at the
- ✓ Consumer Electronics Show(CES) 2023, which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America(USA) from 5th to 8th January 2023.
- ✓ The Snapdragon satellite, Developed with Iridium, will allow next-generation premium Android smartphones and other gadgets to support messaging for emergency use in rural, and offshore locations.

About Snapdragon Satellite

- ✓ Snapdragon Satellite will provide global connectivity using mobile messaging from around

the world, starting with devices based on the flagship Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 Mobile Platform.

- ✓ Snapdragon Satellite, powered by Snapdragon 5G Modem-RF Systems and supported by the fully operational Iridium satellite constellation, will enable Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and other service providers to offer truly global coverage.
- ✓ The smartphone's solutions will use Iridium's weather-resilient L-band spectrum for uplink and downlink.

Skye Air launches “Skye UTM”, India's First Traffic Management System for Drones

- ✓ On 7th February 2023, Skye Air Mobility Private Limited(Skye Air), a Gurugram (Haryana)-based drone solutions provider, launched India's first traffic management system for drones, named “Skye UTM”.
- ✓ Skye UTM, was launched in the presence of Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
- ✓ The system, Skye UTM, will allow drone operators to plan routes, make flight plans and assess risks before running drone-based operations in India.

Tokamak Energy Built World's 1st Super Magnets for Fusion Power Plant Testing

- ✓ United Kingdom (UK)-based Tokamak Energy Limited, a fusion power research company, has built the world's first set of new-generation High-Temperature Superconducting (HTS) Magnets to be assembled and tested in fusion power plant-relevant scenarios.
- ✓ Strong magnetic fields are required to contain and manage the extremely hot, positively-charged hydrogen fuel, which becomes a plasma several times hotter than the Sun to produce clean, sustainable fusion energy.
- ✓ The new Demo4 facility from Tokamak Energy will consist of 44 individual magnetic coils made using 38 kilometres (Km) of ground-breaking HTS tape, which carries currents with zero electrical

DEFENCE

First MCA Barge Launched by Indian Navy

- ✓ On February 24, 2023, the first Missile cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 75 (LSAM 7) was launched by Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta at Guttene Devi, the launch site of SECON, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ In February 2021, a contract for the construction of 8 Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) barges has been concluded with an MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise) SECON, Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The MCA Barges included in Indian Navy to perform the mission needs for embarking/disembarking Missile, Gunnery and ASW Ammunition.



'Nari Shakti': Indian Navy's all-women car expedition sets off from NWM to cover 2,300 km over 12 Days

- ✓ On 14th February 2023, the Indian Navy in association with the Navy Wives Welfare Association (NWWA) is collaborating with M/s Jeep India for the conduct of an All Women Motor Expedition as a tribute to the brave women of India and of the Indian Navy. The rally aims to motivate women to join the Naval Force.
- ✓ The all-women car rally with the slogan 'She's Unstoppable' and tagline 'Soar High' started from the National War Memorial in New Delhi and travel to the Longewala War Memorial, Rajasthan and back over 12 days, spanning February 14-25, 2023. The rally would traverse through Jaipur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Longewala, Jodhpur, and Udaipur prior to returning to Delhi covering a distance of 2300 km.



Indian Army undertakes Multiple Welfare Activities under Operation Sadbhavana in Ladakh

- ✓ The Indian Army is undertaking multiple welfare activities such as the running of Army Goodwill Schools, Infrastructure Development Projects & Education Tours etc, for the children living in remote areas of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh as a part of 'Operation SADBHAVANA'.
- ✓ In Ladakh, the Indian Army is now operating 7 Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) under "Operation Sadbhavana" to improve the standard of education and provide students with a quality education.
- ✓ More than 2,200 Students are currently studying in these schools. During the current fiscal year 2022–2023, funds for "Operation SADBHAVANA" totalling Rs 8.82 crore have been allocated for Ladakh.

Ex DUSTLIK IV – 2023: 4th Edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise commences in Uttarakhand

- ✓ On 20th February 2023, Ex-DUSTLIK IV – 2023, the 4th edition of the bilateral joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army commenced in Foreign Training Node in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The 14-day long joint exercise will culminate on 5th March 2023.
- ✓ The Indian contingent will be represented by the 14th Battalion, The GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command and the contingent from is represented by troops of the North Western Military District of Uzbekistan Army.
- ✓ **In a 1st, Indian submarine INS Sindhukesari docks in Indonesia**
- ✓ In line with the expanding military cooperation with South East Asian nations, an Indian Navy Kilo class conventional submarine, INS Sindhukesari, docked in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the first time. The

submarine, which was on operational deployment, travelled through the Sunda Strait and undertook the maiden docking in Indonesia for Operational Turnaround (OTR). Naval ships regularly make port calls to countries in the region.



- ✓ The OTR in Jakarta, over 2,000 nautical miles away from its home base in Visakhapatnam, significantly expands the area operational reach of the submarine arm near crucial shipping lanes and the strategic Malacca Strait. In the past, Indonesia gave access to its Sabang port to Indian Naval ships for operational turnaround

IAF develops 'Vayulink' platform for steady jammer-proof communication

- ✓ The Indian Air Force has developed an innovative solution 'Vayulink' that would aid pilots in dealing with bad weather and also provide jammer-proof uninterrupted communication with the base station. The data link communication uses the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) that is also known as NAVIC, to send radio communication to the base station when the signals are low.



About the Vayulink System

- ✓ Known as 'Vayulink', the data link communication uses the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) that is also known as NAVIC, to send radio communication to the base station when the signals are low. The important aspect of the technological solution is that it prevents fratricide or friendly fire

Defence Minister Launched 'iDEX Investor Hub', Rs 200 cr Already Pledged

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'iDEX Investor Hub' (iIH), under which more than Rs 200 crores had already been pledged by leading Indian investors. Defence Minister also launched the ninth edition of 'Defence India Startup Challenges (DISC 9)' on "Cybersecurity" during

the annual defense innovation event 'Manthan' as part of the Aero India 2023.

- ✓ Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) is the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production to encourage start-ups and other such entities engaged in defense innovation. The iDEX Investor Hub' aims to accelerate investment in the Defence sector and give investors a unified view of opportunities and innovations.

Indian Army Gets 'World's First' Fully Operational SWARM Drone System

- ✓ NewSpace Research, a Bengaluru-based start-up has delivered SWARM drones to Indian Army, which makes the Army the first major armed force in the world to operationalise these high-density SWARM drones.



This delivery may possibly be the world's first operational high density swarming UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) induction for military applications, especially given that most swarm drone research is yet to be operationalised across the world. The swarm of 100 drones is capable of hitting targets at least 50 kms away into enemy territory.

PM Modi Inaugurates Asia's Largest Helicopter Manufacturing Facility In Karnataka's Tumakuru

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicates to the nation the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) helicopter factory in Karnataka's Tumakuru. The



foundation stone of the facility, which is a dedicated new greenfield helicopter factory, was also laid by PM Modi in 2016. The facility will enhance India's capacity and ecosystem to build helicopters. This will result in providing employment for around 6000 people in the region.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla wins PEN/Nabokov Award

- ✓ Indian Short story writer, novelist, poet, and essayist, Vinod Kumar Shukla, one of the greatest contemporary writers in the Hindi language won the 2023 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature, the award is conferred annually by PEN America.
- ✓ The award will be presented during the 59th Annual PEN Literary Awards on 2nd March 2023 at The Town Hall, New York, United States of America (USA).



2022 Best FIFA Football Awards: Argentina's Lionel Messi & Spain's Alexia Putellas won Player of the Year awards

- ✓ On 27th February 2023, the Fédération Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) announced the winners of the 2022 Best FIFA Football Awards at the award ceremony held in Paris, France.
- ✓ **Messi wins Best FIFA Men's Player:** Lionel Messi won the FIFA Best Men's player for the 2nd time and becomes the third player to receive the award twice, after Cristiano Ronaldo and Robert Lewandowski. He previously won the award in 2019.
- ✓ He was honoured with the award for his contribution in leading Argentina to win the World Cup in Qatar. He scored 7 goals during the 2022 world cup.
- ✓ **Putellas wins Best FIFA Women's player:** Alexia Putellas won the award for the 2nd successive year for her exceptional 2021/22 season in which she captained Barcelona to a domestic treble and a place in the UEFA(Union of European Football Associations) Women's Champions League final.



6th Annual HCA Film Awards 2023: SS Rajamouli's 'RRR' Wins 5 Trophies

- ✓ The 6th Annual Hollywood Critics Association (HCA) Film Awards 2023, held at the Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles, United States (US), has acknowledged "RRR," directed by SS Rajamouli, on a global scale and honoured it with 5 awards.
- ✓ The film 'RRR' gained recognition for Best Action Film, Best International Film, Best Original Song, and Best Stunts, while the cast/crew of RRR earned an honorary HCA Spotlight Award.
- ✓ The film "RRR" has been nominated in 8 categories for the HCA Film Awards and HCA Creative Arts Awards combined.
- ✓ RRR has also been nominated for Best Director, Best Picture, Best Editing, and Best Visual Effects.
- ✓ The HCA now creates and produces two in-person award ceremonies annually: the HCA Film Awards in the winter (January or February) and the HCA TV Awards in the summer (August).



President of India Presented Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2019, 2020 & 2021

- ✓ On 23rd February 2023, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2019, 2020 and 2021 in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ 9 eminent personalities were given Akademi Ratna in the field of performing arts and a total of 128 artists from the field of music, dance, theatre, traditional, folk, and puppetry were given the Akademi Puraskar.
- ✓ The 9 winners of the Akademi Ratna are, Saroja Vaidyanathan (Bharatnatyam dancer), Sadanam Krishnan Kutty (Kathakali dancer), Darshana

Jhaveri (Manipuri dancer), Chhannu Lal Mishra (classical vocalist), Swapan Chaudhuri (Tabla Player), AKC Natarajan (Carnatic clarinet player), TV Gopalakrishnan (Hindustani musician), Tijan Bai (folk singer), Bharat Gupt (musicologist)

- ✓ The 128 recipients of Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards include 3 joint awards.
- ✓ Kuchipudi dancers, Pasumarthy Vithai and Bharathi Vithai were honoured with Akademi Puraskar for 2020.

