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English Medium

Digest MAY - 2023

Coverage from 1<sup>ST</sup> April.2023 to 30<sup>TH</sup> April.2023

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



THE WORLD BANK  
Logistics Performance Index

World Bank's LPI 2023 Report

India has jumped 6 places and ranked 38 out of 139 countries in the 7th edition of World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023. Singapore topped

NATIONAL  
QUANTUM MISSION  
OF INDIA

National Quantum Mission

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an outlay of Rs.6003.65 crore for 8 years (from 2023-24 to 2030-31).



59th Femina Miss India World

Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta crowned Femina Miss India World 2023



Ratan Tata

Ratan Tata honoured with Order of Australia (AO), highest civil honour of Australia



Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

Rail Vikas Nigam is now India's 13th Navratna in nine years



Kangra tea

Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI Tag



Parkash Singh Badal

Five-time Punjab CM and veteran Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Parkash Singh Badal passed away at the age of 95



14th Dalai Lama

14th Dalai Lama gets the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in Person after 64 years



Anant Maheshwari

Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari appointed as Chairperson of NASSCOM

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Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day  
 – Dalai Lama

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## India's tallest Ambedkar statue



Telangana CM KCR unveiled a 125-foot-tall statue of Dr. B R Ambedkar on the banks of Hussainsagar, marking the latter's 132nd birth anniversary.

### About India's tallest Ambedkar statue

**Location:** On the banks of Hussainsagar near the new Secretariat complex in Hyderabad.

It is claimed to be the tallest statue in the country ever built for Dr. B R Ambedkar.

**Height:** It has an overall height of 175 feet, including a 50 feet high circular base resembling the edifice of the Parliament of India. The statue weighs 474 tonnes.

**Designers:** It was designed by renowned sculptors Ram Vanji Sutar and his son Anil Ram Sutar of Ram Sutar Art Creations in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, who also designed several monumental sculptures, including the world's tallest statue — the Statue of Unity (597 feet) of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat.

### About Dr. B R Ambedkar

He was an Indian jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer.

**Name:** Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is popularly known as Babasaheb, meaning "respected father" in Marathi and Hindi.

Ambedkar was born into a poor low Mahar (dalit) caste, who were treated as untouchables and subjected to socio-economic discrimination.

He campaigned against social discrimination toward the untouchables.

In 1930, Ambedkar launched the Kalaram Temple movement to enter Kalaram Temple.

**Poona Pact:** It was an agreement made in 1932 between Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi on the reservation of electoral seats for the depressed classes.

### Architect of Constitution


He was the architect of the Constitution of India by serving as the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee.

He was independent India's first law and justice minister.

# IACE

### Logistics Jump

India has jumped 6 places to rank **38** out of 139 countries in LPI 2023



**Soft and hard infra helps improve performance**    **Technology also a factor**    **Better dwell times than some advanced countries**

	Rank	Rank	2018	2023
Singapore	1	LPI Rank	44	▲ 38
Finland	2	Customs	40	▼ 47
Germany	3	Infrastructure	52	▲ 47
Canada	7	International shipments	44	▲ 22
France	13	Logistics quality and competence	42	▲ 38
United States	17	Tracking and tracing	38	▼ 41
China	19	Timeliness	52	▲ 35
United Kingdom	19			
Malaysia	26			
Thailand	34			
India	38			
Saudi Arabia	38			

2023 rank is grouped rank out of 139 countries, 2018 rank considered 160 countries

world Bank  
**Logistics Performance Index 2023**

According to the World Bank’s report titled *Connecting to Compete 2023: Trade Logistics in an Uncertain Global Economy – the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and its indicators* released on April 21,2023, India has climbed six places on the World Bank’s Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023, now ranking 38th(Score 3.4) in the 139 countries Index.This is a significant improvement from its previous ranking of 44th in 2018 and 54th in 2014. India share the 38th rank with Lithuania, Portugal , Saudi Arabia, Türkiye. Singapore topped the ranking followed by Finland at second, and Denmark at third.

Note: In 2016 India ranked at the 35th position among 160 countries

✓ The LPI was reported by the World Bank every two years from 2010 to 2018 with a break in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a restructuring of the index methodology, eventually came out in 2023. This is the 7th edition of *Connecting to Compete*, a report that summarize the findings from the new dataset for LPI and its component indicators.

- ✓ LPI 2023 allows for comparison across 139 countries and for the first time, LPI 2023 measures the speed of trade with indicators derived from big datasets tracking shipments..
- ✓ India’s score and rank under The LPI considers 6 parameters to evaluate logistics performance: Customs (Score-3, Rank-47), Infrastructure (Score-3.2, Rank-47), International shipments (Score-3.5,Rank-22), Logistics competence and equality (Score-3.5, Rank-38), Timeliness (Score-3.6,Rank-35), Tracking and tracing (Score-3.4,Rank-41).

**Policy Interventions**

- ✓ PM Gati Shakti Initiative: In October 2021, government announced the PM Gati Shakti initiative, a National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity. This initiative aims to reduce logistics costs and boost the economy by 2024-25.
- ✓ National Logistics Policy (NLP): The PM launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) in 2022 to ensure quick last-mile delivery, end transport-related challenges, save time and money for the manufacturing sector and ensure desired speed in the logistics sector. These policy interventions are fructifying, which can be seen in India's jump in LPI and its other parameters.

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

### US State Officially Declares Diwali as a National Holiday

- ✓ Thousands of people across Pennsylvania, a US state, celebrate the Diwali festival and the state has now announced it as a holiday.
- ✓ Northeastern State's senator Nikil Saval posted this on Twitter and welcomes all residents to celebrate the Indian event.
- ✓ He further asserted that Diwali is a festival of lights and happiness and represents light over darkness. People usually spark diyas and visit temples for offerings to deities.

### Syria Becomes Biggest Narco-State in the World

- ✓ It came to light that Syria's earnings are largely from Captagon hence it is now the largest narco-state in the world.
- ✓ A narco-state is one whose economy and income depend on the trading of illegitimate drugs.
- ✓ Captagon is a dangerous alternative to amphetamine and is considered an illegal drug at a global level. The cost of this drug is not much however with bribing and corruption, the range increases up to USD 14-20.

### IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania

- ✓ Chennai(Tamil Nadu) based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is set to establish its first
- ✓ International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania and plans to start the classes in October 2023. This will be the first IIT established in Africa.
- ✓ This will play a major role in towards growth and nation-building of Tanzania and Africa.
- ✓ In February 2023, a team of 5 professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania and discussed with the officials about starting the campus.
- ✓ This announcement was made by Director V Kamakoti, IIT Madras, during the IIT Madras's 64th Institute Day (20 April 2023).

### Ghana becomes 1st Country to Approve Oxford Malaria Vaccine

- ✓ The Republic of Ghana has become the 1st country to approve a highly effective malaria vaccine "R21/MatrixM" developed at Oxford University in the United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ The vaccine was approved by Ghana's Food and Drug Authority (FDA).
- ✓ The R21/Matrix-M vaccine has been licenced for use in children aged 5-36 months, who are most at risk of dying from malaria.
- ✓ Oxford's R21/Matrix-M vaccine, meanwhile, was found to be 77 percent effective at preventing malaria
- ✓ This vaccine is the first to surpass the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of 75% efficacy.
- ✓ The vaccine R21 contains Matrix-M, a saponin-based adjuvant from Novavax that increases immune system response and increases the vaccination's potency and durability.
- ✓ WHO estimates that 619,000 people died from malaria in 2021, the majority of whom were children in SubSaharan Africa.

### India-built Mongolia's First greenfield Oil Refinery to be completed by 2025

- ✓ Mongolia's first greenfield oil refinery, built in the South Gobi on the outskirts of the capital city - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025.
- ✓ Its first stage of Mongol Oil Refinery, built with a USD 1.2 billion Indian soft loan, will be completed at the end 2023 while its Stage-2 (Open Art Units, Utilities & Offsites, Plant Buildings) and Stage-3 (Captive Power Plants) at a cost of USD 790 million will be completed by 2025.
- ✓ The project is part of the Development Partnership Administration initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India.
- ✓ It is being developed by the Hyderabad (Telangana)- based Megha Engineering and

Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) which received the letter of authorization for this project in 2022.

### Georgia becomes first American state to condemn Hinduphobia, passes resolution

- ✓ Georgia, United States of America(USA) passed a resolution condemning “Hinduphobia” and “anti-Hindu bigotry”- becoming the first state in the country to do so.
- ✓ The resolution was introduced by Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones from Forsyth County in the suburbs of Atlanta, home to one of the largest Hindu and Indian-American diaspora communities in Georgia.
- ✓ The resolution observed that the American-Hindu community has been a major contributor to diverse sectors such as medicine, science and engineering, information technology, hospitality, finance, academia, manufacturing, energy, retail trade, among others.

### UK Becomes 12th Member of CPTPP

- ✓ On March 31, 2023, the Accession Working Group (AWG) of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) agreed on the accession of the United Kingdom (UK) as the 12th member of CPTPP.
- ✓ With this UK became the first European nation and the first non-founding country to join CPTPP. This will now expand the Asia-Pacific bloc’s coverage to the edge of Europe.
- ✓ CPTPP is a free trade agreement (FTA) signed by 11 nations – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile.
- ✓ Together, the 11 members account for about 13% of the world’s income.
- ✓ The combined GDP of the 11 CPTPP members and the UK was worth around £ 11 trillion Pound sterling in 2021.
- ✓ UK will be the trade group’s second-biggest economy after Japan.

### Finland became the 31st member of NATO

- ✓ Finland became the 31st member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on April 4, 2023, when it presented its instrument of accession to the ‘North Atlantic Treaty’ (Washington Treaty) with the United States (US) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ The accession of Finland coincides with the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of NATO’s founding treaty i.e. the ‘Washington Treaty’(which was signed on April 4, 1949).
- ✓ The accession is commemorated by a flag-raising ceremony at NATO headquarters and it also coincided with a NATO foreign ministers’ meeting. On July 5, 2022, NATO Allies signed Finland’s Accession Protocol, following which all 30 national parliaments voted to confirm the country’s membership.

#### About NATO

- ✓ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 31 member states – 29 European and two North American. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implemented the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949.
- ✓ **NATO Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg**

### EU removes Pakistan from list of high-risk third-country jurisdictions

- ✓ The European Commission of the European Union(EU) has removed Pakistan from its list of High-Risk ThirdCountry Jurisdictions, this move is expected to improve the conditions of business activities in Pakistan.
- ✓ Following the deletion, Pakistan will no longer be subjected to enhanced EU scrutiny which includes credit and financial institutions, auditors, external accountants, tax advisers, notaries and independent legal professionals, among others.

# NATIONAL

## Union Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission to scale-up Scientific & Industrial R&D for QT

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an outlay of Rs.6003.65 crore for 8 years (from 2023-24 to 2030-31). With this, India will join the top 6 nations (the United States of America (USA), Canada, China, France, Austria, and Finland who are involved in the R&D in the QT.



### Aim

- ✓ To seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial Research and Development (R&D)
- ✓ To create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in QT
- ✓ To make India one of the leading nations in the development of Quantum Technologies & Applications (QTA)

### Target of Mission

- ✓ To develop intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.
- ✓ To develop satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India, long distance secure quantum communications with other countries, inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km, and multi-node Quantum network with quantum memories, among others.

### Who will run the mission?

- ✓ The mission will be led by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) under a Mission Director.
- ✓ The Central Government will also constitute a mission secretariat which will have a governing body to steer the work under the leadership of scientists from the quantum field. iii.The Mission

Technology Research Council will work as a scientific advisory body for the governing body.

- ✓ **Mission Insights:** Under this mission, four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes on the domains – Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology and Quantum Materials & Devices.
- ✓ The hubs which will focus on generation of new knowledge through basic and applied research and promote R&D.
- ✓ The mission will help in the development of atomic-based magnetometers and atomic clocks, which can improve precision in timing, navigation, and communication.
- ✓ It will also support the design and production of quantum materials, such as superconductors, semiconductor structures, and topological materials, for use in quantum devices.
- ✓ The development of single photon and entangled photon sources/detectors will also be prioritized to advance quantum communication, sensing, and metrology.
- ✓ The mission has the potential to significantly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications.
- ✓ It will provide a boost to National priorities like digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ✓ **What is Quantum technology (QT)?**
- ✓ It is a field of physics and engineering that utilizes quantum phenomena to create new types of technology and devices. It involves the manipulation and control of the behavior of particles at the atomic and subatomic level. Quantum computers are work on atoms by using quantum bits (qubits) instead of classical bits to perform calculations. It can solve problems much faster with more authenticity, and also offers unique security.

## PM Modi inaugurated India's First Water Metro in Kerala

- ✓ The Prime Minister has recently inaugurated the first phase of Kochi Water Metro in Kerala – first-ever metro system of its kind. It's a public boat service integrated with the metro rail network. The project is being implemented by Kochi Metro Rail Corporation with the financial assistance provided by a German funding agency.
- ✓ The main objective is to link ten island communities in Kerala's city with the mainland, resulting in shorter travel times and more cost-effective transportation.
- ✓ Moreover, Kochi Water Metro is a modern ferry transport project consisting of numerous boats running along 16 routes across Greater Kochi. Equipped with cutting-edge safety devices and advanced technology, the ferry ensures smoother commutes and more efficient travel experiences. The boats in the Kochi Water Metro are powered by batteries and require only 10 to 20 minutes to traverse each route.



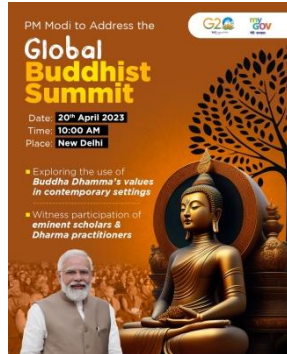
## Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the fifth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN 5.0

- ✓ Recently, the government has launched the fifth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN (UDAN 5.0).
  - ✓ The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement. It is a part of the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016. The scheme is applicable for a period of 10 years.
  - ✓ Under the scheme, airlines have to cap airfares for 50% of the total seats at Rs. 2,500 per hour of flight.
- Objectives:**
- ✓ Improve the air connectivity to remote and regional areas of India.

- ✓ Development of remote areas and enhancing trade and commerce and tourism expansion.
  - ✓ Enable common people to access air travel with affordable rates.
  - ✓ Employment creation in the aviation sector.
- Key Features of UDAN 5.0:**
- ✓ It focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) aircrafts.
  - ✓ There is no restriction on the distance between the origin and the destination of the flight.
  - ✓ VGF to be provided will be capped at 600 km stage length for both Priority and Non-Priority areas; earlier capped at 500 km.
  - ✓ No predetermined routes would be offered; only Network and Individual Route Proposal proposed by airlines will be considered.
  - ✓ The same route would not be awarded to a single airline more than once, whether in different networks or in the same network.
  - ✓ Exclusivity of operation provided to an airline will be withdrawn if the average quarterly Passenger Load Factor (PLF) is higher than 75% for four continuous quarters.
  - ✓ This has been done to prevent exploitation of the monopoly on a route.
  - ✓ Airlines would be required to commence operations within 4 months of the award of the route; earlier this deadline was 6 months.
  - ✓ Novation process for routes from one operator to another has been simplified and incentivized.
- Previous Phases of the UDAN Scheme:**
- ✓ **Phase 1** was launched in 2017, with the objective of connecting underserved and unserved airports in the country.
  - ✓ **Phase 2** was launched in 2018, with the aim of expanding air connectivity to more remote and inaccessible parts of the country.
  - ✓ **Phase 3** was launched in November 2018, with the focus on enhancing air connectivity to hilly and remote regions of the country.
  - ✓ **Phase 4** of the UDAN scheme was launched in December 2019, with a focus on connecting islands and other remote areas of the country.

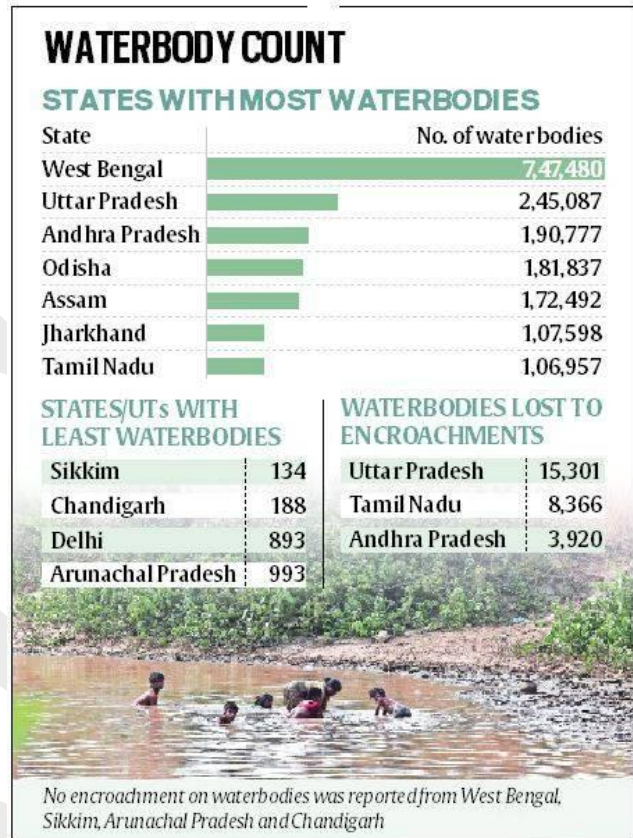
## Global Buddhist Summit 2023

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Culture in partnership with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) has organized the 1st Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, which aims to enhance cultural and diplomatic relations with other countries.
- ✓ Buddhist monks from various countries took part in the two-day Summit, which was held in New Delhi from 20 to 21 April 2023.
- ✓ Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world attended the conference. There are 173 international participants comprising 84 Sangha member and 151 Indian delegates comprising 46 Sangha members, 40 nuns and 65 laity from outside Delhi.
- ✓ **Theme:** Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.
- ✓ **Sub Themes:**
  - ✓ Buddha Dhamma and Peace
  - ✓ Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability
  - ✓ Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition
  - ✓ Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, Southeast and East Asia.
- ✓ **About IBC**
  - ✓ IBC is the biggest religious Buddhist confederation. The purpose of this body is to create a role for Buddhism on the global stage so as to help to preserve heritage, share knowledge, and promote values and to represent a united front for Buddhism to enjoy meaningful participation in the global discourse.
  - ✓ In November 2011, New Delhi was host to Global Buddhist Congregation (GBC), where the attendees unanimously adopted a resolution to form an international umbrella body – the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).



## The Ministry of Jal Shakti released first-ever census of water bodies

- ✓ The Ministry of Jal Shakti recently released the report of its first-ever census of water bodies, revealing crucial insights into the country's water resources.



- ✓ The census provides an extensive inventory of water sources in India, highlighting disparities between rural and urban areas and varying levels of encroachment.
- ✓ The census enumerated a total of 24,24,540 water bodies across the country, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134).
- ✓ **The report reveals that:**
  - ✓ West Bengal has the highest number of ponds and reservoirs. The top district in terms of waterbodies is South 24 Parganas in West Bengal.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of tanks. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of lakes.



- ✓ Maharashtra leads in water conservation schemes  
The report highlights that 97.1% of the waterbodies are in rural areas, with only 2.9% in urban areas.
- ✓ Most of the waterbodies are ponds, followed by tanks, reservoirs, water conservation schemes, percolation tanks, check dams, lakes, and others.
- ✓ The census also collected data on the encroachment of waterbodies for the first time, revealing that 1.6% of all enumerated waterbodies are encroached, with 95.4% of encroachments in rural areas and the remaining 4.6% in urban areas.
- ✓ A significant percentage of encroachments cover more than 75% of the waterbody's area.

#### About Waterbodies

- ✓ The census of waterbodies was conducted in conjunction with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census for 2017-18.
- ✓ It defines a waterbody as "all-natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes."
- ✓ The census aimed to provide an inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like ponds, tanks, lakes, and more, and to collect data on the encroachment of water bodies.

### **Union Ministry of Rural Development's DAY-NRLM launched a national campaign called "Sangathan Se Samridhhi"**

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched a national campaign called "Sangathan Se Samridhhi- Leaving no Rural Woman Behind", aiming to mobilize a significant number of women into Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- ✓ The campaign is a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Samaveshi Vikaas and aims to mobilize 10 crore women from eligible rural households into SHGs.



- ✓ It aims to mobilize disadvantaged rural communities who are unaware of the benefits of the DAY-NRLM program.
- ✓ The campaign will be organized in all states and form more than 1.1 lakh SHGs through interventions like:
  - ✓ Organising general Body Meetings of Village Organizations
  - ✓ Experience sharing by SHG champions to motivate left-out households to join SHGs
  - ✓ Conducting Community Resource Person drives
  - ✓ Opening SHG bank accounts, and creation of a common database of SHGs promoted by other stakeholders.

#### About DAY-NRLM

- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Programme, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011.
- ✓ It aims to eliminate rural poverty through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.

#### Functioning

- ✓ It involves working with community institutions through community professionals in the spirit of self-help which is a unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.

#### It impacts livelihoods by

- ✓ Mobilizing rural households into SHGs.
- ✓ Organizing one-woman member from each rural poor household into SHGs
- ✓ Providing training and capacity building to SHG members
- ✓ Providing access to financial resources from their own institutions and banks.

### **The Health Ministry of India has proposed the development of 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country.**

- ✓ The Health Ministry of India, in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, (MoHUA) has proposed the development of 100 food streets in 100 districts across the country. The initiative aims to promote safe and healthy practices in the food industry, reduce food-borne illnesses,

and improve overall health outcomes. The project will be implemented as a pilot scheme to demonstrate best practices for food businesses. This initiative will not only support the "eat right campaign" and food safety but also enhance the credibility of local food businesses. The project's benefits include creating employment opportunities, improving tourism potential, and boosting the economy.

- ✓ The initiative will be implemented through the National Health Mission (NHM) in convergence with the MoHUA and with technical support from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). States and Union Territories will receive financial assistance of ₹1 crore per food street/district, with assistance under the NHM provided in the ratio of 60:40 or 90:10, subject to standard branding according to FSSAI guidelines.

### NHAI plan to develop around 10,000 km of OFC infrastructure across the country by the fiscal year 2025

- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced its plan to develop around 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) infrastructure across the country by the fiscal year 2025.
- ✓ NHAI's plan aligns with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, which aim at providing access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030.
- ✓ The OFC network will be developed by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a fully owned special purpose vehicle (SPV) of NHAI.

#### About OFC

- ✓ Fiber-optic cables are like tubes that hold tiny wires made of glass or plastic. They use light to send information much faster than regular wires that use electricity.
- ✓ Metal wires are preferred for transmission in optical fibre communication as signals travel with less damage.



- ✓ The optical fiber works on the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIR).
- ✓ TIR is the complete reflection of a ray of light within a medium such as water or glass from the surrounding surfaces back into the medium.
- ✓ Light rays can be used to transmit a huge amount of data (In case of long straight wire without any bend). In case of a bend, the optical cables are designed such that they bend all the light rays inwards (using TIR).

### The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SATHI Portal and Mobile App

- ✓ The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW) Minister of India has launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App to address the challenges in seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification. The system has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with MoA & FW with the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samriddh Kisan'.
- ✓ The SATHI portal is a significant step to address the challenges in the agriculture sector and will prove to be a revolutionary step in agriculture when it is used at the grassroots level. This portal will ensure the quality assurance system, identify the source of seed in the seed production chain, and trace the seeds through a QR code.
- ✓ The system will have integrated seven verticals of the seed chain - Research Organization, Seed Certification, Seed Licensing, Seed Catalogue, Dealer to Farmer Sales, Farmer Registration, and Seed DBT. Only seeds with valid certification can be sold by valid licensed dealers to centrally registered farmers, who will receive subsidy through DBT directly into their pre-validated bank accounts.



## Digital Health Summit 2023 in Goa

- ✓ Recently, Digital Health Summit 2023 was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Goa. CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization.
- ✓ It highlighted the importance of digital health innovations and how they can empower exponential medicine, including 3D printing, point-of-care diagnostics, robots, bioinformatics, and genomics.
- ✓ It aims to create a digital public goods framework to promote standards for interoperability, data privacy, and data security.
- ✓ It emphasised the need for "citizen-centric" digital health systems with equitable access to high-quality treatments.
- ✓ It also highlighted that health-tech is the most significant aspect of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and taking pre-emptive steps remains the key.

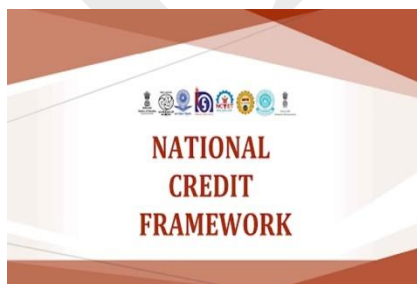


### Government Initiatives Related to Digital Health

- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM),
- ✓ e-Sanjeevani Teleconsultation Service
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- ✓ CoWIN App

## UGC announced the implementation of the National Credit Framework

- ✓ The University Grants Commission has announced the implementation of the National Credit Framework (NCrF) for all regulatory organisations and universities in India.
- ✓ This framework is designed to integrate the credits earned through school education, higher education,



vocational, and skill education, and provide lifelong learning opportunities.

- ✓ According to the framework, an academic year will be defined by the number of hours a student puts in and credits will be provided to them accordingly at the end of each academic year.
- ✓ NCrF is a meta-framework that consists of three verticals:
- ✓ National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF)
- ✓ National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF), and
- ✓ National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

### Credit System

- ✓ The total 'Notional Learning hours in a year' for assignment of Credits will be 1200 hours. A minimum of 40 credits may be earned for 1200 hours of learning every year with 20 credits per semester of six months
- ✓ Notional hours refer to the time that the average student would need to attend all classes, study for tests and do assignments and homework.
- ✓ The total credits earned by a student during the entire schooling period will be 160 credits.
- ✓ By the end of a three-year bachelor's degree course, the student will have earned 120 credits.
- ✓ When a student completes a Ph.D., the earned credits would be 320.
- ✓ Students will also get credits for participating in Olympiads, science quizzes, internships, and taking up jobs while they are studying in college.

### Credit Levels

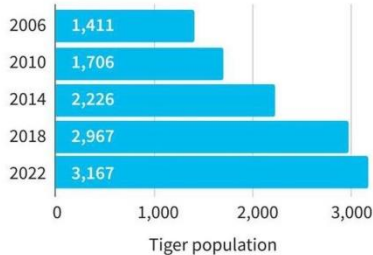
- ✓ The NCrF has proposed several levels within this framework ranging from level 1 to level 8.
- ✓ The credit level that can be attained after completion of school education, i.e., grade 5th will be level 1, grade 8th will be level 2, grade 10th will be level 3, and grade 12th will be level 4.
- ✓ Higher education shall be from credit levels of 4.5 to level 8.
- ✓ The NCrF credit levels for school education are upto level 4, while for higher education
- ✓ For vocational education & training level 1 to level 8.

## PM Modi released 5th cycle of India's Tiger Census 2022

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India has released the figures of the 5th cycle of India's Tiger Census 2022, revealing 6.7% in the increase in the past four years.

### Big cat count

According to the data released by the PM, the number of tigers in India increased by 200 in the past four years. A look at the tiger population



**Steady rise:** A tiger at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal

- ✓ The tiger census covered forested habitats in 20 states of India. Camera traps were set up at 32,588 locations and generated 47,081,881 photographs.
- ✓ The PM has released the Census while inaugurating the International Big Cat Alliance (IBC) in Karnataka's Mysuru, organised to mark 50 years of Project Tiger.

### Population

- ✓ Population has grown by 200 from 2018 to 2022. The current tiger population in India is 3,167, up from 2,967 in 2018.

### Growth Rate

- ✓ The growth rate slowed to 6.7% in the four years from 2018 to 2022, from around 33% during 2014-2018.

### Increase

- ✓ There has been a significant increase in the tiger population in the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains, while tiger occupancy in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana showed a decline.
- ✓ The North East Hills and Brahmaputra Plains had 194 tigers captured by camera traps, and the region's Nilgiri cluster is the largest tiger population in the world, contributing significantly to colonisation of tigers in neighbouring areas.

### Decline

- ✓ Tiger occupancy in the Western Ghats declined, the latest analysis showed. Significant declines were observed in the Wayanad landscape and in the Biligiriranga Hills.

### High Conservation Priority

- ✓ The genetically unique and small population of tigers in Simlipal is also highlighted as being of high conservation priority.
- ✓ The report calls for ecologically viable economic development and trans-boundary tiger conservation strategies to sustain isolated populations.
- ✓ Tiger Census in India
- ✓ The national tiger census is done every four years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in partnership with state forest departments, conservation NGOs, and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The census uses a double sampling method based on ground-based surveys and images from camera-traps.

### Traditionally eight subspecies of tigers have been recognized, out of which three are extinct.

- ✓ Bengal Tigers: Indian Subcontinent
- ✓ Caspian tiger: Turkey through central and west Asia (extinct).
- ✓ Amur tiger: Amur Rivers region of Russia and China, and North Korea
- ✓ Javan tiger: Java, Indonesia (extinct).
- ✓ South China tiger: South central China.
- ✓ Bali tiger: Bali, Indonesia (extinct).
- ✓ Sumatran tiger: Sumatra, Indonesia.
- ✓ Indo-Chinese tiger: Continental south-east Asia.

### Protection Status

- ✓ Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- ✓ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Endangered.
- ✓ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I.

### Tiger Reserves in India

- ✓ Total Number: 53 according to NTCA.
- ✓ Largest: Nagarjunsagar Srisaigram Tiger Reserve, Andhra Pradesh on the basis of core area.
- ✓ Smallest: Orang tiger reserve in Assam on the basis of core area.

**Related Steps Taken**

- ✓ **Project Tiger 1973:** Project Tiger is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched in 1973. It provides havens for tigers in the country's national parks.
- ✓ **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):** It is a statutory body under the MoEFCC and was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. NTCA has been constituted under has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ✓ Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards: CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.

**About IBCA**

- ✓ IBCA is launched for conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma harbouring our planet.
- ✓ Its members include 97 countries that are home to these big cats and other interested parties.
- ✓ The IBCA will engage in advocacy, partnerships, capacity building, eco-tourism, and finance tapping.
- ✓ It will also disseminate information and create awareness among its members.

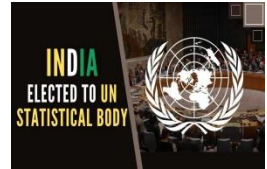
**Union Minister Sonowal launches 'SAGAR-SETU' app**

- ✓ The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal recently launched the App Version of National Logistics Portal (Marine) - 'Sagar-Setu'.
- ✓ The mobile app will ensure data mobility such that approvals & monitoring shall be at the fingertips of port & ministry officials and stakeholders as well.
- ✓ National Logistics Portal (Marine) is a national maritime single window platform encompassing complete end-to-end logistics solutions to help exporters, importers, and service providers exchange documents seamlessly and transact business. The overarching NLP Marine Vision is to cater to various stakeholders in Government to

Government (G2G), Government to Business (G2B) and Business-to-business (B2B) model.

**India elected to UN Statistical Commission for four-year period**

- ✓ India has been elected to the UN Statistical Commission for a four-year period (beginning on 1 January 2024) in a competitive election. The Commission works under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



- ✓ The UN Statistical Commission, established in 1947, is the highest body of the global statistical system bringing together the Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world. It is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, responsible for setting statistical standards and the development of concepts and methods, including their implementation at the national and international levels.
- ✓ The Commission consists of 24 member countries (Five members are from African States, four from Asia-Pacific States, four from Eastern European States, four from Latin American and Caribbean States and seven members from Western European and other States) of the United Nations elected by the ECOSOC on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. India has been elected to the Economic and Social Council, one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 term.

**Cabinet gives nod to Indian Space Policy, 2023**

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the Indian Space Policy 2023 that will enable the private sector to participate in various space activities, such as constructing satellites, rockets, and launch vehicles, as well as collecting and sharing data.
- ✓ It's aim to boost India's space department's role and give a larger participation to research, academia, startups, and industry.