Sajjan Jindal of JSW Group wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022

- ✓ On 23rd February 2023, Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director(CMD) of Mumbai (Maharashtra)- based JSW Group, has been named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2022 India at the 24th EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ Awards ceremony held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ He was recognised for his exceptional entrepreneurial journey in scaling the global conglomerate with a presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints to revenues of USD 22 billion, globally employing over 40,000 people.
- ✓ Sajjan Jindal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) at Monte Carlo, Monaco, in June 2023.
- ✓ K P Singh, Chairman Emeritus, DLF Group was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work in architecting the real-estate landscape of India.



13th Sansad Ratna Awards: 13MPs selected for Sansad Ratna Awards for 2023; T K Rangarajan Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✓ On 20th February 2023, the Jury Committee chaired by Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Parliamentary Affairs nominated 13 members of Parliament (MP) : 5 from Rajya Sabha and 8 from Lok Sabha for the Sansad Ratna Awards (2023).

- ✓ In addition, T K Rangarajan, Former Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha for two terms and a Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist)(CPI-M) Leader has been nominated for the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ✓ The Jury Committee chaired by Arjun Ram Meghwal includes eminent Parliamentarians and civil society. Co-chair: T S Krishnamurthy Former Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Sansad Ratna Awardees for 2023:

- ✓ **Lok Sabha:** Bidyut Baran Mahato, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavrit, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Gopal Chinayya Shetty, Sudhir Gupta , and Amol Ramsing Kolhe were nominated for ‘Sansad Ratna Awards 2023’ for their performance in the 17th Lok Sabha under various categories.
- ✓ **Rajya Sabha:**Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha, Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan have been nominated for their performances in Rajya Sabha in 2022 under the ‘Sitting Members’ category.
- ✓ Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, and Chhaya Verma have been nominated for the Award under the ‘Rajya Sabha Members Retired in 2022’ category.

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2023: Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Vivek Agnihotri’s ‘The Kashmir Files’ won Awards

- ✓ India’s only independent international film festival, Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) 2023 was held on February 20, 2023 at Taj Lands End Hotel in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The winners of DPIFF Awards 2023 under different categories were announced to recognize the outstanding efforts by international and national personalities from cinema.
- ✓ Bollywood actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt received awards in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories for their performances in the movies ‘Brahmastra: Part 1’ and ‘Gangubai Kathiawadi.
- ✓ Filmmaker SS Rajamouli’s Telugu Movie, ‘RRR’ received the Film of the year award and Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri’s Hindi Movie ‘The Kashmir Files’ won the Best Film award.

Karnataka Bank wins 'Prathista Puraskar-Digidhan Award' from MeitY

- ✓ Karnataka Bank Limited was awarded "Prathista Puraskar" under 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22' by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India (GoI), for achieving the target with the highest percentage in Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI) transactions in Private Sector Bank category.

2nd Annual Anthem Awards: UNDP's "Don't Choose Extinction" Campaign wins 2 Anthem Awards

- ✓ On 15th February 2023, The 'Don't Choose Extinction' campaign of the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) to raise awareness about the climate emergency, has won Gold and Silver in two different categories at the 2nd Annual Anthem Awards.
- ✓ Gold winner: under Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Non-Profit Campaign category
- ✓ Silver Winner: under Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Global Awareness Campaign category
- ✓ The winners of the 2nd annual Anthem Awards were announced by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Science (IADAS).
- ✓ During the event, the Special Achievement Awards were also presented to individuals who have dedicated their lives, platform or work to bring attention to some of the most important issues of our time.

Former Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel honoured with UNESCO Peace Prize 2022

- ✓ On 8th February 2023, Angela Merkel, former Federal Chancellor of Germany, received the Félix Houphouët-Boigny-UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Peace Prize 2022 during the ceremony held in Yamoussoukro, the capital of the Ivory Coast. She received the prize in recognition of her efforts to welcome refugees during her term in the office.

- ✓ The international jury members headed (President) by Denis Mukwege, gynaecologist & Nobel Peace Prize winner, announced Angela Merkel as the recipient of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny- UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 in August 2022.

NTPC bags ATD Best Awards for 6th time

- ✓ NTPC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power,
- ✓ Government of India, has been honoured with the Association for Talent Development (ATD) Best Awards 2023 for demonstrating enterprise success in the field of Talent Development by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), United States of America (USA).
- ✓ NTPC has won the ATD Best Awards for the sixth time.

ABK Prasad chosen for PCI's Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for excellence in Journalism- 2020

- ✓ Veteran journalist Dr Anne Bhavani Koteswara Prasad, popularly known as ABK, has been chosen for the 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for excellence in Journalism-2020' for his outstanding contribution to the field of journalism.
- ✓ The award was conferred by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI).

76th British Academy Film Awards

- ✓ At the Royal Festival Hall in London, England, the 76th British Academy Film Awards, also referred to as the BAFTAs, were presented. The award was hosted by actor Richard E Grant, the star-studded ceremony saw the German anti-war film All Quiet on the Western Front winning seven awards, including the two big wins awards, Best Film and Best Director. Shaunak Sen's documentary All That Breathes from India was a nominee for the Best Documentary award, which went to Daniel Roher's Navalny



Complete list of winners

Category	Winners
Best Film	All Quiet on the Western Front
Leading Actress	Cate Blanchett, Tar
Leading Actor	Austin Butler, Elvis
Best Director	Edward Berger, All Quiet on the Western Front
Best Casting	Elvis
Best Cinematography	All Quiet on the Western Front
Adapted Screenplay	All Quiet On The Western Front, Edward Berger, Lesley Paterson, Ian Stokell
Editing	Everything Everywhere All At Once, Paul Rogers
Cinematography	All Quiet On The Western Front, James Friend
Best Documentary	Navalny (Daniel Roher)
EE Bafta Rising Star Award	Emma Mackey
Film Not In The English Language	All Quiet On The Western Front
Best Costume Design	Catherine Martin, Elvis
British Short Film	An Irish Goodbye
Make up & Hair	Elvis; Jason Baird, Mark Coulier, Louise Coulston, Shane Thomas
Production design	Babylon; Florencia Martin, Anthony Carlino
Sound	All Quiet On The Western Front; Lars Ginzsel, Frank Kruse, Viktor Prášil, Markus Stemler
Original Score	All Quiet On The Western Front; Volker Bertelmann
Supporting Actress	Kerry Condon, The Banshees of Inisherin
Supporting Actor	Barry Keoghan, The Banshees of Inisherin

65th Grammy Awards 2023

- ✓ The Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles played host to the 65th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony on February 5, 2023. It honoured the top performers, songs, and recordings from the eligibility year, which spanned October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. November 15, 2022.
- ✓ Bengaluru-Based Ricky Kej, a musician, won his third Grammy Award for the album “Divine Tides,” which he co-wrote with rock legend Stewart Copeland. This is undoubtedly a proud moment for India

Grammy Awards 2023 Winners List

Category	Winner
Record of the Year	Lizzo
Album of the Year	Harry Styles – Harry’s House
Song of the Year	Lizzo – About Damn Time
Best New Artist	Samara Joy
Best Pop Solo Performance	Bonnie Raitt wins for ‘Just like That’
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Sam Smith & Kim Petras – Unholy
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album	Michael Buble – Higher
Best Pop Vocal Album	Harry Styles – Harry’s House
Best Dance/Electronic Recording	Beyoncé – Break My Soul
Best Contemporary Instrumental Album	Snarky Puppy – Empire Central
Best Rock Performance	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses
Best Metal Performance	Ozzy Osbourne Featuring Tony Iommi – Degradation Rules
Best Rock Song	Brandi Carlile – Broken Horses
Best Rock Album	Ozzy Osbourne – Patient Number 9
Best Alternative Music Performance	Wet Leg – Chaise Lounge
Best Alternative Music Album	Wet Leg – Wet Leg
Best R&B Performance	Muni Long – Hrs & Hrs
Best Traditional R&B Performance	Beyoncé– Plastic Off the Sofa
Best Progressive R&B Album	Steve Lacy – Gemini Rights
Best R&B Album	Robert Glasper – Black Radio III
Best Rap Performance	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Melodic Rap Performance	Future Featuring Drake & Tems – Wait for U
Best Rap Song	Kendrick Lamar – The Heart Part 5
Best Country Solo Performance	Willie Nelson – Live Forever
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Carly Pearce & Ashley McBryde – Never Wanted to Be That Girl
Best Country Song	Cody Johnson – ‘Til You Can’t
Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album	Mystic Mirror – White Sun
Best Improvised Jazz Solo	Wayne Shorter & Leo Genovese – Endangered Species

Best Jazz Vocal Album	Samara Joy – Linger Awhile
Best Jazz Instrumental Album	Stevens – New Standards, Vol. 1
Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album	Steven Feifke, Bijon Watson & Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra – Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra
Best Gospel Performance/Song	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Kingdom
Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Fear Is Not My Future
Best Gospel Album	Maverick City Music & Kirk Franklin – Kingdom Book One (Deluxe)
Best Contemporary Christian Music Album	Maverick City Music – Breathe
Best Roots Gospel Album	Tennessee State University – The Urban Hymnal
Best Latin Pop Album	Rubén Blades & Boca Livre – Pasieros

Golden Book Awards 2023

- ✓ The “Golden Book Awards” is announced its winner for 2023. This prestigious event recognizes and celebrates the best book in literature. There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children’s books. The awards are judged by a panel of literary experts, like Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Authors Association), Dr Deepak Parbat (Founder of Superfast Author) & Murali Sundaram (Founder of TLC), who choose the winners based on factors such as originality, creativity, and impact on the literary world.
- ✓ Golden Book Awards is sponsored by Wings Publication International; they have a presence in many countries, and they are supporting literature and upcoming authors in the entire world

Winners	Books
Deepak Chopra	The Seven Spiritual Law Of Success: A practical guide to achieving your dreams
Ashneer Grover	Doglan: The Hard Truth about Life and Start-Ups
Jeff Kinney	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Overlode
J.K Rowling	Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore
Gaur Gopal Das	Energize Your Mind: A Monk's Guide to Mindful Living
Kamlesh Patel	The Wisdom Bridge: Nine Principles To A Life That Echoes In The Hearts Of Your Loved Ones
Ruskin Bond	How To Live Your Life
Namita Thapar	The Dolphin And The Shark: Stories On Entrepreneurship

Kollam district won Swaraj Trophy 2021-22 for Best District Panchayat

- ✓ The Kollam district panchayat has won the Swaraj Trophy for the best district panchayat in the State

for the 2021-22 financial year. The Kannur district panchayat stood second in the rankings. Kollam district, is one of 14 districts of the state of Kerala, India. The district has a cross-section of Kerala’s natural attributes; it is endowed with a long coastline, a major Laccadive Sea seaport and an inland lake. The district has many water bodies.