- ✓ This policy delineated the roles and responsibilities of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), space sector PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE).
- ✓ NSIL will carry out strategic activities related to the space sector i.e. operational part of ISRO's missions will be moved to NSIL.
- ✓ The INSPACE will be the interface between ISRO and non-governmental entities.
- ✓ ISRO will not do any operational and production work for the space sector and will focus on developing new technologies, new systems and research and development.
- ✓ The policy also create a framework for the private sector to use ISRO facilities for a small charge and encourages them to invest in creating new infrastructure for the sector.
- ✓ Currently, India's share in the global space economy is below 2%, but the space policy is expected to significantly boost it to 10% in the future.
- ✓ The policy will establish a strong foundation for private sector companies and startups to provide a variety of space-based services, including launching satellites and offering convenient services to citizens to enhance their quality of life.

### **Cabinet clears National Medical Devices Policy 2023**

- ✓ On 26th April 2023, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, which is expected to help the Medical Devices sector expand to USD 50 billion (~Rs 4 lakh crore) by 2030.
- ✓ In 2020, the market size of the medical devices sector in India is estimated to be USD 11 billion (~Rs 90,000 crore) and its share in the global medical device market is estimated to be 1.5%.

#### **About the National Medical Devices Policy 2023**

- ✓ **Vision:** The policy envisions India's accelerated growth path with a patient-centric approach and emerging as the global leader in the manufacturing and innovation of medical devices by achieving 10-

12% share in the expanding global market over the next 25 years.

- ✓ **Mission:** The policy provides a roadmap for the growth in the sector to achieve the following missions: Access & Universality, Affordability, Quality, Patient Centred & Quality Care, Preventive & Promotive Health, Security, Research and Innovation and Skilled manpower.

#### **Strategies to Promote the Sector**

- ✓ The policy will facilitate and guide the sector through a set of strategies that will cover six broad areas viz. regulatory streamlining, enabling infrastructure, facilitating R&D (Research and Development) and innovation, attracting investments, human resources development and brand positioning & awareness creation.

#### **Reason behind this Policy**

- ✓ Currently about 75-80% of medical devices are imported in India and with this scheme the government will enhance India's manufacturing capacity. It will also cater to the growing demand for affordable quality medical devices.

### **Cabinet approved to set up 157 nursing colleges**

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in co-location with existing medical colleges established since 2014. The outlay for the same will be Rs 1,570 crore.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (UP) will have the maximum number of colleges (27), while Rajasthan will have 23 and Madhya Pradesh, 14.
- ✓ The move will add approximately 15,700 nursing graduates every year and will further ensure quality, affordable and equitable nursing education in India.
- ✓ The decision will remove the geographical and rural-urban imbalance in terms of nursing colleges as 40% of the existing colleges are in southern India.
- ✓ This is also being done as a part of the national mandate for Universal Health Care (UHC) and will help in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

## PM Modi to release Rs 100 coin to Commemorate 100 episodes of Mann Ki Baat

- ✓ On 21st April 2023, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Government will release a new commemorative coin of Rs 100 denomination on 30th April 2023, for the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio show Mann Ki Baat.
- ✓ The coin's obverse side will have the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar at the centre with "Satyamev Jayate" inscribed below it. "Bharat" in Devanagari script and "INDIA" in English will be inscribed on the left and right peripherals, respectively. The coin will also feature the Rupee symbol "₹" and "100" denomination.
- ✓ On the reverse side, the logo for the 100th Episode of Mann Ki Baat will be displayed, featuring a microphone with sound waves and the year "2023" inscribed on it. "Mann Ki Baat 100" will be written above and below the microphone image in Devanagari and English.
- ✓ On October 3, 2014, PM Modi made his radio debut with "Maan Ki Baat"



## Union Minister Amit Shah Launches World's 1st 'Nano DAP' Developed by IFFCO

- ✓ On April 26, 2023, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation, launched "IFFCO Nano DAP(liquid)", the world's first liquid Nano DAP(Diammonium phosphate), developed by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at NewDelhi, Delhi
- ✓ The launch of IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid), a nano fertiliser product containing nitrogen and phosphorus is intended to make India self-reliant in the field of food production and fertilizers.
- ✓ **Background:** On March 3, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) approved the launch of IFFCO's nano DAP fertilizer in the market.

### What is Liquid DAP?

- ✓ DAP is a concentrated phosphate-based fertilizer. Phosphorus is an essential nutrient along with Nitrogen and plays a vital role in the development of new plant tissues. It fulfills the crops initial requirement of nitrogen and phosphorous. Liquid DAP contains 8% nitrogen and 16% phosphorous.
- ✓ The launch of Nano DAP is a second initiative of IFFCO, i.e. in 2021, IFFCO introduced World's First 'Nano Urea'.

## Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Launches New Features in Eshram Portal for Unorganised Workers

- ✓ On 24, April 2023, the Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, launched new features in eShram Portal to improve the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganised workers.
- ✓ The new version also has a Data Sharing Portal (DSP) and a Data Analytics Portal.
- ✓ **New Features:**
- ✓ The portal was added with a feature of capturing family details of migrant worker which will be supportive in providing Child education and women-centric schemes to the migrant workers who have migrated with family.
- ✓ Feature for sharing data of construction workers who are registering on eShram with the concerned Building and Other Construction Workers' (BOCW) Welfare Board, has been added to ensure registration of eShram construction workers with the respective BOCW board and access to the schemes.
- ✓ **Purpose:** The new feature will enable the eShram registered workers to connect with Employment opportunities, Skilling, Apprenticeship, Pension Scheme, Digital Skilling and States' schemes through eShram portal.

## MSME Minister launches Revamped CGTMSE Scheme

- ✓ On April 27, 2023, the Union Minister Narayan Tatu Rane, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME) launched the revamped

Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ✓ This launch was on the lines of an additional corpus support of Rs 9,000 crore in the Union Budget for FY 2023- 24 to CGTMSE to revamp its Scheme to provide guarantee for additional Rs 2 lakh crore to MSEs.

#### **Key Revamped Measures**

- ✓ Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto Rs 1 crore by 50% bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa only.
- ✓ Raising of ceiling for guarantee from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore
- ✓ Enhancing the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to Rs 10 lakh.

### **PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated 91 New 100W FM Transmitters of AIR**

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated All India Radio's (AIR) 91 new 100W



FM Transmitters which have been installed in 85 districts across 18 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs) to

a give a further boost to radio connectivity in India.

- ✓ As per the statement of PM, the FM transmitters were beneficial in spreading knowledge about important information on time such as weather updates related to agricultural practices, and information on food and vegetable prices for the farmers.
- ✓ As part of the government's commitment to enhancing FM connectivity in the country, 91 new 100W FM transmitters were installed and the new expansion focuses on enhancing coverage.

### **PM Inaugurated 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger**

- ✓ On April, 9, 2023, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the program 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' at Mysuru University in Mysuru, Karnataka, the first of its kind in India, organised to mark 50 years of Project Tiger.

#### **Other Major Initiatives**

- ✓ The PM launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) for the conservation of 7 major big cats.
- ✓ He released the publications 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision For Tiger Conservation', a summary report of the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves, declared tiger numbers and released the summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle).
- ✓ He also released a commemorative coin on the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) launched the "Project Tiger" in 1973 for conserving the national animal, the tiger (*Panthera tigris*). Thus 2023 marks the 50th year of Project Tiger.
- ✓ From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 51 at present, spread out in 18 of tiger range states. This amounts to around 2.23% of the geographical area of India.
- ✓ The PM launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) for the conservation of seven major big cats – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah in collaboration with 97 countries which contain the natural habitat of these big cat species.

### **India's 1st underwater Metro starts trial run under the bed of Hooghly**

- ✓ Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL) successfully conducted the trial run of India's 1<sup>st</sup> underwater metro train under the river bed of Hooghly through a tunnel of 32 meters below water level.
- ✓ The trial runs of the metro from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade will be conducted for the next 7 months and after that regular services on this stretch will begin.
- ✓ The commercial services on this stretch are expected to begin in 2023. Two Metro rakes were involved in the trial run along the 4.8 km underground section from Howrah Maidan to Esplanade. This Metro is expected to cover the 520-metre stretch under the river Hooghly in a span of 45 seconds.



## Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea gets European GI Tag

- ✓ On 29th March 2023, Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea got a European Union (EU) Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag). This will offer an opportunity for the Kangra tea to enter the European Market.



- ✓ Kangra tea is a type of tea that is grown in the Himachal Pradesh region of India. Since 1999, the cultivation and development of kangra tea have been improved in the Kangra region ('Valley of Gods') of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Kangra tea is grown 900-1,400 meters above sea level with the annual rainfall being 270-350 centimeters (cm), on the slopes of the Dhauladhar mountain range in the Western Himalayas.
- ✓ The demand of Kangra tea has been increasing and it is being exported to Kabul and Central Asia via Peshawar.
- ✓ The Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005.
- ✓ Geographical indications (GIs) are Intellectual Property (IP) Rights (IPR) is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- ✓ European GI tag protects agricultural products and foodstuffs; spirit drinks; wines; and aromatized wines.
- ✓ The GI Tag provides assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
- ✓ Once a product gets a GI tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name.
- ✓ This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.

## Kiren Rijju releases 1st Edition of Dogri version of Constitution of India

- ✓ Union Minister Kiren Rijju, Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), released the 1st edition of the

Dogri version of the Constitution of India at the University of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- ✓ Kiren Rijju described the translated document as very important in providing justice to the common people.
- ✓ According to Kiren Rijju, it is necessary to understand the law and it cannot be done better than organising it in one's mother tongue. Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Jammu region of J&K and is one of the 22 official languages recognized by the Indian Constitution.

## NCRTC names India's first semi high-speed Regional Rail Services as 'RAPIDX'

- ✓ National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has named India's first semi high-speed Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) as RAPIDX as it is easy to read and simple to pronounce in various languages.
- ✓ It also signifies speed and progress, the 'X' denotes the next generation technology and the new-age mobility solution.
- ✓ RAPIDX, with a design speed of 182kmph, will connect Delhi with National Capital Region (NCR), including Meerut, Alwar and Panipat.



## The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train on Ambedkar Circuit flagged off from New Delhi

- ✓ On April 14, 2023, on the occasion of the 132nd birth anniversary of social reformer BR Ambedkar, a special tourist train named Bharat Gaurav has been launched by Union Minister of Tourism, G Kishan Reddy and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Virendra Kumar.
- ✓ Bharat Gaurav tourist train is being operated under the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative which aims to promote domestic tourism and the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat".
- ✓ The Bharat Gaurav Tourist train will include a visit to prominent places associated with the life of the

social reformer DR.BR Ambedkarsuch as New Delhi in Delhi, Mhow, and Nagpur, and sacred Buddhist sites like Sanchi (Madhya pradesh), Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), Gaya and Rajgir and Nalanda (in Bihar).

### Solar Energy Corporation of India gets 'Miniratna Category-I' status

- ✓ On April 10, 2023, the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) was accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). A communication to this effect has been issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ✓ Incorporated in the year 2011, SECI is the primary implementing agency for renewable energy schemes/projects of MNRE towards fulfilment of India's international commitments.
- ✓ Till date, SECI has awarded Renewable Energy (RE) project capacities of over 56 GW (Giga Watt). It has highest credit rating of AAA by domestic rating agency ICRA

### Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approves Navratna status to Rail Vikas Nigam

- ✓ On 26th April 2023, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance (MoF), approved the upgradation of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a Category-I MiniRatna CPSE.
- ✓ According to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), RVNL, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways (MoR), has become the 13th Navratna amongst CPSEs.
- ✓ On 20th April 2023, RVNL incorporated a subsidiary company named Kinet Railway Solutions Limited.
- ✓ The Government introduced the Navratna scheme, in 1977, to identify CPSEs with comparative advantages and encourage them in their drive to become global giants.



### Criteria for Navratna CPSE

- ✓ The eligibility criteria required for a Central Public Sector Enterprises to get the Navratna status are as follows,
- ✓ The company should be listed on Schedule A of CPSEs and have Miniratna Category I status.
- ✓ Out of the last five years, the company should have obtained the rating as Excellent or Very Good under the Memorandum of Understanding system for three years.
- ✓ Moreover, the company must get a score of 60 out of 100 in parameters like net worth, net profit, total production cost, manpower cost, service cost, capital employed, and PBDIT (Profit Before Depreciation, Interest and Taxes).
- ✓ The company should have 4 independent directors on its Board of Directors.

### The other 12 Navratna CPSEs of India are

- ✓ Bharat Electronics Limited, Container Corporation of India Limited, Engineers India Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, National Aluminium Company Limited, National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, NMDC Limited, Oil India Limited, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, and Shipping Corporation of India Limited.
- ✓ India has 12 Maharatna, 13 Navratna, and 74 Miniratna CPSEs.

### Gol grants GI Tags to 33 New Products; Raising the Total to 465

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 33 new products from different states, including Bihar (1), Uttar Pradesh (10), Madhya Pradesh (1), Chhattisgarh (1), and Tamil Nadu (11), as well as the Union Territories (UT) of Ladakh (1) and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) (8).



- ✓ The total number of GI Tags in India has risen to 465.
- ✓ The 1st GI Tag in India was facilitated to the Darjeeling Tea (Agricultural), West Bengal.
- ✓ GI tags are issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.

**Products that have received the GI Tag**

Geographical Indications	Goods/ Products	State
Marcha Rice (Mircha Rice)	Agricultural	Bihar
Banaras Pan (Betel Leaf), Banaras Langda Aam (Mango), Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), Adamchini Chawal (Rice), Pratapgarh Aonla	Agricultural	Uttar Pradesh
Aligarh Tala, Bakhira Brassware , Banda Shazar Patthar Craft , Nagina Wood Craft	Handicraft	Uttar Pradesh
Hathras Hing	Food Stuffs	Uttar Pradesh
Rewa Sunderja Mango	Agricultural	Madhya Pradesh
Ladakh Shingskos (Wood Carving)	Handicraft	Ladakh (UT)
Nagri Dubraj (rice)	Agriculture	Chhattisgarh
Cumbum panner thratchai (grapes), Authoor vetrilai, Sholavandan Vetrilai	Agriculture	Tamil Nadu
Manamadurai pottery, Myladi stone carvings, Thaikkal Rattan craft.	Handicraft	Tamil Nadu

Marthandam honey	Natural Goods	Tamil Nadu
Ooty varkey, Salem sago (javvarisi)	Food Stuffs	Tamil Nadu
Negamam cotton saree	Textiles	Tamil Nadu
Bhaderwah rajmash, Mushqbudji Rice, Ramban Sulai Honey, Ramban Anardana	Agriculture	Jammu & Kashmir
Rajouri Chikri wood craft, Basohli painting	Handicraft	Jammu & Kashmir
Basohli Pashmina Woolen Products	Textiles	Jammu & Kashmir
Udhampur Kaladi (Dairy Product)	Food Stuffs	Jammu & Kashmir

**GoI Announces Plans to Add 250 GW of RE Capacity over the Next 5 Years**

- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) has announced a plan to install 250 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity over the next 5 years in order to meet its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- ✓ The GoI has chosen to invite bids for 50 GW of RE capacity annually for the next 5 years, from Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24) to Fiscal Year 2027-28 (FY28).
- ✓ The installation of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW annually will also be included in these annual bids for RE capacity connected to the ISTS (Inter-State Transmission System).

**GoI's target to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol advanced from 2030 to 2025-26**

- ✓ On April 18, 2023, the Government of India (GoI) advanced its target to achieve 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025-26.
- ✓ While addressing the Global CBG (Compressed BioGas) Conference of the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) – CBG Producers Forum, Union Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of

Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) stated regarding GoI's initiative to increase the usage of biofuels in the energy and transportation sectors via National Policy on Biofuels, 2018.

- ✓ The GoI has set a target to increase the share of gas in the energy mix up to 15 per cent in 2030 to make India a Gas based economy.

### **IGGL completes Asia's largest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline**

- ✓ On 22nd April 2023, Mr. Ajit Kumar Thakur, CEO of Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), announced that the company has completed the construction of Asia's largest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline.
- ✓ This pipeline, with a diameter of 24 inches, has been laid below the Brahmaputra river, connecting Jorhat and Majuli in Assam by using the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method.
- ✓ The total length of this single HDD crossing is 4,080 metres across the main water channel of the Brahmaputra river, making it the longest river crossing by any hydrocarbon pipeline of size 24-inch diameter and above in Asia and the second longest in the world.
- ✓ This marks a significant milestone in the construction of the North East Gas Grid (NEGG), which aims to connect North East India to the National Gas Grid.
- ✓ NEGG stretches for 1,656 kilometres and connects major cities and demand centres in North East India to the National Gas Grid.

### **28 States/UTs adopts National Generic Document Registration System for Land Records**

- ✓ The National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) for Land Records has been adopted by a total of 28 States and Union Territories (UT). According to the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), eRegistration is taking place in these States/UTs, or they have started sharing data with the national portal of NGDRS via User Interface /Application Programming Interface (API).

- ✓ According to the latest data from the DoLR's Land Resources Division, the (14- digit alpha-numeric unique ID) Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhar has been adopted by 26 States/UTs and pilot testing done in 7 more States /UTs.
- ✓ ULPIN is also used by some states in the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) portal.
- ✓ As of 18 April 2023, computerization of the Record of Rights (RoRs) had been completed in 6,22,030 (94.62%) of the 6,57,403 villages.
- ✓ The DoLR is implementing the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) with effect from 1 April 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding by the Government of India (GoI).

### **India's First Cable-Stayed Anji Khad Railway Bridge will be ready in May 2023**

- ✓ On 26th April 2023, the Anji Khad cable-stayed train bridge, the 96 cables on India's 1st cable-stayed bridge connecting Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), have been installed, which will enable its 'superstructure' to be ready in May 2023 with the cost of over Rs.400 crore. The cable-stayed bridge portion is 473 metres (m) long and has a total length of 725m.
- ✓ The bridge is a vital rail link between Kashmir and the rest of India that runs for 326km from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar. The cable-stayed train bridge crosses the Anji River, a tributary of the Chenab.
- ✓ Anji Cable Stay bridge is designed with a total of 96 cables: 48 cables each on lateral and central spans. The cables weigh 848.7 MT (Metric Ton) and the total length of cable strands involved is 653 Kilometre (km).
- ✓ All 96 cables were fully installed on 26 April 2023, in a record time period of 11 months (June 2022 to April 2023).



## The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visit to India

- ✓ From April 3–5, 2023, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, visited India on an official trip at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu.



- ✓ His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck was accompanied by Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, and other top Royal Government of Bhutan officials.
- ✓ While in India, His Majesty the King of Bhutan met with Droupadi Murmu, President of India, and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was also visited by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

## 1st International Quantum Communication Conclave held on 27-28 March 2023

- ✓ On March 27, 2023, Ashwini Vaishnav, the Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, and Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications, inaugurated the Two days 'First International Quantum Communication Conclave' which was held on 27-28 March 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The conclave was organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC), in collaboration with Centre For Development Of Telematics (C-DOT), TSDSI (Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India) and IEEE Communications Society – Delhi chapter.

## RAMBAAN, Asia's 1st Mobile Biosafety Level-3 Laboratory, Exhibited at G20 Summit, Goa

- ✓ India's and Asia's first mobile biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) laboratory named 'Rapid Action Mobile BSL-3 Advanced Augmented Network (RAMBAAN)', designed to investigate emerging

viral infections was showcased at the second G-20(Group of 20) Health Working Group meeting held in Panaji, Goa.

- ✓ The made-in-India mobile clinic RAMBAAN (Rapid Action Mobile BSL3+ Advanced Augmented Network) can be used to reach remote regions to carry out testing.
- ✓ RAMBAAN will play a major role in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ RAMBAAN, equipped with a -20 degree and -80-degree refrigerator, bio-safety cabinets, an automatic Ribonucleic acid (RNA) extractor, and a real-time PCR( polymerase chain reaction) machine, can access the remotest part of India.

## 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Siliguri, West Bengal

- ✓ The 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting, under India's G20 presidency was held in Siliguri, Darjeeling District, West Bengal, from April 1-4, 2023, and was represented by 56 delegates from 17 Member Countries, 8 Invitee Countries, and 4 International Organizations (IOs) including United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).The event was also graced by the participation of Ambassadors from seven G20 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, Indonesia, and South Korea.

## MoHUA forms 14-member panel to examine stalled Real Estate Projects; Headed by Amitabh Kant

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has set up a 14-member committee to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them, and hand them over to homebuyers in a time-bound manner.
- ✓ It will be headed by Amitabh Kant, India's G20 (Group of Twenty) Sherpa for 2023 and the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- ✓ The committee will submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.

## STATES

### Telangana CM KCR unveils India's Tallest Ambedkar Statue of 125-ft in Hyderabad

- ✓ On the occasion of the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji (BR) Ambedkar(14th April 2023), Telangana Chief Minister (CM) K Chandrashekhara Rao unveiled the 125-ft tall bronze statue of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji (BR) Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, in Hyderabad, Telangana. This is the tallest statue of BR Ambedkar in India.



- ✓ The statue stands next to the State Secretariat on the banks of Hyderabad's Hussain Sagar Lake.
- ✓ The statue has been sculpted by 98-year-old Padma Bhushan awardee (2016) Ram Vanji Sutar from Maharashtra, Mumbai.
- ✓ Ambedkar's grandson Prakash Ambedkar was invited as the chief guest at the event.

#### Award

- ✓ Telangana government has decided to introduce an award in the name of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar which will be presented to the people who excel in public service and render services to the people at the national and state-level every year.
- ✓ The state government plans to deposit Rs 51 crore in the bank and will use the interest of around Rs 3 crore earned on it every year to present the awards.

### UP gets World's First Conservation & Breeding Centre for Asian king vultures

- ✓ Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC), the world's 1st conservation and breeding centre developed exclusively for the conservation of the Asian king vulture in Maharajganj district in Uttar Pradesh(UP) is set to be inaugurated by UP Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of International Vulture Awareness Day(first Saturday of September).

- ✓ The JCBC is located at the Bhari Baisi village in the Farenda range of the Gorakhpur forest division.
- ✓ Asian king vulture is critically endangered and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ✓ Aim: The objective of establishing the centre is to breed king vultures in captivity and release them into the wild to maintain a sustainable population of the species.
- ✓ **About Asian King Vulture:**The Asian king vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), often known as the red-headed vulture (also known as the Indian black vulture or Pondicherry vulture), is mainly found in the Indian subcontinent, with small disjunct populations in some parts of Southeast Asia.

### Madhya Pradesh's products including Gond Painting, Sharbati Wheat gets GI Tag

- ✓ The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag has been granted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) to several products of Madhya Pradesh (MP), which include 5 handicrafts



Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh gets GI tag

- product, 1 Agricultural product, 1 Food stuff, 1 Textile product.
- ✓ The 5 handicraft products include Gond Painting of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior Handmade Carpet, Bhedaghat stone craft (Jabalpur), wrought iron crafts (Dindori), and Waraseoni handloom sarees & Fabrics (Balaghat).
- ✓ Sharbati Gehu (wheat which is also called The Golden Grain), registered by the GI Registry in the agricultural product category.
- ✓ Morena Gajak, a kind of sweet, has received the GI tag in the food ingredient category.
- ✓ Ujjain Batik print has received the GI tag in the textile category.

### Rajasthan Gets 3 New Conservation Reserves: Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur, & Hamirgarh in Bhilwara

- ✓ On the occasion of International Mother Earth Day (Earth Day) 2023 (22nd April 2023), the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan announced 3 new conservation reserves that will protect the rare and endangered wildlife of Rajasthan.
- ✓ The 3 new wildlife conservation reserves are Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur, and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara.
- ✓ With the declaration of 3 new conservation reserves, the total number of reserves in Rajasthan has now reached 26.
- ✓ Following the declaration of these areas as conservation reserves, It becomes mandatory for any developmental projects in these regions to get clearance as per the Forest Conservation Act, 1990. Any developmental projects within the conservation area need to get the approval of the National Board for Wildlife, and the State Board of Wildlife.

### Chennai's WABAG bags Rs 4,400 crore Seawater Desalination Project in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based VA Tech Wabag Ltd (WABAG) has bagged Rs 4,400 crore Sea Water (salt water) Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) project in Tamil Nadu (TN) which after completion would be the largest sea-water desalination project in the South East Asia region.
- ✓ The project has been bagged in a joint venture (JV) with Metito Overseas Limited (based in United Arab Emirates – UAE) and will be implemented on a design, build, operate (DBO) model.
- ✓ WABAG with Metito Overseas wins an SWRO project from Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).
- ✓ The largest seawater desalination plant in South East Asia, worth Rs 4,400 crore, with a 400 Minimal Liquid Discharge (MLD) capacity, was funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The DBO will take place over 42 months and will be operated and maintained for 20 years by WABAG.

### Telangana Launched India's 1st 'Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028

- ✓ Telangana launched “Telangana Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028” for all types of buildings to reduce temperatures in Hyderabad and other urban areas in Telangana. With this launch, Telangana became the
- ✓ India's first state to introduce Cool Roof Policy. The Telangana Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028 aims to reduce the heat island impact and heat stress in
- ✓ Telangana.
- ✓ This policy encourages and promotes the usage of cool roof.
- ✓ Telangana has set target to cover an area of 7.5 square kilometers, including 5 sq km in Hyderabad, Telangana in the first year (2023).
- ✓ The government is set to cool roof an area of 300 sq km of area including 200 sq km in Hyderabad by 2030.
- ✓ The government of Telangana will make it mandatory for all constructions beyond 600 square yards to factor in a cool roof at the design stage.
- ✓ **Cool Roofs:** Cool roofs are one of the simplest and most cost-effective methods to combat the heat. These will help to keep the indoor air temperature lower by 2.1 to 4.3 degree Celsius compared to traditional roofs.

### CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launches "A-HELP" Programme in Uttarakhand

- ✓ Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, launched the “A-HELP” (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme at Survey of India Auditorium Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Women have been chosen to improve livestock-related activities in remote rural areas under the A-HELP programme, which was envisioned by the Government of India.
- ✓ Under the A-HELP Programme, trained A-HELPS will give their vital contribution to preventing various infectious diseases of animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), tagging of animals and animal insurance.

### Andhra Pradesh renamed Bhavanapadu Port in Srikakulam as Mulapeta Greenfield Port

- ✓ On 16th April 2023, the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government renamed the Bhavanapadu Port as “MulapetaGreenfield Port”, respecting the sentiments of local villagers in Srikakulam district, AP.
- ✓ Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister (CM) of AP, will lay the foundation stone for the greenfield port on April 19.
- ✓ The AP government took this decision as farmers from Mulapeta and Vishnuchakram villages requested the name change since Bhavanapadu village has no scope in the proposed port area, considering all the lands of Mulapeta and some from Vishnuchakram have been earmarked for acquisition.
- ✓ Lathkar Sriresh Balajirao, Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Srikakulam district, laid the proposals for renaming Greenfield Port, since the total land and the project displaced families belong to Mulapeta and Vishnuchakram villages and not Bhavanapadu.

### Kerala adopts Water Budget, the 1st of its kind in India, to tackle water scarcity in Summer

- ✓ Kerala became the first state in India to adopt a water budget to tackle water shortage in summer. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, unveiled the details of the 1st phase of the Water Budget in Kerala covering 94 grama panchayats in 15 block panchayats.
- ✓ The Water Budget provides the scientific methods for the conservation of water and it also aims to create awareness about the need for water conservation. This water budget would support Kerala to meet the demand and supply of Water, the precious liquid resource and apportion it accordingly.
- ✓ The water budget will regulate the usage of water in accordance with its availability in the area. This would create awareness among the public against water wastage and will support achieving water conservation.

### Himachal Pradesh launches project Sanjeevani to empower dairy farmers

- ✓ On April 9th, The Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) of Himachal Pradesh along with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. (BFIL), (a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank) has launched an initiative called ‘Sanjeevani‘ which aims to provide doorstep veterinary services to farmers.
- ✓ Under the Sanjeevani project, mobile veterinary clinics will be set up to provide doorstep veterinary services to farmers at a single toll-free phone call.
- ✓ The collaboration under National Animal Disease Control Programme-Mobile Veterinary Van (NADCP-AHD-MVU) will enhance the doorstep services.
- ✓ The integrated call centre will function as a single contact point for various matters related to livestock healthcare and vaccination programs.
- ✓ To support farmers and improve their livelihoods, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has launched the Sanjeevani project which will benefit farmers in 44 blocks of all 12 districts of the state.

### Himachal Pradesh becomes India's 1st state to have DNA database of Unidentified Bodies

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies. The process of creating this database started in April 2022. So far, the records of 150 DNA samples of unidentified bodies had been stored in the database.
- ✓ A database is being prepared and it will have the capacity to store 20,000 DNA profiles, which can be scaled further.
- ✓ More than 100 bodies are recovered in different parts of the state every year and these remain unidentified. Thus the DNA database would be beneficial in bringing transparency, eliminating data inconsistency and catching the criminal in cases where crime led to death.



## Kerala Government launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' to Revive Sports Culture programme for Telangana Women

- ✓ On 19th April 2023, the Government of Kerala launched the "One Panchayat, One Playground" project for reviving the sports culture in Kerala by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of Kerala.
- ✓ The project was inaugurated by Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister(CM) of Kerala, at Kallikkad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ✓ The playgrounds would act as a hub for local gatherings and social interactions.
- ✓ The project will address the lack of quality playgrounds in around 450 local bodies in Kerala.
- ✓ The playgrounds will be built in 3 years, and a list of 113 panchayats has been prepared for the project's initial phase.
- ✓ Each playground would cost around Rs 1 crore, of which the Sports Department would cover half and the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and local body money, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), public- private partnerships(PPP), etc., would cover the remaining costs.

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches India's first heavy lift logistics drone

- ✓ On April 20, 2023, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha Naveen Patnaik launched India's first heavy lift logisticseVTOL (electric Vertical Take-off and Landing) BonV drone on the opening day of "Odisha Skill Conclave 2023".
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind heavy-lift logistics drone was made by Odisha-based start-up 'BonV Aero'. It is capable of transporting 50 kg across distances of up to 10 kilometers.
- ✓ The drone will play a vital role in disaster management, emergency evacuation, flood relief, firefighting, and medical supply delivery to remote areas.
- ✓ Benefits of BonV drone: Odisha which is highly disaster-prone see the Cyclone and Flood on regular

basis, these multi-utility Air vehicles are beneficial in the disaster response.

- ✓ Movement of any kind of cargo/ goods where surface logistics are either unfavourable or time-consuming.
- ✓ Improve accessibility and efficiency of logistics solutions, especially in the remote and Hilly terrains.

## Manipur CM N. Biren inaugurates 5th edition of Hun-Thadou cultural festival at Kangpokpi

- ✓ On 18th April 2023, Nongthombam Biren Singh, Chief Minister(CM) of Manipur inaugurated the 5th edition of HUN(HUN-2023)- a Thadou Cultural Festival at Thomas Ground in Kangpokpi district of Manipur.
- ✓ HUN festival is an annual cultural festival and a civilising act of the Thadous community of Manipur.
- ✓ According to the Thadous community, the festival is celebrated to mark the arrival of the new year.
- ✓ Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs attended the closing ceremony of the 2-day festival on 19th April 2023.

## Tiger spotted in Haryana's Kalesar National Park after 10 years

- ✓ Tiger spotted in Haryana's Kalesar National Park after 10 years: Wildlife enthusiasts are thrilled following the discovery of a tiger captured by a camera-trap in Kalesar National Park.
- ✓ Wildlife enthusiasts and conservationists are thrilled following the discovery of a tiger captured by a camera-trap in Kalesar National Park situated in Yamunanagar district, Haryana. This rare occurrence after more than a century has made the state proud. Haryana's Forests and Wildlife Minister, Kanwar Pal, shared two images of the tiger, stating that it had been spotted in the Kalesar region for the first time since 1913.
- ✓ The Kalesar National Park covers an area of 11,570 acres and is situated in the Shivalik foothills. It serves as a habitat to various wildlife creatures such



Tiger spotted in Haryana's Kalesar National Park after 10 years

as leopards, elephants, wild boar, sambar, and different bird species.

### Bengaluru is all set to witness Zero Shadow Day today across the city

- ✓ On April 25, Bengaluru, India's technological hub, is poised to witness a unique celestial event known as "Zero Shadow Day," according to the Astronomical Society of India (ASI). During this event, any vertical objects in the city will not cast any shadows, due to the sun's position directly overhead. The phenomenon is expected to occur at around 12:17 PM and will last for a brief period. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Koramangala, Bengaluru, has made arrangements to observe the event, while citizens across the city are also geared up to witness it.