J&K won best adventure tourism destination award

- ✓ The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal. The award has been given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting ‘Gulmarg’ as an adventure destination of international order. The award was received by Deputy Director, Tourism, Alyas Ahmad on behalf of the Department

Former PM Manmohan Singh conferred Lifetime Achievement Honour by UK

- ✓ Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life. The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK’s Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh’s academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- ✓ To mark 75 years of India’s independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honours covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge.



SPORTS

N.R. Vignesh becomes India's 80th Chess Grandmaster

- ✓ Indian Chess Player N.R. Vignesh (25-year-old), from Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), became India's 80th Grandmaster (GM) after defeating International Master (IM) Ilja Schneider of Germany at NordWest Cup 2023 (24th edition) at Bad Zwischenahn in Germany which was held from 26th January 2023 to 29th January 2023.
- ✓ He became the Grandmaster after crossing 2500 in the live ratings.
- ✓ N.R. Vignesh also became the 29th Grandmaster hailing from Tamil Nadu(TN).
- ✓ India's 1st Brothers duo of Grandmasters: N.R. Visakh, elder brother of Grandmaster N.R. Vignesh, had become India's 59th GM in 2019. Visakh and Vignesh became India's first pair of siblings (brothers) to hold the title of Grandmaster.



Saurashtra won their 2nd Ranji Trophy title defeating Bengal

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Saurashtra cricket team won the Mastercard Ranji Trophy 2022-2023 defeating Bengal cricket team(West Bengal) by 9 wickets in the finals of held in Eden Gardens in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ This marks Saurashtra's 2nd Ranji Trophy Title. Saurashtra won their maiden Ranji Trophy in 2020.
- ✓ Mastercard Ranji Trophy 2022-2023 was the 88th season of the Ranji Trophy, the premier first-class cricket tournament in India.
- ✓ Ranji Trophy 2022-23 was held from 13th December 2022 to 19th February 2023
- ✓ Saurashtra cricket team is one of the three first-class cricket teams based in Gujarat. The others 2 teams are Baroda and Gujarat.



Indian team won Bronze at Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2023 in Dubai

- ✓ The 3rd edition of Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2023/Tong Yun Kai Cup 2023 (official and sponsored title: Blue Ocean Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship Dubai 2023) was held from 14-19, 2023 at Dubai Exhibition Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ The championship was won by China with Gold medal by defeating South Korea with 3-1. With this, South Korea stood at 2nd position with Silver medal. The 3rd position or Bronze medal was shared by India and Thailand.
- ✓ India created history by securing its first-ever medal at Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship-2023. India settled for the Bronze medal after the defeat (2-3) in the Semi-final against China.
- ✓ This is a continental badminton tournament to crown the best mixed national badminton teams in Asia. With this win India makes a direct entry in the Sudirman Cup 2023, which will be held in China later this year.
- ✓ Participants: 17 teams representing all five regions in Asia

US, Canada, Mexico automatically qualify for the 2026 FIFA world cup

- ✓ The Men's National Football team of the United States of America(USA), along with those of Mexico and Canada, will automatically qualify for the 2026 FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup.
- ✓ The 3 countries won the right to host the World Cup in a united North American bid.
- ✓ This is the 1st time FIFA has had to set aside three host bids. The tournament is set to expand from 32 teams to 48 in 2026.
- ✓ FIFA has given host nations the right to play in the World Cup without going through the usual qualification tournaments.

- ✓ The hosts of the FIFA World Cup 2026, namely Canada, Mexico and the USA, will qualify automatically for the final round of the competition from the six allotted to Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) teams. So the three slots will therefore be deducted from the overall allocation of six.
- ✓ There are 3 more spots left for the CONCACAF teams out of six. CONCACAF has 41 national member associations.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia has been named the host of the FIFA Club World Cup 2023, scheduled to take place from 12-22 December 2023.

Pakistani cricketer Kamran Akmal announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

- ✓ On 14th February 2023, Kamran Akmal, (41-year-old) Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ✓ Recently, he was appointed as the chair of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s selection committee for the national men's Under 19 (U19). He is also appointed as a member of the selection committee for the national men's senior headed by Haroon Rashid.
- ✓ He made his test and One Day International (ODI) in 2002 and his Twenty20 International (T20I) debut in 2006.
- ✓ He represented Pakistan in 53 Tests, 157 ODIs and 58 T20Is with 6871 runs across formats, including 11 centuries.
- ✓ He was part of the Pakistan team that won the T20 World Cup in 2009.

2023 Formula E Hyderabad E-Prix: Jean-Eric Vergne wins India's first-ever E-Prix

- ✓ On 11th February 2023, Two-time Formula E champion Jean-Eric Vergne of DS Penske, a French Racing Driver, won the first ever Formula E race in India – 2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix, Round 4 of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship (Formula E



2023). A total of 11 teams competed in the 2023 Hyderabad E-Prix held in the Hyderabad street circuit, Hyderabad, Telangana.

- ✓ Nick Cassidy of Envision and Antonio Felix da Costa of TAG Heuer Porsche finished second and third, respectively.
- ✓ Jean-Eric Vergne is one of the top drivers in the competition and has been a part of Formula E since its beginning in the 2014–15 season.
- ✓ Hyderabad street circuit becomes the 30th venue and 1st in India to host an E-Prix.

Inaugural edition of SA20 League: Sunrisers Eastern Cape won title at SA20 2023

- ✓ Sunrisers Eastern Cape captained by South African cricketer Aiden Markram won the inaugural edition of Betway SA20 League (SA20 2023), a Twenty20 franchise cricket tournament in South Africa, organised by Cricket South Africa.
- ✓ Sunrisers Eastern Cape defeated Pretoria Capitals captained by South African cricketer Wayne Parnell in the finals held in Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ✓ Sunrisers captain Aiden Markram has been named "Player of the Series" in SA20 2023. He also became the 3rd-highest run-scorer and joint 7th-highest wicket-taker in the competition. Roelof van der Merwe won the Man of the Match in the finals.



FIFA Club World Cup Morocco 2022: Real Madrid defeated Al Hilal to win 5th FIFA Club World Cup

- ✓ 11th February 2023, Real Madrid, Spanish professional football club, won the FIFA (Fédération Internationale De Football Association) Club World Cup 2022 defeating Al Hilal, Saudi Arabian Football Club by 5-3 in the finals held in Prince Moulay Abdallah stadium in Rabat, Morocco.




- ✓ With this win, Real Madrid won the FIFA Club World Cup for a record 5th time.
- ✓ Real Madrid previously won the tournament in 2018, 2014, 2016 and 2017.
- ✓ This is the 19th Edition of the FIFA Club World Cup, an international men's association football competition organised by the FIFA.

Aaron Finch, Australia's Most successful T20I captain, retires from International Cricket

- ✓ On 7th February 2023, Aaron James Finch, Australia's most successful Twenty20 International (T20I), announced his retirement from International Cricket. Under his captaincy, Australia won their 1st International Cricket Council (ICC) T20i World Cup in 2021 against New Zealand in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). 
- ✓ In September 2022, Aaron Finch announced his retirement from the One Day International (ODI), 50-over format.
- ✓ He has played 146 ODIs, and 103 T20Is for Australia across an international career spanning 12 years and scored 8,804 runs which include 17 ODI centuries, and 2 T20I centuries.
- ✓ He has played 92 matches in the IPL, scoring 2091 runs at an average of 25.19 and a strike rate of 128.20.

Indian Cricketer Joginder Sharma announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

- ✓ On 3rd February 2023, Indian Cricketer, Joginder Sharma (39), who was known for bowling the last over in 2007 Twenty20 (T20) World Cup final against Pakistan, announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. 
- ✓ Joginder Sharma currently serves as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Haryana. He joined the Haryana Police in October 2007.

Australia won its 6th Women's T20 World Cup title defeating South Africa

- ✓ The Australian women's national cricket team captained by Meg Lanning won the 8th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Twenty20 International (T20I) World Cup 2023 by defeating South Africa women's team captained by Sune Luus by 19 runs in the finals held in the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town, South Africa. 
- ✓ This marks the 6th and third consecutive ICC Women's T20I World Cup title of Australia. Australia previously won the title in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2020.
- ✓ ICC women's T20I World Cup 2023 was hosted by South Africa from 10th to 26th February 2023.
- ✓ The tournament was held at 3 venues in three cities of SA viz. Newlands Cricket Ground (Cape Town), St George's Park (Gqeberha), and Boland Park (Paarl).
- ✓ The ICC Women's T20I World Cup is the biennial international championship for women's Twenty20 International cricket.
- ✓ The 1st edition of the ICC Women's T20I World Cup was held in 2009 in England.
- ✓ 2023 Women's T20I World Cup marks the 8th edition of the tournament.
- ✓ Bangladesh is set to host the 9th edition in 2024 and England is set to host the 2026 tournament.
- ✓ The number of teams in the 2026 tournament will also increase to 12.
- ✓ Ashleigh Gardner of Australia is named as Player of the series for her stunning all-round efforts during the ICC Women's T20I World Cup 2023 and Beth Mooney of Australia was named the player of the match in the finals for her unbeaten 74 off 53 balls.

5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games: Maharashtra tops Medal Tally

- ✓ The 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG 2022) hosted by Madhya Pradesh was held from 30th January to 11th February 2023. Maharashtra won the overall championship and topped the medal tally of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 with 161 medals (56 gold, 55 silver, and 50 bronze).
- ✓ Haryana (40 golds) and Madhya Pradesh (39 golds), were ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively.
- ✓ Khelo India Youth Games 2022 is the 5th edition of Khelo India Youth Games, a flagship event under the government of India's Khelo India initiative.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh was the 5th Indian State to host the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ✓ More than 6000 athletes and support staff from 36 states and union territories participated in the KIYG 2022. The Athletes competed for 937 medals: 295 gold, 295 silver, and 383 bronze, in 27 sports.
- ✓ **Mascots:** Asha (Female Cheetah) and Mowgli
- ✓ **Torch:** Amarkantak
- ✓ **Theme Song:** Hindustan ka Dil Dhadka do



Khelo India Winter Games 2023: J&K Tops Medal Tally with 76 medals

- ✓ The 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games, KIWG 2023, a 1st of a kind multi-sport competition of India, was held in Gulmarg, in Baramulla District of North Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) from 10th to 14th February 2023.
- ✓ J&K topped the medal tally of KIWG 2023 with 26 Golds, 25 silvers and 25 bronze, a total of 76 medals.
- ✓ With the highest number of gold medals at the end of the meet, J&K was declared the winner of KIWG 2023.
- ✓ Maharashtra came 2nd with 13 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals, followed by Himachal Pradesh with



10 Gold, 14 Silver and 7 Bronze and Army with 10 gold, 10 silver and 9 bronze medals.

- ✓ KIWG 2023 is the 3rd edition of the grassroots-level competition backed by Khelo India, a National Programme for Development of Sports under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports(MoYAS).
 - ✓ KIWG 2023 was jointly organised by the MoYAS, the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of J&K.
- Mascot, Anthem and Jersey:**
- ✓ On 4th February 2023, Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha launched the Mascot, Theme Song and Jersey for the KIWG 2023.
 - ✓ The Snow Leopard Mascot of KIWG 2023 depicts the vibrant heritage of the Himalayas. It also highlights the commitment of the J&K administration towards the conservation of Snow Leopard.

Daniil Medvedev defeats Andy Murray, wins Qatar Open title

- ✓ Daniil Medvedev won the Qatar Open in his professional tennis debut by defeating Andy Murray 6-4, 6-4, in the final game between two former No. 1s. In every set, Medvedev converted quick beginnings. In the first, he got to 4-1, and in the second, he got to 3-1.



List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev(Russia)	Andy Murray (UK)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Jessica Pegula (US)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden	Constant Lestienne & B. Van de Zandschulp
Women's Doubles	Jessica Pegula & Coco Gauff	Lyudmyla Kichenok & Jelena Ostapenko

PERSONS IN NEWS

Indian-American Ajay Banga nominated to lead World Bank

- ✓ US President Joe Biden has nominated former Mastercard CEO, India-born Ajay Banga, to be head of the World Bank, after its current chief David Malpass announced plans to step down early. Banga, 63, is Indian-American and currently serving as vice chairman at equity firm General Atlantic.
- ✓ Current World Bank President David Malpass, who was nominated to the post by Biden's predecessor Donald Trump in 2019 said he would step down nearly a year early, ending a tenure that was clouded by questions over his climate stance. His term would originally have ended in 2024.
- ✓ Malpass announced that he will step down from his position by the end of the Bank Group's fiscal year on June 30, 2023 after serving more than 4 years.



Ales Bialiatski, Nobel laureate sentenced prison for 10 years in Belarus

- ✓ Ales Bialiatski, a leading defender of human rights in Belarus and a candidate for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize, was given a 10-year prison term in Minsk, the Capital of Belarus.
- ✓ Ales Bialiatski and three other key members of the Viasna human rights organisation he created were found guilty of funding rallies against the government.
- ✓ After widespread protests over a 2020 election that delivered autocratic President Aleksandr Lukashenko a second term in office, they were detained and imprisoned.
- ✓ Since taking government in 1994, Lukashenko has repressed dissent and cracked down on independent media. The strongest wave of protests to ever hit Belarus continued for several months under the 2020 movement, and the government responded harshly.



- ✓ At than 35,000 individuals were detained, and police beat thousands of them.
- ✓ The accusations against Bialiatski and his associates stemmed from Viasna giving money to political prisoners and supporting their legal expenses.

Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu become 1st women MLAs from Nagaland

- ✓ Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu, both from the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, made history by becoming the first women candidates to be elected in the state assembly election. In a significant milestone, people in Nagaland have elected two women candidates after 60 years since it attained statehood. Kruse won from Western Angami AC and Jakhalu clinched Dimapur-III constituencies.



Former Gujarat Governor & Veteran BJP Leader Om Prakash Kohli Passed Away

- ✓ On 20th February 2023, Om Prakash Kohli (O P Kohli), former Governor of Gujarat (2014-2019) and Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, passed away in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP), at the age of 87. He was born on 9th August 1935 in Delhi.

Former Union Law Minister & Veteran lawyer Shanti Bhushan Passed Away

- ✓ On 31st January 2023, Shanti Bhushan, former Minister of Law (1977-1979) and eminent Jurist, passed away in New Delhi, Delhi, at the age of 97. He was born on 11th November 1925 in Bijnor, a district town of Western Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Shanti Bhushan served as the Union Minister of Law from 1977- 1979 under the premiership of



Morarji Desai and he was a member of Rajya Sabha (1977 to 1980). He introduced the 44th Amendment to the Indian Constitution, officially known as the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.

Legendary Indian Footballer Tulsidas Balaram Passed Away

- ✓ On 16th February 2023, Legendary Indian football player and two-time Olympian Tulsidas Balaram (Tulsidas Balaraman), an Arjuna Awardee, passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 87. He was born on 4th October 1936 in Ammuguda village near Secunderabad, state of Hyderabad, British India (Secunderabad, Telangana).

Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf Passed Away

- ✓ On 5th February 2023, Pervez Musharraf, Former President of Pakistan (2001-2008) and retired General, passed away at the age of 79 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Pervez Musharraf was born on 11th August 1943 in Delhi, British India (now New Delhi, Delhi, India).



- ✓ Pervez Musharraf was known as the architect of the 1999 conflict in Kargil.

About Pervez Musharraf

- ✓ Pervez Musharraf moved from Delhi to Karachi, Pakistan, in 1947, during the India-Pakistan partition.
- ✓ He joined the army in 1964, graduated from the Army Command and Staff College in Quetta, and attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.
- ✓ He fought in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 as a second lieutenant, and also participated in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971 as a Company Commander in the Commando Battalion.
- ✓ Between 1966 and 1972, he was initially promoted to Army Captain and then to Major.
- ✓ He rose to the rank of General and was appointed as the Chief of Army Staff in 1998, by then Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif.
- ✓ General Pervez Musharraf, then-Chief of Army Staff and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Committee, led a coup against PM Nawaz Sharif and became head of government.

- ✓ In 2001, he appointed himself as the President of Pakistan and served till 2008. Later in 2002, he amended the constitution 29 times, giving himself the authority to dismiss parliament and remove the PM.
- ✓ He was charged with high treason and given a death sentence in 2019 for suspending the Constitution.
- ✓ To avoid criminal charges against him in Pakistan, he lived in self-imposed exile in the UAE, since 2016.
- ✓ He published his autobiography titled “In the Life of Fire: A Memoir” in 2006.

Veteran Singer & Padma Bhushan Recipient Vani Jairam Passes Away

- ✓ Vani Jairam, the famed and veteran singer who was recently honoured with India’s third-highest civilian award, the “Padma Bhushan“ (2023 in the field of Art), passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 78. She was born in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu and her parents originally named her Kalaivani.
- ✓ She has recorded over 10,000 songs for Indian films in 19 languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, and Gujarati, among many others.



Renowned tollywood director K Vishwanath Passed Away

- ✓ Padma Shri and Dadasaheb Phalke awardee, Kasinadhuni Vishwanath (K Viswanath), a renowned Telugu filmmaker and actor, passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana at the age of 92.
- ✓ K Vishwanath was born on 19 February 1930 in Repalle, Madras Presidency, British India (now in Andhra Pradesh, India). He was popularly known as ‘Kalatapasvi’.
- ✓ He was the 48th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India’s highest award in the field of Cinema, for the year 2016.



APPOINTMENTS

Rajeev Raghuvanshi appointed as the new Drug Controller General of India

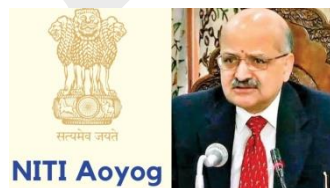
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the recommendation submitted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to appoint Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi as new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), head of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) with effect from the date of his assumption of charge till his attaining the age of superannuation on 28th February 2025 or until further orders.
- ✓ The appointment is made at “Level 14 of the Pay Matrix”, on a “short-term contract basis”.
- ✓ He will be taking over as DCGI from Dr PBN Prasad, who was appointed as DCGI with effect from 16th February 2023 till 28th February 2023.
- ✓ Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi has been serving as the secretary-cum-scientific director at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) since 2021.
- ✓ He previously worked National Institute of Immunology for 7 years, at Ranbaxy Research Laboratories till 2010 and had a stint with Dr Reddy’s Laboratories between 2010 and 2021.