### BRO puts up signboard describing Mana as 'First Indian Village'

- ✓ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has installed a signboard at the entrance of the Mana village in Uttarakhand to declare as the "first Indian village."
- ✓ Mana village in Uttarakhand, which was previously recognized as the last Indian village, will now be acknowledged as the "first Indian village." The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has installed a signboard at the entrance of the border village to declare Mana's updated status.
- ✓ This decision comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi supported Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's assertion that Mana was the first village in the country, and all border villages should be recognized as such. PM Modi, who visited Mana in October last year, stated that areas that were previously viewed as the end of the country's borders should now be viewed as the beginning of the country's prosperity.



### Khongjom Day in Manipur in 2023

- ✓ Mauganj was declared as 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Khongjom

Day was commemorated at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur to honour the soldiers who fought in the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War. Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey were among those who paid their respects to the heroes at the event, held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom.

- ✓ Every year, on this day, Manipur pays tribute to the courageous soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the war. The event is typically held at Kheba Ching in Khongjom, where Manipur's Chief Minister and Governor, along with other dignitaries, pay their respects to the fallen heroes.

### Tamil Nadu assembly passes Bill allowing 12-hour work days

- ✓ The Act's provisions to extend the mandatory working hours from 8 hours to 12 hours have been the main point of contention for the opposition, with concerns raised about worker's work-life balance.
- ✓ The passage of the Factories (Amendment) Act 2023 in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which provides for flexible work hours for employees in factories, is reportedly facing opposition from political parties, including DMK allies. The Act's provisions to extend the mandatory working hours from 8 hours to 12 hours have been the main point of contention for the opposition, with concerns raised about worker welfare, safety, and work-life balance.

### Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs in govt depts

- ✓ The government of Uttar Pradesh, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has launched an ambitious plan to promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. As part of this initiative, the government has set a target to convert all vehicles used by government departments into EVs by 2030, in a phased manner.
- ✓ To further encourage the adoption of EVs, the Uttar Pradesh government has also notified the Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy 2022.

## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### MoF Increases Interest Rates on Most Small Savings Schemes, Except PPF, for Q1 FY24

- ✓ The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF) has announced an interest rate hike on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter



of the financial year 2023-24 ( Q1 FY24) (i.e. April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023), marking the third consecutive quarter of rate hikes.

- ✓ Small Savings Schemes have about 40 crore subscribers, and the basket includes 12 instruments such as the National Savings Certificate (NSC), Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA), Monthly Income Savings Scheme, all post office time deposits, etc.,
- ✓ The interest rate on these savings instruments has been raised by 10-70 basis points (bps) [one percentage point is equivalent to 100 bps].
- ✓ However, the interest rate for PPF scheme has been kept unchanged at 7.1% over Q1 FY24, and its returns have remained constant at 7.1% for the last three years.
- ✓ The GoI reviews the interest rates for small savings plans on a quarterly basis.
- ✓ Although the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sets small savings interest rates, they are linked to market yields on government securities (G-secs) with a lag and are reviewed and fixed quarterly at a spread of 0-100 basis points (bps) over (100 bps = 1%) and above G-sec yields of comparable maturities.

#### Key Details Regarding Increased Interest Rates

- ✓ iThe National Savings Certificates (NCS) witnessed the highest increase in rate, which increased from 7% to 7.7% from January to June.

- ✓ The interest rates on small savings schemes hiked by 10-70 basis points across various instruments, and they are currently in the range of 4% to 8.2%
- ✓ With the revision, the interest rate on a one-year term deposit at the post office would increase from 6.6% to 6.8%; for a 2-year term deposit, it would increase from 6.8% to 6.9%; for a 3-year term deposit, it would increase from 6.9% to 7%; and for a 5-year term deposit, it would increase from 7% to 7.5%.
- ✓ The interest rate on 5-year recurring deposits was increased from 5.8% to 6.2%.
- ✓ The interest rate on the Monthly Income Account Scheme has been increased from 7.1% to 7.4%.
- ✓ The interest rate for Senior Citizen Savings Schemes has been increased from 8% to 8.2%.
- ✓ The rate for Kisan Vikas Patras was hiked from 7.2% to 7.5%. The scheme will now mature in 115 months, rather than 120 months previously.
- ✓ The interest rate for the Sukanya Samridhi Account scheme, which is intended for girl children, will be 8% from April to June 2023 as opposed to 7.6%.

### 8th Anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

- ✓ 8th April 2023, the Ministry of Finance marked the 8th anniversary of the launch of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana (PMMY). PMMY was launched on 8th April 2015 by PM Modi in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ **Aim of PMMY:** To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro- entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.
- ✓ **Features of PMMY** The loans have been divided into three categories based on the need for finance and the stage in the maturity of the business.
  - **Shishu** – loans up to Rs 50,000
  - **Kishore** – loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh
  - **Tarun** – loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh

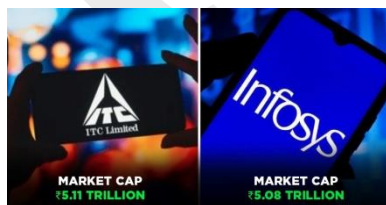
- ✓ The rate of interest is decided by lending institutions in terms of Reserve Bank of India(RBI) guidelines.
- ✓ In the case of a working capital facility, interest is charged only on money held overnight by the borrower.
- ✓ **Achievements:**As of 24th March 2023, around Rs 23.2 lakh crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts.
- ✓ .Around 68% of the accounts under the scheme belong to women entrepreneurs and 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs of Scheduled Caste (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other backward classes (OBC) categories.

### India's FIEO sign MoU with Business Russia to promote trade & FDI

- ✓ Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Apex body of Indian Exporters, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Business Russia, to promote trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) between the two countries.
- ✓ The MoU was signed during the visit of 50-member delegation of the agriculture and food processing sector from India, led by N K Kagliwal, Board Member of FIEO, to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.
- ✓ Business Russia is an All-Russia Public Organization which represents the interests of private non- resource businesses local industry leaders.

### ITC Overtakes Infosys as India's 6th Largest Company; RIL tops the list

- ✓ ITC Limited has overtaken Infosys Limited, an Indian multinational information technology company, to become India's 6th largest company, as per market capitalization (m-cap). ITC's market cap stands at Rs 5.11 lakh crore (as of April 24, 2023) while the market cap of Infosys (7th place) stands at ~Rs 5.08 lakh crore.



### India's 5 biggest companies

- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is India's largest company with a market cap of ~Rs 16.07 lakh crore followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with ~Rs 11.62 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with ~Rs 9.28 lakh crore. ICICI Bank stands at the 4th position with an m-cap of ~Rs 6.38 lakh crore and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) stands at 5th place with an m-cap of ~Rs 5.85 lakh crore.
- ✓ ITC achieved this feat after its share surged 59% in 2022.
- ✓ In 2023 so far, ITC shares are up 24%, the best performer in the benchmark Nifty50.
- ✓ In 2022, ITC has given 61% returns. It has also given 129% returns in the past 3 years.

### BHEL-led consortium bags Rs 9,600 crore order to Supply 80 Sleeper Class Vande Bharat Trains

- ✓ A consortium led by state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged an order worth more than Rs 9,600 crore to supply 80 sleeper class Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways over a period of 6 years.
- ✓ The consortium, comprising BHEL and Titagarh Wagons Ltd, is called Technology Partner.
- ✓ In the mega-tender of the Indian Railways, the BHEL-led consortium received an order for 80 Vande Bharat trains.
- ✓ Sleeper class Vande Bharat or Train18 trainsets are in demand since they can travel on long routes like Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah.
- ✓ The order is for the supply of 80 trains each at a cost of Rs 120 crore, excluding taxes and duties. The order for an Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) has also been placed for 35 years.

### India Development Update(Spring 2023 Edition) By WB: India's GDP Growth Probably to Slow Down to 6.3% in FY24

- ✓ The World Bank (WB) lowered its fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) growth projection for India to 6.3% in its "India Development Update" (Spring 2023 Edition), down from 6.6% in December 2022

(FY23). It further added that slower consumption growth and unfavourable external conditions are anticipated to restrain India's GDP growth.

- ✓ The World Bank projected a 6.9% growth in FY23.
- ✓ **Key Observations from the IDU 2023**
- ✓ According to the latest IDU 2023, increased borrowing costs and weaker income growth are likely to adversely affect private consumption growth.
- ✓ Due to the removal of pandemic-related fiscal assistance measures, government consumption is projected to rise more gradually.
- ✓ Despite some initial indications of a slowdown in the second half of FY23, India's economy remained robust.
- ✓ The report also states that, while headline inflation remains high, it is expected to fall to 5.2% in FY24, down from 6.6% in the current fiscal year (FY23).
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the policy interest rate in order to end accommodative measures to control inflation.
- ✓ Since May 2022, the RBI has increased interest rates by 250 basis points in an effort to control inflation.
- ✓ According to the update, India's financial sector remains strong, driven by improvements in asset quality and robust private-sector credit growth.
- ✓ Furthermore, the Government of India (GoI) is projected to achieve its fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY24.
- ✓ When coupled with the consolidation of state government deficits, the Union Government deficit is also predicted to decrease along with the reduction of the Current Account Deficit (CAD).
- ✓ Due to strong service exports and a decreasing goods trade deficit, CAD is anticipated to reduce to 2.1% of GDP in FY24 from an estimated 3% in FY23.

### **Net Direct Tax Collections Rose by 17.63% to Rs 16.61 Trillion in FY23; Exceeds BE & RE**

- ✓ According to the provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23), the net Direct Tax collections was at Rs. 16.61 lakh

crore(trillion), an increase of 17.63% compared to Rs. 14.12 lakh crore of FY 2021-2022.

- ✓ The provisional Direct Tax collections (net of the refunds) have exceeded the Budget Estimates (BE) by 16.97% and Revised Estimates (RE) by 0.69 %.
- ✓ In Union Budget for FY23, The BE for Direct tax revenue was fixed at Rs 14.20 lakh crore and the RE were fixed at Rs.16.50 lakh crore.
- ✓ The gross collections of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for FY 2022-23 was Rs 19.68 Lakh Crore, registering a 20.33% growth over Rs 16.36 Lakh Crore in FY 2021-22. Gross corporate tax collections grew 16.9% to Rs 10.04 Lakh Crore last fiscal against Rs 8.59 Lakh crore in FY 2021-22.
- ✓ Gross personal income tax receipts (including securities transaction tax) grew 24.2% to Rs 9.6 Lakh Crore in FY 2022-23 versus Rs 7.73 trillion in FY22.
- ✓ The income tax department issued refunds worth Rs 3.07 Lakh Crore in FY 2022-23, which was a 37.42% increase over refunds of Rs 2.24 Lakh Crore issued in FY 2021-22.

### **US Became India's biggest Trading Partner in FY23 Followed by China**

- ✓ According to the data of the Ministry of Commerce, the United States (US) has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23) at USD 128.55 billion followed by China in the second position at USD 113.83 billion.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% in FY23 due to increasing economic co-operation as against USD 119.5 billion in FY22. It was USD 80.51 billion in FY21.
- ✓ Followed by US and China, the UAE with US\$76.16 billion, was the third largest trading partner of India. It was followed by Saudi Arabia (US\$52.72 billion), and Singapore (US\$35.55 billion).
- ✓ As per the Ministry of Commerce data, China was India's top trading partner since FY14 till FY18 and also in FY21. Before China, the UAE was the India's largest trading partner.

## MoC&I Released FTP 2023: India aims for increase exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030

- ✓ On 31st March 2023, The Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoC&I), Government of India(GoI), released the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 which aims to increase India's exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030 by shifting from incentives to remission and entitlement based regime.
- ✓ Union Minister Piyush Goyal, (MoC&I) released the FTP 2023 during an event held in New Delhi, Delhi. The FTP 2023 is set to become effective from 1st April 2023.
- ✓ India is set to end the FY 2023 with a total export of USD 760-770 billion compared to the USD 676 billion in 2021-2022.

## IMF WEO 2023 cuts India's growth forecast for FY24 to 5.9% and for FY25 to 6.3%

- ✓ On April 11, 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its bi-annual World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2023 report with a title 'A Rocky Recovery' has downgraded India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for the financial year 2023-24 by 20 basis points (-0.2%) to 5.9% from 6.1% in January 2023 WEO Update.
- ✓ For FY25, India's growth projections are cut by 50 basis points (-0.5%) to 6.3% from 6.8% in January 2023 WEO Update. However, India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world.

### Indian Scenario

- ✓ A key reason for lowering the growth forecast is global uncertainties. There is anticipation of lower consumption demand due to higher interest rates.
- ✓ In purchasing power parity terms, India's growth in per capita output will decelerate to 4.9% in 2023 from 5.8% in 2022. It will be 5.4% in 2024.
- ✓ India's retail inflation to ease at 4.9% in FY24 from 6.7% in FY23. It will be 4.4% in FY25.
- ✓ The current account deficit to come down to 2.2% of GDP in FY24 from an estimated 2.6% in FY23.
- ✓ **Global Scenario:** The global economy will grow by 2.8% in 2023 and 3% in 2024, down 10 basis points each from its January WEO 2023 forecasts.

- ✓ Global inflation will fall from 8.7% in 2022 to 7% in 2023 and 4.9% in 2024.

## ADB Projected India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY24 at 6.7%, FY23 at 6.4%

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asian Development Outlook April 2023, has reduced India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for the Financial year 2022- 2023 (FY23) to 6.4% from 7% of its earlier projection.
- ✓ India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 was projected at 6.7% due to improvement in private investment and growth in the industry.

## Morgan Stanley: India's GDP to grow at 6.2% in FY24; Inflation to be 5.5% in FY24

- ✓ According to the Morgan Stanley, India's gross domestic product (GDP) was proposed to grow at 6.2% in FY24 (Financial year 2023-24) due to the contribution of a cyclical recovery in consumption, increased private sector capex (Capital Expenditure), and acceleration on government spending.

## WYLD, World's 1st Social Currency Payment Card, launched in Mumbai

- ✓ WYLD, the world's 1st Social Currency Payment Card, was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra, and was powered by San Francisco (California, USA)-based VISA Inc., an American multinational financial services corporation.
- ✓ The app lets anyone who has over 1000 Instagram followers and a "WYLD Score" of over 100 can apply for the WYLD payment card via the app.
- ✓ WYLD has raised USD 350,000 in pre-seed funding, led by Better Capital, a British Private equity firm.
- ✓ WYLD enables users to profitably use their social media following and gets rewarded with up to 100% cashback on brand purchases.
- ✓ The platform is currently invite-only, and open to the first 5,000 users on their waitlist of 10,000 potential customers, for their beta-testing phase, which starts in April 2023.

## Reliance General Becomes 1st Insurer to Accept eRupee in Partnership with Yes Bank

- ✓ Reliance General Insurance, a subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has become the first company to accept eRupee (₹)/ Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) for premium payments.
- ✓ Reliance General Insurance accepts the eRupee through a partnership with Yes Bank to enable its customers to make premium payments digitally using the bank's platform.
- ✓ The partnership will provide customers with a safe, easy, instant, and green payment solution, enhancing the customer experience.

## NPCI Bharat BillPay launches NOCS platform to process ONDC transactions

- ✓ NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) has developed and launched the NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions undertaken on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network.
- ✓ NOCS will help ONDC by providing a population-scale solution for the challenges of high transaction volume among different entities on the network.
- ✓ The ONDC platform was set up to facilitate the rapid adoption of e-commerce, and boost the growth of startups in India by facilitating scalable and cost-effective e-commerce through the open protocol.
- ✓ The NOCS platform is integrated with banks, fintechs and e-commerce players, and will soon go live with the first set of five banks on ONDC—AU Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, IDFC First Bank, and YES Bank.

## CGTMSE Increased Guarantee Coverage for MSEs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore

- ✓ The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) increased the guarantee coverage ceiling under its Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for MSEs from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore per borrower for credit facilities

extended by lending institutions to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

- ✓ Objective: To encourage the public and private sector banks, Member Financial Institutions and foreign banks to step up loans to MSEs.

## NSE Indices Launches India's 1st Nifty REITs & InvITs Index

- ✓ On April 10, 2023, the NSE Indices Limited, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), launched India's first index to track Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) called Nifty REITs and InvITs Index.