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BVR Subrahmanyam appointed as NITI Aayog CEO

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has approved the appointment of former Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam (56 years old) as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India).
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Subrahmanyam’s appointment for a period of 2 years from the date of assumption of the



NITI Aayog

- ✓ charge of the post. Subrahmanyam will succeed incumbent CEO Parameswaran Iyer, who will join the World Bank (WB) as Executive Director in Washington, DC, United States (US) for a 3-year term.

Shailesh Pathak appointed as FICCI Secretary General

- ✓ On 27th February 2023, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India’s apex business chamber, announced the appointment of Shailesh Pathak as the new Secretary General of FICCI with effect from 1st March 2023.
- ✓ Shailesh Pathak succeeds Dilip Chenoy, who stepped down as Secretary General of FICCI in October 2021.
- ✓ FICCI also announced that Arun Chawla, Director General of FICCI, will superannuate on 30th June 2023 and transition to an advisory role.



Mr. Shailesh Pathak,
FICCI Secretary General

Govindaraj Kempareddy becomes 1st Indian to be Nominated as President of FIBA Asia

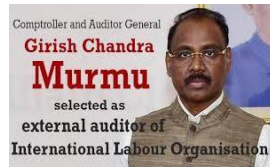
- ✓ Govindaraj Kempareddy (K Govindaraj), President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI), was unanimously nominated as the President of FIBA Asia, a zone within the International Basketball Federation (FIBA – Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur) which contains all 44 Asian FIBA federations. He becomes the 1st Indian to be elected as FIBA Asia President.
- ✓ K Govindaraj will replace Qatar’s Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani, who is currently serving his 4th five-year term as President of FIBA Asia. He has been president of FIBA Asia since 2002.



- ✓ Indian National Congress activist K Govindaraj is currently serving as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council (KLC) and Vice-President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ✓ FIBA Asia is one of the five regional zones of FIBA: the other 4 zones are FIBA Africa, FIBA Americas, FIBA Europe and FIBA Oceania.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu selected as External Auditor of ILO.

- ✓ Girish Chandra Murmu (G.C. Murmu), Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has been selected as External Auditor of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland, for a 4-year term (2024-2027).
- ✓ CAG Girish Chandra Murmu will replace the incumbent external auditor of ILO, Jose Callangan Calida, Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA), the Supreme Audit Institution of the Republic of the Philippines.



Rajesh Rai appointed CMD of Indian Telephone Industries Ltd

- ✓ On 20th February 2023, the Union Government approved the appointment of Rajesh Rai for the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI Limited), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), for a period of 5 years with an immediate effect.
- ✓ Rakesh Chandra Tiwari, Director of Marketing, has resigned from the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director with effect from Feb 21, and will only serve as Director-Marketing.

ASSOCHAM appoints Sanjay Nayar as New Vice-President

- ✓ On 21st February 2023, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), a non-governmental trade association, announced the appointment of Sanjay Nayar, a global financial markets expert, as its new Vice-President.
- ✓ Sanjay Nayar is a prominent finance professional in the banking landscape in India and private equity

sectors with almost 40 years of experience in both the domestic and international financial markets.

Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra became the 14th chief justice of Jharkhand High Court

- ✓ On 20 February 2023, Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court.
- ✓ After the superannuation of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan on December 19, 2022, the post of chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court became vacant.
- ✓ On February 17, 2023, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification regarding the appointment of justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the chief justice of the Jharkhand high court.
- ✓ Governor CP Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office to Sanjaya Kumar Mishra.

HAL extends C B Ananthakrishnan Tenure as CMD for Six Months

- ✓ On 20th February 2022, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved to extend the tenure of C B Ananthakrishnan, Director (Finance) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) (additional charge) for a period of 6 months with effect from 1st February 2023.
- ✓ He assumed additional charge of the post of CMD following the superannuation of R Madhavan as CMD of HAL on 31st July 2022.
- ✓ HAL is an aerospace and defence company under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

UN appoints Indo-Canadian Afshan Khan Coordinator for SUN Movement

- ✓ On 20th February 2023, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment of Indo-Canadian Afshan Khan as Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. She will coordinate the implementation of the SUN movement through its 3rd phase (2021-2025).
- ✓ Afshan Khan will succeed Gerda Verburg of the Netherlands.

UNICEF India appoints Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana as National Ambassador

- ✓ On 18th February 2023, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India announced the appointment of Ayushmann Khurrana, a National Award-winning Bollywood Actor, as a National Ambassador.
- ✓ Ayushmann Khurrana joins hands with UNICEF to support ensuring the rights of every child to survive, thrive, and be protected as well as promoting their voice and agency in decisions that concern them.
- ✓ In 2020, he was appointed UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate to advocate for ending violence against children and the broader child rights agenda.
- ✓ He made active participation in international observance of Children, women, child labour and more.



Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar appointed as new Army Vice chief

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has approved 3 major appointments in the Indian Army, Lieutenant general MV Suchindra Kumar, who is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) in the Army Headquarters, was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff. He succeeds Lt Gen B S Raju as the Vice Chief of Army Staff.
- ✓ The government has also appointed new commanders for the Central and South Western commands.
- ✓ Lt Gen NSR Subramani, serving as the Chief of Staff at the headquarters of the Northern Command in Udhampur, has been appointed as the next Central Army Commander in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh(UP). He will take over as the Central Army Commander from Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri, who also superannuates by the end of February.



- ✓ Lt Gen B S Raju, the current Vice Chief of Army Staff, has been appointed as the Jaipur-headquartered South Western Army Commander. He will succeed Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Bhinder who retires from service by the end of February.

Indian-Origin Neal Mohan replaces Susan Wojcicki as Youtube's New CEO

- ✓ Neal Mohan, a longtime Google and YouTube executive who is an Indian-American, has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YouTube.
- ✓ Mohan will succeed Susan Wojcicki, YouTube's outgoing CEO, who is departing after nine years in the position.
- ✓ She had been with Alphabet Inc., YouTube's parent company, for nearly 25 years.



Mohammad Shahabuddin Choppu was declared the Next President of Bangladesh

- ✓ On 13th February 2023, Mohammad Shahabuddin Choppu, (74 years old), a former judge and freedom fighter, has been declared the next President of Bangladesh by Bangladesh's Election Commission. The ruling Awami League (AL) party nominee, Shahabuddin Choppu, was elected unopposed as the 22nd President of Bangladesh.
- ✓ Shahabuddin Choppu will replace the incumbent President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh(2013 to 2023), whose tenure ends in April 2023.



K Satyanarayana Raju appointed as New MD & CEO of Canara Bank

- ✓ On 7th February 2023, the Government of India(GoI) appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the state-owned Canara Bank, with immediate effect.

- ✓ K Satyanarayana Raju succeeds L V Prabhakar who resigned from office on 31st December 2022.

Gol appoints Chief Justice for 4 High Courts

- ✓ Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Law and Justice, announced that the President has appointed Chief Justices(CJs) for 4 High Courts(HC) in the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ Justice Sonia G Gokani, a Judge in Gujarat HC, was appointed as the Chief Justice of Gujarat HC. she succeeds Chief Justice Aravind Kumar who was elevated to the Supreme Court of India. she was serving as Chief Justice only for a period of 2 weeks, she is retired on 25th February 2023.
- ✓ Justice Sandeep Mehta, a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court. The post recently fell vacant following the retirement of Chief Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya(RM Chhaya).
- ✓ Justice Jaswant Singh, Judge in Orissa HC (Odisha), was appointed as the Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. He takes over the charge of CJ from acting Chief Justice Amarnath T. Goud of the Tripura HC. of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) and Ladakh:
- ✓ Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Judge in Gauhati HC, was appointed as the new CJ of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) and Ladakh High Court. He replaces Justice Ali Muhammad Magrey, who demitted office on superannuation on 7th December 2022.

Nikos Christodoulides elected as 8th Cyprus President

- ✓ On February 12, 2023, Nikos Christodoulides (49) has been elected as the 8th President of Cyprus by defeating veteran diplomat Andreas Mavroyiannis.
- ✓ He gained 51.9% of the vote while Andreas Mavroyiannis, had 48.1%.
- ✓ He will succeed Nicos Anastasiades.



President Droupadi Murmu appoints New Governors in 12 states and 1 UT

- ✓ On February 12, 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, appointed governors in 12 states and a Union Territory (UT). These include the following 6 new appointments and 7 reshuffles.

The fresh appointments

- ✓ Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, (Retired) Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Sikkim
- ✓ C P Radhakrishnan, Governor of Jharkhand
- ✓ Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Himachal Pradesh
- ✓ S. Abdul Nazeer, Governor of Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Assam

Change of states of some current governors

- ✓ Justice (Retd) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh appointed as Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Anusuiya Uikye, Governor of Chhattisgarh appointed as Governor of Manipur.
- ✓ La. Ganesan, Governor of Manipur appointed as Governor of Nagaland.
- ✓ Phagu Chauhan, Governor of Bihar appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.
- ✓ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Himachal Pradesh appointed as Governor of Bihar.
- ✓ Ramesh Bais, Governor of Jharkhand appointed as Governor of Maharashtra.
- ✓ Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd), Governor of Arunachal Pradesh appointed as Lt. Governor of Ladakh.

How are Governors appointed?