- ✓ The Nifty REITs and InvITs index will track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded or not listed but permitted to trade on NSE.
- ✓ Currently, the index comprises three listed REITs and three listed InvITs (total 6 securities).
- ✓ The Nifty REITs & InvITs Index has a base date of July 01, 2019, and a base value of 1000.
- ✓ Nifty REITs & InvITs Index comprises three sectors: realty, power, and services.
- ✓ The realty sector has the highest weight, accounting for 57.52% of the index, followed by power with 35.61% and services with 6.87%.
- ✓ The index will be reviewed and rebalanced quarterly.

## CoRover, LIC Collaborate to Launch 1st Phase of AI virtual assistant LIC Mitra

- ✓ CoRover, a Bengaluru-based startup, has collaborated with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to launch the 1st phase of conversational AI (Artificial Intelligence)-powered chatbot LIC Mitra (virtual assistant) to enhance LIC's customer support services by automating real-time responses to customers' queries.
- ✓ The chatbot developed by CoRover.ai will be available on LIC's website and mobile app. To understand and respond to users' queries in multiple

languages, the chatbot was powered by technologies such as AI, Machine Learning (ML), and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

- ✓ The technology under LIC Mitra enables users to search even with their voice.

### India supports African Union Transition Mission in Somalia with USD 2 million

- ✓ Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), presented USD 2 million to the United Nations Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).
- ✓ With this grant, the Government of India (GoI) reaffirms its dedication to promoting peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.
- ✓ India had previously granted the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) USD 4 million.

### India gives USD 500,000 to UN Women for Women Empowerment

- ✓ From April 1, 2023, each piece of gold jewellery will have a Bureau of India Standards (BIS) hallmark, purity of gold (for example, 0 22K916), and a 6-digit HUID embossed on it.
- ✓ India has made a contribution of USD 500,000 (Rs 4.09 crore) to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, for women empowerment. The cheque for the same was handed over by Ruchira Kamboj, the Permanent Representative of India to the UN, supporting UN Women's core voluntary budget.
- ✓ The donation was received by Sima Sami Bahous, the Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women.
- ✓ This funding highlights India's commitment towards gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as the government's support towards UN Women's activities.
- ✓ The donation will be utilized towards UN Women's efforts to promote gender equality and empower women globally.
- ✓ India currently serves as a member of the Executive Board of the UN Women and Women-led

Development is one of the priorities of India's G20 presidency.

- ✓ India's development model is centered around women-led initiatives, entrepreneurship, and STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.

### Norway, Singapore gain as India's FPI destinations in FY23, Mauritius declines

- ✓ According to the data from the Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), Norway, and Singapore gained as the FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment) destinations for India in FY23 while Mauritius witnessed the sharpest decline.
- ✓ Now, Singapore is the second biggest jurisdiction for FPI flows in India after the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Singapore is followed by Luxembourg at 3rd place, and Mauritius' ranking has dropped to 4 in FY23 (from 2nd in FY22), Norway ranked at 8th Place.

### ICICI Bank introduces EMI facility for UPI payments by scanning QR code

- ✓ On April 11, 2023, the ICICI Bank introduced an easy first-of-its-kind EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) facility for UPI (Unified Payment Interface) payments made by scanning QR code.
- ✓ To improve convenience of the customers and to provide unique solutions to address their evolving credit needs.
- ✓ Eligibility: Customers who are eligible for PayLater, the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' service can avail of the
- ✓ EMI facility in an instant, easy and seamless manner.
- ✓ The facility can be availed across different categories such as electronics, groceries, fashion apparels, travel and hotel bookings.
- ✓ Customers could pay transaction amounts above Rs 10,000 by scanning a QR code for easy instalments in three, six or nine months.





## SBI Board Approves to Raise USD 2 Billion via Long-Term Debt

- ✓ On 18th April 2023, the State Bank of India (SBI), a public sector lender, in its Executive Committee of the Central Board, approved to examine the status and decide on long-term fund-raising in single or multiple tranches up to USD 2 billion (about Rs 16,000 crore) under Reg-S/144A, through Public Offer and/or private placement of senior unsecured notes in USD or other convertible currency during FY2023-2024.
- ✓ SBI will raise USD 2 billion through foreign currency bonds in 2023-2024 in single or multiple tranches.
- ✓ SBI will utilise the fund for augmenting additional Tier 1 capital and the overall capital base, and for strengthening capital adequacy according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- ✓ In March 2023, SBI raised Rs 3,717 crore through an additional tier 1 bond sale.
- ✓ According to SBI, this is the 3rd Basel III compliant additional tier 1 (AT1) bond sale and the latest issue was closed at a coupon rate of 8.25%.



## Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to Launch Gold-Pegged Digital Currency

- ✓ Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) is set to launch a gold-backed digital currency to serve as legal tender in Zimbabwe. This is an initiative of the government of Zimbabwe to stabilize the local currency from continued depreciation against the United States (US) dollar.
- ✓ This will allow small amounts of Zimbabwean dollars to be exchanged for the digital gold token, enabling more Zimbabweans to hedge against currency volatility.
- ✓ In 2009, Zimbabwe adopted the U.S. dollar as its currency following hyperinflation and in 2019, the Zimbabwean dollar was reintroduced in an effort to revive its struggling economy.

## SIB introduces 2 Savings Accounts for NRIs – SIB SEAFARER & SIB PULSE

- ✓ On April 18, 2023, South Indian Bank (SIB) launched two flexible saving products namely, SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE for its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers specifically for mariners and healthcare professionals.
- ✓ The two saving products would enable the NRIs to either maintain the term deposits or the prescribed minimum balance in the saving account.

### SIB Seafarer

- ✓ Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts (eligible for the latest 2 NR Accounts opened).
- ✓ No minimum balance required on maintenance of NRI Term Deposit value of Rs. 2,00,000/- and above.

### SIB PULSE

- ✓ Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts (eligible for the latest 2 NR Accounts opened)
- ✓ No minimum balance required on
  - i.Maintenance of NRI Term Deposit of Rs. 2,00,000/- and above
  - ii.Opening a RD of Rs. 20,000/- Per month with minimum tenure of 12 months.

## CRED launches P2P UPI payments on its app

- ✓ On April 17, credit card payments application CRED announced the launch of UPI-based peer-to-peer(P2P) payments, providing its users with a new payment option. The new P2P payments system has been made available with the introduction of Scan & Pay is based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ✓ This service is designed to enable CRED customers to make secure, instant payments to other users via UPI IDs or contact numbers, thus elevating their overall user experience.
- ✓ Cred provides variety of payment methods to its members, including bill payments, scan-and-pay, tap-to-pay, UPI P2P, CRED Pay, and CRED flash for online merchants.

## IBA Constituted 4-Member Working Group on ARCs

- ✓ The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has constituted a four-member working group on Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) which will operate on various issues and report them to the IBA, the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) and the Union government.
- ✓ The four-member of the working group include
  - Hari Hara Mishra, Secretary, Association of ARCs in India.
  - Purshotam Agarwal, Chief investment officer, National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).
  - Mythili Balasubramanian, Executive Director, Edelweiss.
  - Tarun Kumar, Director, Encore Asset Reconstruction Company.
- ✓ Association of ARCs in India is a Representative Body of 28 Asset Reconstruction Companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ They are registered under RBI and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.


## SBI Reintroduced Retail term deposit scheme 'AMRIT KALASH'

- ✓ On April 12, 2023, the State Bank of India (SBI) decided to reintroduce the retail term deposit scheme 'AMRIT KALASH'. It is a special scheme of 400 days tenor with an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens and 7.1% for others.


### Backdrop

- ✓ In February 2023, the SBI launched 'AMRIT KALASH', the retail term deposit scheme with a specific duration with validity from February 15, 2023, to March 31, 2023.
- ✓ Now the Scheme was reintroduced with validity from April 12, 2023, to June 30, 2023.
- ✓ Domestic retail term deposits, including non-resident Indian (NRI) rupee term deposits (less than Rs.2 crore), new and renewals, term deposits, and special term deposits are eligible for this specific tenure deposit scheme.

## SIDBI Announces a Financial Scheme to Enhance the Electric Vehicle Market

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has announced the launch of a pilot scheme 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO' to unlock the electric vehicle market by providing better financing terms and understanding other solution bouquets needed to address the better adoption of electric vehicle (EV).
 
- ✓ The scheme will provide direct finance at competitive rates for the purchase of EVs to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ This would cover vehicle aggregators, fleet operators, and leasing companies.
- ✓ SIDBI will also fund non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) that provide loans for EV purchases and push electrification in the three-wheeler segment.
- ✓ Direct finance will also be provided to the developing charging infrastructure, including battery-swapping.

## CUB launches India's 1st Voice Biometric Authentication for Logging into its Banking App

- ✓ On 12th April 2023, the Citi Union Bank (CUB) based in Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu), launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> Voice Biometric Authentication for logging into its mobile banking app at an event held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
 
- ✓ The voice biometric was developed by Kaizen Secure Voiz Pvt. Ltd based in Chennai (TN), under the guidance of the 5G use case lab of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- ✓ The newly introduced voice biometric will be one more option for customers to log in along with user id, PIN, face id and fingerprint authentication.

### Canara Bank introduces Premium Payroll Account for Salary Account Holders

- ✓ Canara Bank has introduced a “Premium Payroll Package” for Salary account holders with competitive features. It has multiple features, including free term life insurance, instant overdraft, and free personal air accident insurance coverage.
- ✓ The Premium Payroll Package is designed to meet all Banking requirements of salaried class. The product comes with multiple features, including free Term Life Insurance, Insta over Draft, free Personal & Air Accident Insurance coverage, and Premium Cards are some of the unique features of the product apart from the other various features offered.

### SBI WeCare Senior Citizen FD scheme Last Date Extended by 3 Months

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has extended the term of “WECARE” special fixed deposit (FD) scheme for senior citizens, which was introduced in May 2020 with an initial maturity date of September 2020. The scheme has now got an extension of 3 months and it will be now available for subscription till 30th June 2023.
- ✓ Previously in September 2022, the scheme was extended till 31st March 2023.
- ✓ SBI introduces a new Deposit Scheme “SBI WECARE” protecting their income by offering additional interest on Term Deposits.

### Axis Bank Introduces ‘Digital Dukaan’ Business Management Solution for Merchants

- ✓ The third-largest private sector bank in India, Axis Bank, has collaborated with Visa and announced the launch of “Digital Dukaan”, a comprehensive digital offering that would allow merchants to accept payments through a number of digital modes and conduct day-to-day business digitally.
- ✓ Digital Dukaan, an Android Smart POS (Point of Sale) application, is exclusively developed to address business needs such as accepting digital

payments, inventory management, billing, and much more.

- ✓ With an inbuilt camera and LED flashlight, this Android Smart POS application can scan product barcodes, pay option for transactions up to Rs. 5,000, and allow tapping.
- ✓ It will offer value-added services like EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment), BQR, Sodexo card acceptance, Buy Now Pay Later, etc.

### UBI becomes 1st Indian Bank to open SRVA Malaysia for Trade Settlement in rupee

- ✓ On April 1, 2023, the Union Bank of India (UBI) became the first Indian Bank to open its ‘Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)’ in Malaysia to facilitate transactions between India and Malaysia in the Indian rupee. This will be done through the UBI’s corresponding bank in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM).
- ✓ The will allow the Indian and Malaysian traders to invoice the trade in Indian Rupee.

#### Reason

- ✓ The opening of this account is in the backdrop of ongoing official efforts to Safeguard Indian trade from the impact of Ukraine crisis. Also, India is taking steps towards de-dollarization of its international trade, as the US (United States) dollar has been the dominant reserve currency for international trade.

#### Aim


- ✓ To facilitate the growth of global trade and to support the interests of the global trading community in Indian Rupee.

### IRDAI Identified LIC, GIC & New India Assurance as D-SIIs for FY23

- ✓ On March 31, 2023, the Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC Re), and New India Assurance continued to be identified by the Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for the Financial year 2022-23.
- ✓ IRDAI annually identifies D-SIIs and publishes the name of the insurers for public information.

- ✓ In line with the Reserve Bank of India's benchmarking, D-SIIs are perceived to be 'too big (or too important) to fail'.
- ✓ LIC, GIC, and New India Assurance were the D-SIIs from 2020-21.

### Razorpay joins with ONDC to offer Payment Reconciliation Service

- ✓ On April 27, 2023, Razorpay, a fintech payments and banking platform for businesses joined with the e-commerce network Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a non-profit company set up by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), as an alternative for internet shopping.
- 
- ✓ With this, Razorpay becomes the first payment gateway to launch a Payment Reconciliation Service for Network Participants (NPs) like buyers, sellers, and logistic partners on ONDC.
  - ✓ This will provide them with an integrated single view of all their transactions.

### Canara Bank & RBIH Collaborates to Launch 'Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H'

- ✓ Canara Bank, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), announced the launch of a new customer-friendly service termed 'Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H'.
- ✓ Form 15G (Individual and HUF (Hindu Undivided Family)) and Form 15H (Individual-Senior Citizen) are self-declaration forms that an individual submits to the bank requesting not to deduct TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) on interest income as their income is below the basic exemption limit.
- ✓ Submission of PAN (Permanent Account Number) is necessary for the form submission.


### AIIB to Open First Overseas Office in Abu Dhabi, UAE

- ✓ On April 19th, 2023, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed a host member agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish its first overseas office, an Interim

Operational Hub, at Abu Dhabi Global Market, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- ✓ The agreement was signed by Jin Liqun, President and Chair of the Board of Directors of AIIB, and His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Governor of AIIB, during the signing ceremony in Abu Dhabi.
- 
- ✓ The agreement is in line with UAE's commitment towards enhancing cooperation with international organizations and institutions focused on sustainable economic development for developing countries.

### AU SFB partnered with BBPS to Enable Bill Payment via Video Banking

- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), has become India's 1st commercial bank to connect with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and deliver bill payment services through video banking. This initiative's primary goal is to promote digital accessibility and improve economic capability leading to greater financial inclusion.
- 
- ✓ Customers can use this platform to pay their bills without having to go to a branch, which is especially useful for senior citizens and others with mobility challenges who live in remote areas.

### ADB, TPDDL sign Rs 150 crore deal to enhance power distribution in Delhi

- ✓ On April 10, 2023, a Rs 150 crore (USD 18.2m) agreement has been inked between the Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), the distribution arm of The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost Delhi's power distribution.
- ✓ Under this, ADB will subscribe to non-convertible debentures worth 150 crore. The funds will be utilized for grid enhancements.

# RBI UPDATES

## RBI 1st Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy for FY24



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 3rd, 5th and 6th of April 2023 and released its first bi-monthly monetary policy statement for FY24 (Financial year 2023-2024).
- ✓ The MPC meeting was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das the other 5 members of the committee include, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R. Varma, Michael Debabrata Patra, and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan.

### RBI’s Policy Rates

Category	Rates
<b>Policy Rates</b>	
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
<b>Reserve Ratios</b>	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

- ✓ The MPC has decided to keep the policy rates unchanged with the stance remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation.
- ✓ MPC has unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent. MPC has raised the repo rate by 250 bps in the last 11 months, since May 2022.
- ✓ The Unchanged Policy rates are as follows:

### Growth

- ✓ India’s real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for FY24 was projected at 6.5 percent with 7.8 percent in Q1, 6.2 percent in Q2, 6.1 percent in Q3, and 5.9 percent in Q4.

### Inflation

- ✓ Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.2 percent in FY24, with 5.1 percent in Q1, 5.4 percent in Q2, 5.3 percent in Q3, and 5.2 percent in Q4.
- ✓ CPI headline inflation rose from 5.7 percent in December 2022 to 6.4 percent in February 2023 due to higher inflation in cereals, milk and fruits and slower deflation in vegetables prices.
- ✓ Core inflation (i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel) remained above 6% in January-February 2023.

### PRAVAAH portal

- ✓ RBI decided to develop a secured web-based centralised portal named ‘PRAVAAH’ (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation And AuthHorisation).
- ✓ To overcome the existing difficulty process, RBI developed the PRAVAAH portal. The portal will bring greater efficiencies into regulatory processes and facilitate ease of doing business for the regulated entities of RBI.
- ✓ The portal will show time limits for deciding on the applications/approvals sought.