- ✓ Article 153 of the Constitution says "There shall be a Governor for each State."
- ✓ According to Article 155 "the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
- ✓ Under Article 156, "the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President", but his term shall be five years.
- ✓ Articles 157 and 158 lay down the qualifications and terms of office of the Governor.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

Brand Finance Telecoms 150 2023: Reliance Jio becomes World's 2nd Strongest Telecom Brand; Swisscom Tops

- ✓ As per the Brand Finance Telecoms 150 2023, an annual report of the strongest telecoms brand, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, an Indian Telecommunications company & subsidiary of Jio Platforms, is Asia's strongest and World's 2nd strongest telecoms brand having a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 90 out of 100 and earning an elite AAA+ rating.
- ✓ Reliance Jio has climbed up to 2nd rank from 5th place in 2022 in a list of the top 10 strongest telecom brands in the world.
- ✓ Swisscom, a major telecommunications provider in Switzerland, is the world's strongest telecoms brand with a BSI score of 92/100.

11th Edition of International IPR Index 2023: India ranks 42nd out of 55

- ✓ According to the International Intellectual Property Rights Index 2023 (11th edition) released by the
- ✓ United States (US) Chamber of Commerce, India ranks 42nd with an overall index score of 38.64% (i.e., 19.32 out of 50) among 55 major global economies across 50 unique indicators.
- ✓ According to the index, India is well-positioned to take the lead among developing nations in driving innovation that is IP-driven to transform their economies.
- ✓ India was placed 43rd out of 55 countries in 2022 and 40th in the index in 2021, rising just one spot to the 42nd position in 2023.
- ✓ The index was launched by the Global Innovation Policy Centre of the US Chamber of Commerce and is closely monitored by the Indian government.
- ✓ The annual international IP index assesses the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in 55 of the world's largest economies, which account for around 90% of global GDP.

S&P Global's Top 250 Global Energy Company ranking: NTPC Top among Independent Power Producers and Energy Traders

- ✓ NTPC Limited, India's largest power generating company has topped among the Independent Power Producers and Energy Traders category in the S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings® 2022. Globally, NTPC is ranked 58th. Saudi Arabian Oil Co topped.
- ✓ Indian companies among the top 50 on the ranking: Oil & Natural Gas Corp Ltd(ONGC)-14, Reliance Industries Ltd(RIL)-22, Indian Oil Corp Ltd(IOCL)-25, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd(BPCL)-44, Coal India Ltd(CIL)-46.
- ✓ .The S&P Global's ranking, the annual survey of the publically traded global energy companies, calculates and ranks based on financial performance using four key metrics: asset worth, revenues, profits and return on invested capital.

UK Overtakes India as World's 6th-Biggest Stock Market with \$3.11 trillion Mcap

- ✓ As per the data of Bloomberg, the United Kingdom (UK) became the world's 6th-largest equity market surpassing India for the first time in almost 9 months (Since May 2022).
- ✓ On 21 February 2023, the combined market capitalization (Mcap) of primary listings in the UK, excluding ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) and ADRs (American depositary receipt), reached about \$3.11 trillion, about \$5.1 billion higher than their Indian equivalents.
- ✓ .UK loses its place as Europe's biggest stock market in 2022 as UK's equity market capitalization remains behind France.

India jumps to 55th rank in ICAO's Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking: DGCA

- ✓ As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India's position has improved in the

Aviation Safety Oversight Ranking of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as India's aviation security monitoring ranking has improved to the 55th position from 112th place.

- ✓ Under the continuous monitoring approach of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP), the Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was launched in India from November 9 to 16, 2022.

Services Trade Restrictiveness Index: India Ranked 47; Japan and UK gained 1st two Spots

- ✓ India ranked 47th in OECD's (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) report titled 'OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Policy trends up to 2023', which highlights the key outcomes of the 2022 OECD STRI.
- ✓ India's rank of 47 among 50 countries shows the presence of more market restrictions in the country.
- ✓ OECD STRI index covers 38 OECD members, as well as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam. Russia, Thailand and Indonesia are the three countries ranked below India.
- ✓ Japan, UK and Netherlands are placed top three spots.

FT Global MBA Ranking 2023: ISB Placed First among Indian B-Schools

- ✓ According to the "Financial Times (FT) Global MBA Ranking 2023," the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) from the Indian School of Business (ISB) has retained its prominence among Indian B-Schools and is the only Indian B-school (Business School) to rank in the top 50 globally. (As of February 13, 2023).
- ✓ ISB dropped to 39th rank in the world from 32nd in 2022 and 23rd in 2021. It is currently ranked sixth in Asia.
- ✓ ISB has campuses in Hyderabad (Telangana) and Mohali (Punjab).
- ✓ In 2022, India had four B-schools in the list.

- ✓ IIM Ahmedabad (Gujarat) rose to 51st in the 2023 ranking from 62nd in 2022.
- ✓ • IIM Bangalore (Karnataka) is ranked 52nd, IIM Calcutta (West Bengal) is ranked 76th, IIM
- ✓ Indore is ranked 89th, and IIM Lucknow is ranked 90th.
- ✓ Top 3 Global B-schools on the list: (As of February 13, 2023): Columbia Business School, US (1st spot), Insead, France/Singapore, (2nd spot), Iese Business School Spain (3rd spot).

NSSO's 5th Annual Report PLFS 2021-22: Unemployment rate dips to 4.1% in July 2021-June 2022

- ✓ On February 24, 2023, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 5th 'Annual Report Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)- July, 2021
- ✓ June, 2022' stating Unemployment rate (UR) at 5-year low of 4.1% in 2021-22. It was 4.2% in July 2020-June 2021.
- ✓ The pan-India UR for male was 4.4% and for women was 3.3% in July, 2021 – June, 2022.
- ✓ The Unemployment Rate (UR) under the 'usual status' during the one-year period declined for the fourth consecutive year since it was launched in April 2017.
- ✓ The 5th annual report by NSSO is premised upon the PLFS conducted during July 2021-June 2022.
- ✓ .In usual status, employment is determined on the basis of the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of the survey,
- ✓ The NSSO also released the **17th quarterly PLFS survey for urban India** for October-December 2022 quarter. As per it, India's urban UR in CWS terms for persons aged 15 years and above declined to 7.2% during October-
- ✓ December 2022 from 8.7% a year ago (October-December 2021).
- ✓ The unemployment rate in the July-September 2022 was also 7.2% only.
- ✓ For all ages, India's urban UR in CWS terms in October-December 2022 was also 7.2%.

Mercom report: India's solar capacity installations grows 27% to 13 GW in 2022

- ✓ As per the Mercom India report, titled '2022 Q4 and Annual India Solar Market Update', Solar capacity installations in India increased by 27% year-on-year (y-o-y) to 13 gigawatts (GW) during the calendar year (CY) 2022 compared to 10.2 GW installed in CY 2021.
- ✓ Solar capacity Installations in 2022 were the highest ever recorded in India.
- ✓ The cumulative solar capacity installed in India was approximately 63 GW at the end of Q4 2022.
- ✓ Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gujarat were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity, accounting for 54% of installations in India as of December 2022.
- ✓ Renewable energy sources accounted for 96% of new power capacity added in 2022, the highest share in India's history.
- ✓ According to "State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India" report by Mercom India Research, India's Solar Module Manufacturing Capacity to Reach 95 GW by 2025.

IEA's Electricity Market Report 2023: Asia set to use half of World's Electricity by 2025

- ✓ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) report Electricity Market Report 2023 released on 8th February 2023, Asia will use half of the world's electricity by 2025, a majority of which will be used in China, which consumes more electricity than the European Union, the United States (US), and India combined.
- ✓ Africa will only use 3% of the world's electricity in 2025, despite having a fifth of the world's population.
- ✓ The IEA's annual report predicts that nuclear energy and renewable sources like wind and solar will supply the majority of the additional electricity generated globally over the next three years.
- ✓ The report warned that electricity demand and supply are becoming increasingly weather dependent.

- ✓ In 2022, Electricity demand in India (8.4%) and the United States (US) (92.6%) rose, while Covid restrictions affected China's growth.

CloudSEK report: India Accounts for Most Cyber Attacks in Asia in 2022

- ✓ According to the Global Threat Landscape Report 2021-2022 by CloudSEK, a contextual AI company that predicts Cyber Threats, India is the most targeted country by hackers in Asia in both 2021 and 2022.
- ✓ Globally, India is the 2nd most targeted country in 2022 while the United States of America(USA) remained the most targeted country.
- ✓ The number of cyber attacks targeting India has increased by 24.3% in 2022.
- ✓ Indonesia, Russia and China are the 3rd, 4th and 5th most targeted countries in 2022.

India tops as most inclusive nation for religious minorities: Global Minority Report

- ✓ As per the Centre for Policy Analysis' (CPA) inaugural assessment on global minorities in its' Global Minority Report', India has topped one among 110 nations for its inclusivity measures towards religious minorities.
- ✓ India has the highest level of religious minorities' acceptance. India is followed by South Korea, Japan, Panama, and the United States (US) at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th positions respectively.
- ✓ The report, released by former Vice President (VP) of India Venkaiah Naidu in November 2022, is based on conceptual issues relating to human rights, minorities, the concept of religious freedom and cultural dilemma of religious minorities, causes of religious differences and more.
- ✓ Maldives, Afghanistan, and Somalia are at the bottom of the list.
- ✓ The United Kingdom(UK) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are at positions 54 and 61, respectively.
- ✓ India's Constitution has unique provisions for promoting religious minorities in culture and education and there are no similar provisions for

linguistic and religious minorities in any other constitution. There is also no restriction on any religious sects in India.