### Pre-Sanctioned Credit Lines at Banks through UPI

- ✓ Currently, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions are enabled between deposit accounts at banks, sometimes intermediated by pre-paid instruments including wallets.
- ✓ RBI proposed enabling transfer to/from pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks through UPI, i.e. the UPI network will facilitate payments financed by credit from banks.
- ✓ The ability to access pre-sanctioned credit lines through UPI will reduce the time and effort required to obtain loans.
- ✓ UPI handles 75% of the retail digital payments volume in India.

**Loan Growth**

- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Report (April 2023), credit growth continued to outpace deposit growth in financial year 2022-23 (FY23) at an eleven-year high, despite banks fully transmitting lending rates linked to external benchmarks [250 basis points (bps)], which now account for nearly half of floating-rate loans.
- ✓ In FY23, bank loans increased 14.6% while deposits increased just 9.6%.
- ✓ The rate of credit growth in FY23 was the greatest since FY 2011–12, when credit increased 17%.
- ✓ Significantly, lending rates surged the most in FY23.
- ✓ The Monetary Policy Report (MPR) states that demand for credit is more closely related to economic activity than interest rates.

**RBI to Issue New 5-Year Govt Bonds to Raise Rs 8000 Cr**

- ✓ RBI decided to auction new 5-year government bonds, which are set to mature in 2028, to raise approximately Rs 8,000 crore in the first bond auction of the FY24 which is scheduled on April 06, 2023.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) also intends to raise up to Rs 33,000 crore by auctioning 3 securities that will mature in 2028, 2033, and 2052.
- ✓ Additionally, the GoI can retain additional subscriptions up to Rs 2,000 crore for each security.

**RBI Data: Bank credit growth Increased by 15% in FY23, Highest since FY12**

- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's Bank credit increased by 15% year-on-year (YoY) in the Financial year 2022-23 (FY23), against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (FY22).
- ✓ FY23 credit growth is the highest since FY12 when it was 19.3%.
- ✓ Bank deposits expanded 9.58% YoY in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth in FY22.
- ✓ In FY23, the bank deposit mobilisation was lagged behind credit disbursements.
- ✓ Rs 15.78 trillion was raised through deposits in FY23, against Rs 13.51 trillion raised in FY22.

- ✓ The credit in absolute terms rose Rs 17.83 trillion in FY23, up from Rs 10.43 trillion in FY22. According to the RBI's data on Scheduled Bank's Statement of Position in India, the outstanding credit stood at Rs 136.75 trillion at the end of the last fortnight of FY23 (on March 24, 2023), up from Rs 118.91 trillion in FY22 (on March 25, 2022).
- ✓ Outstanding deposits stood at Rs 180.43 trillion in FY23, against Rs 164.6 trillion in FY22.
- ✓ The interest rate on one-year term deposits was in the range of 5-5.6% around the end of March 2022 and moved up to 6-7.25% by the end of March 2023.
- ✓ The savings deposit rate remained in the range of 2.7-3% in March 2022 and March 2023.

**RBI simplifies the application process for registration of CICs**

- ✓ On April 10, 2023, RBI has undertaken a comprehensive review of the system of processing of applications for registration of Core Investment Companies (CICs) to make the process smoother and easier.
- ✓ The application form has been revamped to make it structured and aligned with the extant CIC regulations.
- ✓ To make the registration process user friendly, the number of documents to be furnished along with the application form has been reduced to 18 from the existing set of 52 documents.

**RBI Granted AD Category-I Licence to AU SFB, Equitas SFB to Deal in Foreign Exchange**

- ✓ On 19th April 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an Authorised Dealer(AD) category-I licence to AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) under Section 10 of FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999 to deal in foreign exchange. The permission is subject to compliance with applicable regulations.
- ✓ The licence will enable AU Small Finance Bank to open a range of foreign currency-related products to serve the importer-exporter segment and process inward and outward remittances.

- ✓ Equitas SFB: On April 19, 2023, Equitas Small Finance Bank also received an AD Category-I licence from RBI.

### **RBI accepts Rs 5,500 crore Bids at Switch and Conversion Auction of Government Bonds**

- ✓ On 17th April 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) accepted bids worth Rs 5,500 crore at an auction for the switching and conversion of 5 Government of India (GoI) bonds against the notified amount of Rs 11,000 crore.
- ✓ Against the notified amount of Rs 4,000 crore, bids for the floating rate bond (FRB) expiring in 2024, which will be converted into the paper to be redeemed in 2032, were accepted at Rs 2,000 crore.

### **InPrime Finserv Received NBFC Licence from RBI**

- ✓ InPrime Finserv (a brand owned by STK Credit Private Limited), a financial services start-up catering to the informal economy, has obtained a Certificate of Registration (COR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- ✓ InPrime is on a mission to 'Redefine the way informal customers access formal finance'.
- ✓ It is focused on providing financial services to the 'Prime' segment of India's informal economy, which consists of around 50 million households with an annual credit need of Rs. 5 Lakh Crores.

### **Capacity Utilisation robust but New Orders dip in Q3FY23: RBI's 60th OBICUS**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted the 60th round of quarterly Order books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization survey (OBICUS) covering 762 manufacturing companies. It was conducted during Q3:2022-23 to provide a snapshot of demand conditions in India's manufacturing sector during October- December 2022.
- New order book**
- ✓ In Q3FY23, New order book of companies recorded a decline to 8.4% indicating a slowdown in demand in the manufacturing sector.

- ✓ The average amount of new order books has dipped from its peak of Rs 307.9 crore in Q2 FY23 to Rs 212.2 crore in Q3FY23.
- ✓ This decline is due to Difficult external environment with the threat of recession in many advanced economies and slowing domestic demand due to RBI's aggressive rate hikes.
- ✓ While the growth of New Order Books was negative between Q2FY20 and Q1 FY21, the order book grew consecutively in the next three quarters till Q1FY22, registering a staggering 105% growth.

#### **Capacity Utilization**

- ✓ Capacity Utilization (CU) at manufacturing facilities was at a robust 74.3% in Q3 FY23, up from 74% in Q2.
- ✓ Utilization has held above the 72% mark since Q3 FY22, indicating that the manufacturing activity is taking place at a rapid pace.
- ✓ Utilisation had hit a low of 47.3% in Q1 FY21 when most manufacturing units cut down production. The pre- pandemic level (Q1 FY20) was 73.6%.

### **SCBs end FY23 with 15.4% Credit Growth: RBI Data**

- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on 'Sectoral Deployment of bank Credit- March 2023', Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported a robust credit growth of 15.4% in FY23 as compared to the 9.7% in FY22.
- ✓ The development is driven by growth in personal loans, and loans to services sector, and agriculture and allied activities.
- ✓ The data for the same was collected by RBI from 40 select SCBs accounting for about 93% of the total non-food credit deployed by all SCBs.
- ✓ Personal loans registered a growth of 20.6% in FY23 as compared with 12.6% in FY22, driven by housing loans.
- ✓ Credit growth to services sector accelerated to 19.8% in FY23 from 8.7% in FY22 due to the improved credit to NBFCs and trade.
- ✓ Credit to agriculture and allied activities rose by 15.4% in FY23 as compared with 9.9% in FY22. Credit to industry registered a growth of 5.7% as against 7.5% in FY22.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### James Webb Telescope Discovered 4 Oldest Galaxies

- ✓ According to the papers published in the journal “Nature”, a team of 80 international astronomers from 10 countries have detected 4 oldest galaxies in the known universe using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).
- ✓ The observations were part of the JWST Advanced Deep Extragalactic Survey (JADES), which gets just over one month of the telescope’s time spread over two years, and is designed to provide a view of the early universe unprecedented in both depth and detail.
- ✓ The light from the 4 galaxies took more than 13.4 billion years to reach Webb located nearly 15 lakh kilometres away from Earth.
- ✓ These galaxies date back to less than 400 million years after the big bang when our universe came to life.
- ✓ These four galaxies exist in the epoch of reionization, a time when astronomers think the first stars were being created.



### MIT Engineers developed Injectable Synthetic nanoparticles and a polymer to Stop Internal Bleeding

- ✓ Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Massachusetts, United States of America (USA), has designed a two-component system – a combination of Synthetic nanoparticles and a polymer that can be injected into the body and help form blood clots at the sites of internal injury.
- ✓ These materials mimic the actions of both platelets and fibrinogen, a protein that helps form clots. The nanoparticle recruits platelets and a polymer mimics fibrinogen.
- ✓ The paper on the study was published in the “Advanced Healthcare Materials”. It can be injected into the body and help form blood clots at the sites

of internal injury can save people from severe internal injuries.

- ✓ The two components performed significantly better than hemostatic nanoparticles that were developed earlier.

### Japanese startup iSpace failed to land its Hakuto-R lander on Moon

- ✓ On 25th April 2023, Tokyo (Japan)-based iSpace Inc, a private lunar robotic exploration company, failed its moon landing mission after its Hakuto-R Mission 1 (M1) lander unexpectedly accelerated and probably crashed on the lunar surface.
- ✓ The robotic Hakuto-R aimed to become the first private spacecraft, and the first Japanese-built vehicle, ever to land softly on the moon.
- ✓ The HAKUTO-R Mission 1 was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the United States of America (USA) on a SpaceX rocket in December 2022 and had completed several mission objectives leading up to its landing attempt.
- ✓ Hakuto-R was over two metres (6.5 feet) tall and weighed 340 kilogrammes (kg). Hakuto means “White Rabbit” in Japanese.
- ✓ So far, only the USA, Russia and China have managed to put a spacecraft on the Lunar surface.

### ISRO completes PMD operation of GSAT-12 satellite

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the post-mission disposal (PMD) operation of the communication satellite GSAT-12.
- ✓ GSAT-12 is the 23rd GEO (Geosynchronous Earth Orbital) satellite to undergo PMD before decommissioning and it carried 12 extended C band transponders was launched on July 15, 2011 and served for more than a decade.
- ✓ After the launch of its replacement satellite CMS-01 (Communication satellite) in 2020, it was later relocated to 47.96° E longitude from 83° E longitude where it was located till March 2021.





## MF Hydra': World's First Liquid Hydrogen-Powered Ferry gets Operational

- ✓ Norwegian company Norled has launched the world's first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry vessel called 'MF Hydra'. The vessel has been going through sea trials and system tests at Hjelmeland since the beginning of 2023. MF Hydra will now operate on the triangular route of Hjelmeland-Skipavik-Nesvik.
- ✓ MF Hydra, powered by Ballard Power Systems FCwave fuel cell modules that use hydrogen to generate power, received clearance from the Norwegian Maritime Administration to start sailing.

## Europe Successfully Launches JUICE Mission to Study Jupiter's Icy Moons

- ✓ On April 14, 2023, The European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), via the Ariane-5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport from Kourou, French Guiana.
- ✓ Juice, a robotic explorer's, mission was to make detailed observations of the solar system's biggest planet, Jupiter and three ice-encrusted moons which scientists believed to have underground oceans where sea life could exist.
- ✓ Juice is expected to reach Jupiter in 2031 and has a mission lifespan of about three years which could be extended by 200 or more days.
- ✓ It will make multiple flybys of Jupiter's satellites Ganymede, Callisto and Europa before orbiting around Ganymede.

## Taifa-1: Kenya launches First Operational Satellite into Space

- ✓ On April 15, 2023, Kenya successfully launched its inaugural operational 3U Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) 'Taifa-1' (Nation-1, in the Swahili language), using a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Base in California, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Taifa-1 is designed and developed by SayariLabs and EnduroSat. Created by a team of nine Kenyan engineers, it is designed to gather environmental and agricultural data, such as flood, drought,

wildfire, forest and urbanization changes data, which will be employed by authorities to manage disasters and tackle food insecurity.

- ✓ The satellite was developed over a two-year period at a cost of 50 million Kenyan shillings (USD 372,000), with assistance from the Bulgarian aerospace firm Endurosat.
- ✓ It is anticipated to operate for five years before disintegrating over a 20-year period as it enters the atmosphere and burns up.

## India become 1st Country in the World to Develop Own Model to Estimated TB Cases

- ✓ India becomes the first country in the world to estimate tuberculosis (TB) burden in-country and launch its country-level mathematical model to estimate the prevalence of TB cases in India.
- ✓ The mathematical model to estimate TB cases was launched in the 36th Stop TB Partnership Board meeting (participated by delegates from 40 countries) at the One World TB summit 2023 which was held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from 23- 26 March 2023.
- ✓ Existing Mechanism: Each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels.
- ✓ As per the Indian mathematical model's data, the global TB reduction number was about 11% while the reduction in TB cases in India is 18%.

## ISRO launched 2 Singaporean Satellites under PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 Mission

- ✓ On 22nd April 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched PSLV-C55 with two Singaporean satellites – TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and Lumelite-4 as a co-passenger satellite, as a part of the PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission, from Satish



Dhawan Space Center(SDSC)-Sriharikota Range(SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The 2 satellites, TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4 were intended to be launched into an Eastward low-inclination orbit.
- ✓ This marks the 57th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle(PSLV) and the 16th mission using the PSLV Core Alone configuration (PSLV-CA).
- ✓ The PSLV-C55 also carried the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-2 (POEM-2).
- ✓ The two satellites are being launched under a contract with the New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO.
- ✓ The TeLEOS-2 satellite was developed under a partnership between the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), representing the Government of Singapore, and ST Engineering(Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd)
- ✓ The LUMELITE-4 satellite was co-developed by the Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and the Satellite Technology and Research Centre (STAR) of the National University of Singapore(NUS).

### China's Space Pioneer Launched Liquid-Fueled Rocket – Tianlong-2 into Orbit

- ✓ On 2nd April 2023, Space Pioneer (also known as Beijing Tianbing Technology Company Limited), a Chinese aerospace company developing reusable orbital rocket technology, launched its Tianlong-2(TL-2) Yaoyi carrier rocket, a liquid-fueled rocket, from the Jiuquan launch centre in northwest China.
- ✓ With this launch, Space Pioneer becomes the 1st Chinese aerospace company(private) to launch a liquid-fueled rocket into orbit and this also marks the first time a startup company has successfully reached orbit on its 1st attempt.

### Fengyun-3G: China launches 1st satellite dedicated to monitoring heavy rainfalls

- ✓ On April 16, 2023, China launched Fengyun-3G(FY-3G), its first satellite allowing scientists to

monitor the Earth's precipitation from space. It was launched by China's Long March 4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province.

- ✓ With a lifespan of 6 years (2023 – 2029), FY 3G is dedicated to monitoring heavy rainfalls during catastrophic weather conditions in global regions of low- and mid-latitude i.e. it will forecast global meteorological disasters through its powerful tool.
- ✓ This is one of only three such satellites in the world.
- ✓ This satellite is a continuation of the Global Precipitation Measurement mission (GPM) which is led by Japan and the United States of America(USA).

### BDL Successfully Tested the Indigenous Anti Tank Guided Missile, Amogha-III

- ✓ Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) successfully conducted a field firing test of its indigenous third generation man-portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Amogha-III.
- ✓ Amogha-III has been developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) by the Research and Development (R&D) Division of BDL.
- ✓ About Amogha-III ATGM:
- ✓ The model of the new 3rd Generation ATGM, Amogha III was unveiled during the DefExpo 2020, a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence(MoD) held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in February 2020 in a hybrid format.
- ✓ The whole missile system comes with a command launch unit (CLU), remote operation capability and a tripod.
- ✓ Amogha-III ATGM which requires no external intervention following the launch boasts the fire and forget capability.
- ✓ The missile also features a dual-mode Imaging Infrared (IIR) Seeker with a range of 200 to 2500 meters.



## DEFENCE

### Solar Industries bagged the contract to supply 400 Nagastra-1 drones to the Indian Army

- ✓ On April 21, 2023, the Nagpur (Maharashtra)-based Solar Industries India Limited has bagged an order to supply 400 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) 'Nagastra – I' to the Indian Army. Solar Industries won the contract defeating competitors from Israel and Poland.
- ✓ The 1st indigenous man-portable loitering munition (LM), Nagastra-1(a fixed-wing electric UAV), has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries, in association with Zmotion Autonomous Systems Private Limited(Z-Motion) based in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### India Acquires Weapons Worth USD 300 Million from US for Indian Navy

- ✓ India is set to clear the proposal to acquire armaments worth over USD 300 million from the United States of America(USA) to arm the Indian Navy's MH 60 "Romeo" chopper, the multi-role helicopters which will enhance its capabilities to counter enemy warships and submarines.
- ✓ Under this, the fleet of 24 choppers will get additional Hellfire missiles and Mk 54 lightweight torpedoes.