Every 2 Minutes, A Woman Dies During Pregnancy or Childbirth: WHO Report

- ✓ According to the report titled “Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020” produced by World Health Organization (WHO), which tracks maternal deaths nationally, regionally and globally from 2000 to 2020, it was estimated that around 287 000 women died from a maternal cause in 2020, which is approximately 800 deaths every day and one every 2 minutes.
- ✓ The report highlights the setbacks for women’s health in recent years. The Rate of maternal deaths fell significantly between 2000 and 2015 but largely stagnated between 2016 and 2020 in nearly all regions of the world.
- ✓ Nigeria had the highest estimated number of maternal deaths, accounting for over one quarter (28.5%) of all estimated global maternal deaths in 2020, with approximately 82 000 maternal deaths. Second to Nigeria, India accounted for 8.3% of global maternity deaths i.e. around 24 000 in 2020.
- ✓ Two other countries with more than 10 000 maternal deaths in 2020: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (22 000) (7.5%) and Ethiopia (10 000) (3.6%) of global maternal deaths, respectively.

IEA Report: India’s ‘LiFE’ Initiative Can Save USD 440 Billion Globally in 2030

- ✓ The International Energy Agency (IEA) claimed in its country report titled “LiFE lessons from India – The benefits of advancing the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative through the G20” that if adopted worldwide, the measures specified under the LiFE initiative could save consumers around USD 440 billion in 2030, corresponding to around 5% of total fuel spending across the global economy that year.
- ✓ It further said that implementing India’s “LiFE” initiative may help decrease worldwide carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by more than 2 billion metric tonnes by 2030, or roughly one-fifth of the

emission reduction required to reach global net-zero emissions.

✓ **Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Initiative:**

In November 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the LiFE initiative during the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that was held in Glasgow, Scotland (United Kingdom).

UN Agencies Report: Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2022

- ✓ According to a joint report by the United Nations (UN) Agencies titled “Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2022: Urban Food Security and Nutrition”, an increasing number of people in Asia lack enough to eat as food insecurity rises with greater prices and worsening poverty.
- ✓ This joint flagship report is published by 4 specialized agencies of the UN: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✓ According to the report, about a half billion people were undernourished in 2021, with more than eight in ten of them in South Asia, and more than 1 billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity.
- ✓ Globally, the prevalence of food insecurity increased from 21% in 2014 to over 29% in 2021.
- ✓ According to the report, Asia’s cities are growing at such a rapid pace that about 55% of the region’s vast population is predicted to live in urban areas by 2030, with equally huge implications for urban food security and nutrition.
- ✓ According to UN agencies, the prevalence of undernourishment was 9.1% in 2021, down from 14.3% in 2000 but up slightly from 2020.
- ✓ Every year, the APAC region imports nearly USD 2 trillion in food. In Asia, about 2 billion people, or nearly 45% of the population, cannot afford healthy diets, which worsens hunger as well as anaemia and obesity issues.

IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme/ Description
February 28	Rare Disease Day 2023	Rare Disease Day is annually observed across the globe on the last day of February, either 28th or 29 th February (in case of leap year) to create awareness about rare diseases and ensure access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 28th February 2023 marks the observance of the 16th Rare Disease Day. <p>Theme of 2023: “Share Your Colours”. This is the continuation of the 2022 theme.</p>
February 28	National Science Day 2023	National Science Day (NSD) is annually observed across India on February 28 in commemoration of the discovery of the Raman Effect (28th February 1928) by the Indian scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman). <p>Theme of 2023: “Global Science for Global Wellbeing”.</p>
February 27	National Protein day 2023	National Protein Day is annually observed across India on February 27 to raise public awareness and Educate people about the health benefits of protein. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th February 2023 marks the observance of the 4th National Protein Day. <p>Theme of 2023: “Easy Access to Protein for All”.</p>
February 24	Central Excise Day 2023	The Central Excise Day is annually observed across India on 24th February to recognise and acknowledge the efforts and contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) towards the development of India. <p>The day also marks the anniversary of the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act on 24th February 1944.</p>
February 22	World Thinking Day 2023	World Thinking Day (WTD) is annually observed across the globe on February 22. The day is annually observed and organised by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). <p>Theme of 2023: “Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security”</p>
February 21	International Mother Language Day 2023	United Nations (UN)’s International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is annually observed across the globe on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity, as well as multilingualism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st February 2023 marks the observance of the 24th edition of IMLD. <p>Theme of 2023: “Multilingual education – a necessity to transform education”.</p>

February 13 to 17	Financial Literacy Week 2023	RBI is annually observing the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) to create awareness about the importance of financial literacy to address demand side barriers and enable customers to make better financial decisions. The Financial Literacy Week 2023 was observed from 13th to 17th February 2023. <u>Theme of 2023:</u> “Good Financial Behaviour, Your Saviour”.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice 2023	United Nations (UN)’s World Day of Social Justice is annually observed across the globe on February 20 to raise a voice against social injustice. <u>Theme of 2023:</u> “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”.
February 13	International Epilepsy Day 2023	International Epilepsy Day is annually observed across the globe on the 2nd Monday of February to raise awareness of Epilepsy and its impact on individuals, families and communities around the world. <u>Theme of 2023:</u> “Stigma”.
February 13	National Women’s Day 2023	National Women’s Day is annually observed across India on February 13 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, who was referred to as the “Nightingale of India”. • 13th February 2023 marks the 144th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
February 13	World Radio Day 2023	The United Nations (UN)’s World Radio Day is annually observed across the globe on 13th February to highlight the importance of radio as an essential part of the maintenance and transition to peace. • World Radio Day also marks the anniversary of the establishment of the UN Radio service “UN Radio” which was established on 13th February 1946. <u>Theme of 2023:</u> “Radio and Peace”
February 12	National Productivity Day 2023 (National Productivity Week 2023 – 12th-18th February)	National Productivity Day or National Productivity Council Foundation Day is annually observed across India on February 12 to mark the foundation day of the National Productivity Council of India (NPC) and raise awareness of productivity, efficiency, and innovation. • National Productivity Day is celebrated as part of National Productivity Week, which is observed annually from 12 to 18 February. • The events and observance of National Productivity Week and National Productivity Day are led by the National Productivity Council of India (NPC). <u>Theme of 2023 :</u> “Productivity, Green Growth, and Sustainability: Celebrating India’s G20 Presidency”.

February 11	World Unani Day 2023	World Unani Day is annually observed across the globe on February 11 to create and spread awareness about health care delivery through the Unani system of medicine. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Mohammad Ajmal Khan, better known as “Hakim Ajmal Khan”, a great Indian Unani Scholar and social reformer. 11th February 2023 marks the 155th anniversary of Mohammad Ajmal Khan. Theme of 2023: “Unani Medicine for Public Health”.
February 10	World Pulses Day 2023	United Nations (UN)’s World Pulses Day (WPD) is annually observed across the globe on February 10 to recognise the value of these food items and to increase knowledge of the nutritional benefits of consuming a variety of foods, including pulses. The 1st ever World Pulses Day was observed on 10th February 2019. Theme of 2023: “Pulses for a sustainable future”.
February 7	Safer Internet Day 2023	Safer Internet Day (SID) is annually observed across the globe on the 2nd Day (Tuesday) of the 2nd week of February to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns and to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Theme of 2023: “Together for a better internet“
February 4	World Cancer Day 2023	World Cancer Day (WCD) is annually observed across the globe on February 4 to raise awareness towards cancer and to encourage its identification, prevention, and treatment. • <u>The campaign theme of World Cancer Day 2022-2024 is “Close the care gap”.</u> • <u>The Campaign theme of World Cancer Day 2023 is “Close the care Gap: Uniting our voices and taking action”.</u> The 2023 campaign invites like-minded individuals to join to strengthen alliances and new innovative collaborations in the fight against cancer.
February 2	World Wetlands Day 2023	The United Nations (UN)’s World Wetlands Day is annually observed across the globe on 2nd February to create awareness about the wetlands, a critically important ecosystem on the planet and their vital role in the lives of the people. Theme of 2023: “Wetland Restoration”.
February 1	Indian Coast Guard Celebrates 47th Raising Day	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day is annually observed across India on February 1 to commemorate its Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard operating under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India(GoI).

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Name the learning-Teaching Material that has recently (in Feb '23) launched by Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan for the foundational stage children in the age group of 3 to 8 years.
 - a) Diksha Setu
 - b) Shiksha Pitara
 - c) Bhasha Sangam
 - d) Jaadui Pitara
 - e) Nadi ko Jano
2. Which Municipal Corporation's green bonds have been recently (in Feb '23) listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) marking the first-ever green bond issue by a municipal corporation in India?
 - a) Agra
 - b) Indore
 - c) Varanasi
 - d) Chennai
 - e) Kochi
3. Which of the following points is/are 'Correct' with respect to the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) 2023 held at Mumbai, Maharashtra in February 2023?
 - A) Bollywood actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt received awards in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories for 'Brahmastra: Part 1' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' respectively.
 - B) Filmmaker Anupam Kher's Hindi Movie 'Kantara' won the Best Film award.
 - C) Filmmaker SS Rajamouli's Telugu Movie, 'RRR' received the Film of the year award.
 - a) Only C
 - b) Only A & B
 - c) Only B & C
 - d) Only A & C
 - e) All A, B, C
4. Which of the following points is/are 'Correct' with respect to the 13th Sansad Ratna Awards, as of February 2023?
 - A) 13 members of Parliament (MP): 5 from Rajya Sabha and 8 from Lok Sabha are selected for Sansad Ratna Awards for 2023.
 - B) T K Rangarajan, Former Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha has been nominated for the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award.
 - C) 2 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSC) were also selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards under special awards category.
 - a) All A, B, C
 - b) Only A & B
 - c) Only B & C
 - d) Only A & C
 - e) Only B
5. Name the company that has recently (in Feb '23) built the world's first set of new- generation High Temperature Superconducting (HTS) Magnets for testing the fusion power plant.
 - a) First Light Fusion Limited
 - b) Tokamak Energy Limited
 - c) General Fusion Limited
 - d) BlackLight Power Limited
 - e) TAE Technologies Limited
6. Name the personality from India who was recently (in Feb '23) selected as the external Auditor of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for a 4-year term (2024-2027)?
 - a) Shashi Kant Sharama
 - b) Vinod Rai
 - c) Rajiv Mehrishi
 - d) Girish Chandra Murmu
 - e) V.N. Kaul
7. As per the 17th quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India's urban Unemployment Rate (UR) in current weekly status (CWS) terms for persons aged 15 years and above declined to 7.2% in October-December 2022 from _____ in October-December 2021.
 - a) 7.5%
 - b) 8.0%
 - c) 7.9%
 - d) 8.2%
 - e) 8.7%
8. Which stock exchange company's subsidiary has recently (in Feb '23) launched India's 1st Municipal Bond Index.
 - a) Calcutta Stock Exchange
 - b) Vadodara Stock Exchange
 - c) Bombay Stock Exchange
 - d) Madras Stock Exchange
 - e) National Stock Exchange
9. Which cricket team recently (in Feb '23) won the 8th edition of ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 by defeating South Africa women's team & claimed their 6th & 3rd consecutive ICC Women's T20 World Cup title?
 - a) Australia
 - b) England
 - c) India
 - d) West Indies
 - e) New Zealand

10. In which city, Boeing has recently (in Feb '2023) launched its 1st Global Support Center in India?
a) Kanpur
b) Jaipur
c) Mumbai
d) Gurugram
e) Jodhpur
11. Which Indian regulatory body has recently (in Feb '2023) launched its 2nd global hackathon 'HARBINGER 2023'?
a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
b) Reserve Bank of India
c) Medical Council of India
d) Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India
e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
12. Name the first company in India that recently (in Feb '2023) launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for foreign nationals visiting India.
a) EbixCash
b) RemitX
c) Orient Exchange
d) FXCM
e) Nium
13. As per the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) update in January 2023, India's growth is projected to decline from 6.8% in 2022 to _____ in 2023.
a) 6.3%
b) 6.1%
c) 5.7%
d) 6.5%
e) 5.9%
14. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (in Feb '23) introduced a Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transaction code in which of the following payment methods?
a) National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)
b) Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Systems
c) Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
d) Both 1 & 2
e) All 1, 2 & 3
15. Which company has recently (in Feb '2023) launched "Lexi", India's 1st Artificial intelligence (AI) Chatbot integrated with OpenAI's ChatGPT, an AI computer program?
a) Paytm
b) Lendingkart
c) Razorpay
d) Velocity
e) MoneyTap
16. Name the Payment Bank that has recently (in Feb '23) become the first in India to launch UPI LITE feature.
a) Paytm Payments Bank Limited
b) Airtel Payments Bank Limited
c) NSDL Payments Bank Limited
d) Jio Payments Bank Limited
e) FINO Payments Bank Limited
17. In February 2023, India and _____ (country) launched live cross-border payment linkage between Unified Payments Interface (UPI)- PayNow.
a) Sri Lanka
b) Nepal
c) Singapore
d) Maldives
e) France
18. Which of the following points is 'Incorrect' with respect to the RBI's Bi-monthly monetary policy of FY23 held in February 2023?
a) India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.4% for FY24 (lower than 7% in FY23)
b) The MPC raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50% from 6.25%.
c) The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate adjusted to 6.25% from 6.0% and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate to 6.75% from 6.50%.
d) The Bank Rate remained unchanged at 6.50%.
e) Inflation is projected at 6.5% in FY23.
19. In which state/UT, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has recently (in Feb '23) discovered the Lithium Reserves for the 1st time?
a) Bihar
b) Karnataka
c) Madhya Pradesh
d) Jammu and Kashmir
e) Jharkhand
20. To which State/UT, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently (in Feb '23) approved a loan of USD 130 million (over Rs. 1,072 crore)?
a) Nagaland
b) West Bengal
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Uttarakhand
e) Chhattisgarh
21. Which of the following satellites is/are launched (in Feb '23) successfully by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the 2nd edition of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)?
a) AzaadiSAT-2
b) ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite-07/EOS-7
c) Janus-1
d) Both 1 & 2
e) All 1, 2 & 3
22. Which bank has recently (in Feb '23) signed an MoU with a European bank, BNP Paribas to meet the financial needs of European enterprises operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union (EU)?
a) HDFC Bank
b) Axis Bank
c) ICICI Bank
d) YES Bank
e) IndusInd Bank

23. Name the company that has recently (in Feb '23) introduced "Snapdragon Satellite", the world's 1st satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution for premium smartphones.
- Micron Technology Inc
 - Qualcomm Technologies Inc
 - Microsoft Corporation
 - Ericsson Limited
 - NEC Corporation
24. India has ranked ____ among 55 leading global economies on the International IP Index released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce.
- 20th
 - 40th
 - 42nd
 - 35th
 - 50th
25. The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the _____ in Gujarat.
- Indian Institute of Technology
 - National Institution of Design
 - Maharaja Sayajirao University
 - Gujarat University
 - Nirma University
26. Which team was named the winner of the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship in 2023
- Kerala
 - Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Maharashtra
27. 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' Festival is organized to celebrate the culture of which state?
- Karnataka
 - Odisha
 - Assam
 - Manipur
 - Nagaland
28. For the first time Indian submarine _____ docked in Indonesia.
- INS Vagir
 - INS Arihant
 - INS Shalki
 - INS Sindhukesari
 - INS Arighat
29. India and _____ have agreed to cooperate in the oil and gas sector, including long-term crude purchases.
- Guyana
 - Suriname
 - Venezuela
 - Paraguay
 - Ecuador
30. The term of the 22nd Law Commission is extended till _____.
- 31st November 2023
 - 22nd January 2024
 - 26th January 2025
 - 31st August 2024
 - 15th August 2025
31. Who was awarded the 'Entrepreneur of the Year 2022' title?
- Sajjan Jindal
 - Kumar Mangalam Birla
 - Sanjeev Sharma
 - Satya Nadella
 - Arvind Krishna
32. Who received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award?
- Arjun Ram Meghwal
 - Sudhir Gupta
 - Dr. Heena Vijayakumar Gavit
 - T K Ranagarajan
 - K Srinivasan
33. Which High court in India becomes the first to publish a judgment in a regional language?
- Bombay High Court
 - Kerala High Court
 - Calcutta High Court
 - Bangalore High Court
 - Allahabad High Court
34. Indian chess player _____ became the 80th Grandmaster of India.
- Adhiban Baskaran
 - Vignesh NR
 - Vidit Gujrathi
 - Nihal Sarin
 - Gukesh D
35. Which country will host the Malabar naval exercise for the first time this August?
- Australia
 - India
 - China
 - Pakistan
 - Sri Lanka
36. The World Health Organisation will be setting up an mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine hub in which state?
- Telangan
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Kerela
 - Goa
 - Maharashtra

37. Former IAS officer BVR Subrahmanyam was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of _____.
a) National Human Rights Commission
b) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Mantri
c) Niti Aayog
d) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
e) Planning Commission
38. Which bank tops the list of public sector lenders in loan growth, and asset quality?
a) Bank of Baroda
b) Bank of Maharashtra
c) Canara Bank
d) Punjab National Bank
e) Bank of India
39. Which Ministry extended the Unemployment benefits under ESIC for 2 years?
a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
b) Ministry of Finance
c) Ministry of Culture
d) Ministry of External Affairs
e) Minister for Labor & Employment
40. Where will India's First Frozen Lake Marathon be hosted?
a) Odisha
b) Ladakh
c) Sikkim
d) Delhi
e) Haryana
41. Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the 200th birth Anniversary of _____, who founded the Arya Samaj in 1875.
a) Mahatma Gandhi
b) Dayanand Saraswati
c) Jawaharlal Nehru
d) Tantia Tope
e) Dadabhai Naoroji
42. Who inaugurated the AMRITPEX 2023?
a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
b) Home Minister Amit Shah
c) Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnav
d) Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan
e) Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy
43. President of India Inaugurated the 2nd Indian Rice Congress at _____.
a) Vishakhapatnam
b) Kolkata
c) Mumbai
d) Cuttack
e) Pune
44. Which payment platform released a QR Code with a G20 theme to commemorate India's presidency?
a) Paytm
b) GooglePay
c) PhonePe
d) BharatPe
e) Amazon Pay
45. RBI's financial literacy week starts from ____ 2023
a) 14th – 18th February
b) 17th – 18th February
c) 20th – 25th February
d) 13th – 17th February
e) 15th – 17th February
46. Who won the Hyderabad E-Prix?
a) Jean-Eric Vergne
b) Lewis Hamilton
c) George Russell
d) Max Verstappen
e) Sergio Perez
47. Mohammad Shahabuddin was elected as the 22nd President of which country?
a) Sri Lanka
b) India
c) Pakistan
d) Nepal
e) Bangladesh
48. Which state was the overall champion of the 5th Khelo India Youth Games?
a) Haryana
b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Rajasthan
d) Delhi
e) Maharashtra
49. Which university is declared the world's first living heritage university by UNESCO?
a) University of Madras
b) Takshashila University
c) University of Mumbai
d) Visva-Bharati University
e) Serampore College
50. Which country has named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row?
a) India
b) Finland
c) Russia
d) Australia
e) Belgium

1	d	11	b	21	e	31	a	41	b
2	b	12	a	22	c	32	d	42	c
3	d	13	b	23	b	33	b	43	d
4	a	14	d	24	c	34	b	44	a
5	b	15	d	25	c	35	a	45	d
6	d	16	a	26	c	36	a	46	a
7	e	17	c	27	a	37	c	47	e
8	e	18	d	28	d	38	b	48	e
9	a	19	d	29	a	39	e	49	d
10	d	20	c	30	d	40	b	50	b

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