### Ajeya Warrior 2023: India UK joint military exercise begins at Salisbury Plains of UK

- ✓ Ajeya Warrior 2023, The 7th edition of India and the United Kingdom (UK) bilateral training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' commenced at the Salisbury Plains, UK on 27th April 2023. The exercise will culminate on 11th May, 2023.

#### Participants

- ✓ The UK Soldiers of the 2 Royal Gorkha Rifles, a rifle regiment of the British Army, and Indian Army soldiers from the BIHAR Regiment, an Indian Army infantry regiment, are participating in the exercise.

### Exercise Orion: IAF Participated in Multilateral Military Exercise at Mont-de-Marsan Airbase in France

- ✓ On April 17, 2023, Exercise Orion, a Multilateral Military Exercise, was initiated at Mont-de-Marsan, an Air Force base of the French Air and Space Force (FASF) in France. Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent will take part in the exercise which will be conducted from 17th April 2023 to 5th May 2023.
- ✓ Along with IAF and FASF, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain and the United States of America (USA) also participates in the exercise.

### Indian Navy conducts offshore security exercise 'Prasthan' in Mumbai

- ✓ On April 6th 2023, Indian Navy conducted the offshore security exercise Prasthan, a bi-annual coordinated exercise along with other defence, state and civilian agencies on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform about 30 nautical miles(nm) South West of Mumbai harbour, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The previous 'Prasthan' exercise was conducted on 11th and 12th October 2022 in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) under the aegis of Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

### Exercise Cope India 23 begins between Indian Air Force and US Air Force in West Bengal

- ✓ The first phase of Exercise Cope India 23(CI23), a bilateral Air Exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force began on 10th April 2023 at Air Force Station Arjan Singh(Panagarh Air Force base) in Panagarh, West Bengal(WB).
- ✓ The 11-day exercise is scheduled to be held in Panagarh, Kalaikunda(West Bengal) and Agra (Uttar Pradesh)air force stations.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Neeli Bendapudi receives 2023 Immigrant Achievement Award

- ✓ On 28th April 2023, Indian-American Neeli Bendapudi, 59-year-old, the president of Pennsylvania University, United States of America (USA) was honoured with the American Immigration Council's 2023 Immigrant Achievement Award for her contributions to American higher education.



- ✓ The Immigrant Award is presented annually to an individual or organization exhibiting commitment and dedication to America's heritage as a nation of immigrants and support for humane immigration policy.
- ✓ The award was presented at the DC Immigrant Achievement Awards reception held at Washington, DC, USA.
- ✓ Neeli Bendapudi was born and raised in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) in India and she moved to the US in 1986 for her doctoral studies at the University of Kansas.

### Sanskrit Scholar Dr M.N. Nandakumara awarded honorary MBE by King Charles III

- ✓ The United Kingdom (UK) based Sanskrit Scholar, Dr M.N. Nandakumara, Executive Director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in London, UK has been awarded the honorary MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by King Charles III.
- ✓ The honorary MBE has been granted "for services to the teaching, performance and accessibility of Indian classical arts in the UK".
- ✓ The honorary award is approved by the British monarch for foreign nationals for their contribution to public life, and was confirmed by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).



- ✓ Dr Nandakumara hails from the Indian state of Karnataka. He has been associated with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre for 46 years (from 1970).

### Green World Award 2023: India's PGCIL, CMRL & Vedanta Each Bagged Awards under Different Categories

- ✓ On 24th April 2023, the Green Organization, London, United Kingdom (UK), presented the Green World Awards 2023, at Miami International Airport in the United States of America (USA). India's Vedanta Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), and Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) received awards in various categories.
- ✓ Vedanta Limited has been conferred Global Gold Award in the Environmental Policy & Management category at the Green World Awards 2023.
- ✓ POWERGRID, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) of the Ministry of Power (MoP), has been conferred Global Gold Award in the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) category.



### 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards

- ✓ On 27th April 2023, the 68th edition of the Hyundai Filmfare Awards (Filmfare Awards 2023) took place at the Jio World Conventional Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Filmfare Awards 2023 were presented in collaboration with the Maharashtra Tourism, Government of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The event was co-hosted by Salman Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Maniesh Paul.
- ✓ The Filmfare Awards are presented annually by The Times Group to honour the excellence of professionals, both artists and technicians, in the film industry of India. The awards were first introduced in 1954.

**list of winners of the Filmfare Awards 2023**

Category	Winner
Best Film	Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Film (Critics')	Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for Badhaai Do
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor (Critics')	Sanjay Mishra for Vadh
Best Actress (Critics')	Bhumi Pednekar for Badhaai Do and Tabu for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Anil Kapoor for Jug Jugg Jeeyo
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Sheeba Chaddha for Badhaai Do
Best Music Album	Pritam for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Dialogue	Prakash Kapadia and Utkarshini Vashishtha for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Screenplay	Akshat Ghildial, Suman Adhikary and Harshavardhan Kulkarni for Badhaai Do
Best Story	Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary for Badhaai Do
Best Debut (Male)	Ankush Gedam for Jhund
Best Debut (Female)	Andrea Kevichusa for Anek
Best Debut Director	Jaspal Singh Sandhu and Rajeev Barnwal for Vadh
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prem Chopra
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Kavita Seth for Rangisari from Jug Jugg Jeeyo
RD Burman Award for Upcoming Music Talent	Jahnvi Shrimankar for Dholida from Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best VFX	DNEG and Redefine for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Editing	Ninad Khanolkar for An Action Hero
Best Costume Design	Sheetal Sharma for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Production Design	Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Sound Design	Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee for Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva
Best Background Score	Sanchit Balhara and Ankit Balhara for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Choreography	Kruti Mahesh for Dholida from Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Cinematography	Sudeep Chatterjee for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Action	Parvez Shaikh for Vikram Vedha

## 14th Dalai Lama gets the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in Person after 64 years

- ✓ On 26th April 2023, The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in person after 64 years in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, by Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation president Susanna B Afan and foundation trustee Emily A Abrera.
- ✓ The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay award was given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in the Philippines in August 1959.
- ✓ It was the first international recognition given to the 14th Dalai Lama for his leadership in the preservation of Tibet's society, religion and culture and way of life during a critical time
- ✓ GyaloThonden, elder brother of Dalai Lama, had received the Magsaysay Award on his behalf in Manila, the Philippines in August 1959.



## Winners of Goldman Environmental Prize 2023 Announced

- ✓ On April 24, 2023, winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize 2023 were announced at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco, California, the United States of America(USA). 6 winners of the 2023 prize are Alessandra Korap Munduruku from Brazil, Chilekwa Mumba from Zambia, Delima Silalahi from Indonesia, Diane Wilson from the USA, Tero Mustonen from Finland, and Zafer Kızılkaya from Türkiye.
- ✓ 2023 marks the 34th anniversary of the Goldman Environmental Prize which honors one grassroots activist from each of the six inhabited continents.
- ✓ The award is also known as the “Green Nobel Prize”.
- ✓ The ceremony for the same was hosted by Rue Mapp, founder of Outdoor Afro, an organization dedicated to celebrating Black connections and leadership in nature

## Karnataka Bags National Award For Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- ✓ In a first, Karnataka has bagged the national award for the best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a crop subsidy insurance scheme, for the year 2022-23.
- ✓ The award was received by the Secretary to the government, Department of Agriculture, Karnataka, Shivayogi C Kalasad, at the national conference at Chhattisgarh on April 14 2023.
- ✓ Under the scheme (between the kharif season 2021 and 2022), the state recorded a 47.74% increase in the enrolment of farmers and the area covered under the scheme increased by 41.80%.

## Union Bank of India Secures 1st Rank in EASE Reforms Index for Q3 FY23

- ✓ On April 20, 2023, As per the report on Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index for Q3 FY23 published by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), the Union Bank of India, for the first time, secures 1st rank among all PSB (Public Sector Banks) for adopting various reforms prescribed for PSBs.
- ✓ EASE is an initiative by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as part of the PSB Reforms Agenda and is currently under its 5<sup>th</sup> iteration which focuses on Enhanced Digital experience, Data – driven, Integrated and Inclusive Banking.

## Economist Utsa Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

- ✓ Utsa Patnaik, a renowned economist of national and international repute, has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023 by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust (MEAT) based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- ✓ MalcolmAdiseshiah Award is annually presented by the MEAT to honour the contributions of outstanding social scientists in the field of development studies.
- ✓ The recipients are selected by a national-level jury specially constituted for this purpose, from the nominations received.

## Noted Indian-American statistician CR Rao wins the 2023 International Prize in Statistics

- ✓ Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao (CR Rao), a prominent Indian-American Statistician, has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics, the statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.
- ✓ CR Rao will receive the prize, which comes with a USD 80,000 award, in July 2023 the biennial International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress, which will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- ✓ The International Prize in Statistics, established in 2016, is awarded biennially at the ISI World Statistics Congress.



## Kiran Nadar conferred with France's highest civilian award "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"

- ✓ Kiran Nadar, Philanthropist and an art collector, was conferred with "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion Honour), the highest French civilian award, by Emmanuel Lenain, French Ambassador to India in a ceremony held at the Residence of France in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Kiran Nadar was honoured for her outstanding contribution to the arts, her dedication to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in establishing cultural ties between France and India.



## Asha Bhosle to receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar

- ✓ Asha Bhosle, the renowned singer, will be honored with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award, which was established by the Mangeshkar family and trust in memory of Lata Mangeshkar. The award ceremony will take place on April 24, which is the

anniversary of their father's death. Asha Bhosle, who is Lata Mangeshkar's younger sister, will be the recipient of the award.

## Raj Subramaniam honoured with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

- ✓ Raj Subramaniam, the CEO of FedEx, a renowned global transportation company, and an Indian-American, was recently honored with the distinguished Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award. This award is the highest civilian recognition bestowed by India upon individuals of Indian descent and Indian diaspora. Due to travel restrictions, Subramaniam, aged 55, received the award from Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US, at a ceremony held at India House on Saturday instead of receiving it in India earlier this year.
- ✓ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman is an award presented by the Government of India to individuals of Indian origin and diaspora who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and have enhanced India's image in the international community. The award was instituted in 2003 to coincide with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) celebrations.



## Kumar Mangalam Birla received AIMA's 'Business Leader of the Decade' award

- ✓ At the 13th Managing India Awards ceremony hosted by the All India Management Association (AIMA), Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, was presented with the 'Business Leader of the Decade Award' for his contributions to the Indian industry in the last ten years. Birla was recognized for his leadership in consolidating and streamlining the operations of the diversified group. The 'AIMA-JRD Tata Corporate Leadership' award was given to T V Narendran, Chairman of Tata Steel, while ABB India, a leading engineering services company, won the 'MNC in India of the Year' award. The ceremony held in New Delhi also honored several other leaders and institutions in the industry.

# SPORTS

## MCC Honoured 5 Indian Cricketers with Honorary Life Membership

- ✓ Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) based at the Lord's Cricket Ground (since 1814) in London, the United Kingdom(UK), has awarded honorary life membership of the Club to 17 World's finest cricketers, including 5 Indian cricketers(3 men and 2 women): Mahendra Singh Dhoni(MS Dhoni); Suresh Raina; Yuvraj Singh; Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami.
- ✓ MCC has also awarded a further 2 Honorary Life Memberships for non-playing contributions to the game.
- ✓ 8 of the 12 Test Playing countries are represented on the 2023 Cohort of new Honorary Life Memberships.



## Harmanpreet Kaur, Tom Blundell, Ben Foakes among the 5 Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2023

- ✓ 160th edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2023, the cricket reference book published annually in the United Kingdom(UK), has announced the Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2023.
- ✓ Tom Blundell(New Zealand), Ben Foakes (England), Harmanpreet Kaur(India), Daryl Mitchell(New Zealand) and Matthew Potts (England) were named the Five Wisden Cricketers of the Year 2023.
- ✓ Indian Women's cricket team Captain Harmanpreet Kaur becomes the 1st India Women's cricketer to be named a "Wisden Cricketer of the Year."



## Iga Świątek won Women's Singles title at Stuttgart Open 2023

- ✓ Iga Świątek of Poland won the Women's singles title at the 2023 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix(Stuttgart Open 2023) defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus. This marks Świątek's 2nd consecutive Stuttgart Open title.
- ✓ Stuttgart Open 2023, the 46th edition of Porsche Tennis Grand Prix, was held in Stuttgart, Germany from 17th to 23rd April 2023.
- ✓ **Women's Doubles Title:** The United States(US)-Mexico pair Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Giuliana Olmos won the Women's doubles title at the Stuttgart Open 2023 defeating the US-Netherlands pair Desirae Krawczyk and Demi Schuurs.
- ✓ Stuttgart Open is an official Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 500 clay tournament. It is a women's tennis tournament held in Stuttgart, Germany Held since 1978.



## Tennis: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz won Men's Single Title at Barcelona Open 2023

- ✓ On 23rd April 2023, Carlos Alcaraz(Spain) won the Men's singles title at the 2023 Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell(Barcelona Open 2023) by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece. 2023 Barcelona Open, the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell was held in Barcelona, Spain from 17th to 23rd April 2023. This marks his 2nd consecutive Barcelona Open title, he previously won the title in 2022, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour title of 2023.
- ✓ This also marks his 9th ATP Tour singles title(overall) and he has won his last 14 tour matches on Spanish soil.





**Men’s Doubles title**

- ✓ Argentina’s Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni won the Men’s doubles title defeating Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Neal Skupski of Great Britain.
- ✓ Earlier this season, Gonzalez and Molteni won the titles on clay in Cordoba and Rio de Janeiro.
- ✓ With these victories, they have climbed 4 spots to 4th in the Pepperstone ATP Live Doubles Team Rankings.
- ✓ Rafael Nadal owns a record 12 trophies at this event.

**Asian Wrestling Championships 2023: Aman Sehrawat wins India’s 1st Gold Medal at Astana, Kazakhstan**

- ✓ On 13th April 2023, Aman Sehrawat, a freestyle wrestler, won India’s 1st gold medal, under the men’s 57kg freestyle category, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023.36th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 9 April to 14 April 2023.
- ✓ Aman Sehrawat won the gold medal by defeating Kyrgyzstan’s Almaz Smanbekov (9-4), who won the bronze medal in 2022.
- ✓ India has won 14 medals(one gold, three silvers and 10 bronze) and is ranked 7th in overall medal tally. Kazakhstan was topped in medal tally followed by Japan and Iran.

**Madrid Spain Masters 2023: Indonesia’s Gregoria M Tunjung defeats India’s PV Sindhu to win Women’s singles title.**

- ✓ Indonesian badminton player Gregoria Mariska Tunjung won the Women’s singles title at the Madrid Spain Masters 2023 finals defeating India’s Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu).
- ✓ This also marks Gregoria M Tunjung’s first Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title and her first victory over PV Sindhu in 8 matches.
- ✓ Madrid Spain Masters 2023, a part of the Spain Masters championship, was held in Centro

Deportivo Municipal Gallur, Madrid, Spain from 28th March to 2nd April 2023.

- ✓ The 2023 Spain Masters was the 8th tournament of the 2023 BWF World Tour.

**Ding Liren becomes China’s first world chess champion**

- ✓ Ding Liren has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia’s Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker. Ding defeated Nepo in the last of the four Rapid tiebreaks. Ding takes over as winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway’s Magnus Carlsen, who chose not to defend his title after a 10-year reign. He and Nepomniachtchi had finished on seven points each after the 14 first-stage games played in the Kazakh capital, Astana.



**Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty end India’s 52-year wait for men’s doubles medal in Badminton Asia Championships**

- ✓ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made history on April 30, becoming the first Indian men’s doubles pair to win a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships. The Indian pair defeated the Malaysian duo of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in a thrilling three-game match that lasted for over an hour.



**FIFA Rankings: India’s Football Team Rises to 101**

- ✓ According to the latest FIFA rankings, the Indian men’s football team has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at 101. Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions, followed by France, Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, and Spain in the top 10 positions. Japan holds the highest rank among the Asian countries.



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### 59th Femina Miss India World: Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta crowned Femina Miss India World 2023

- ✓ On 15th April 2023, Nandini Gupta, a 19-year-old, from (Kota)Rajasthan, won the 59th edition of Femina Miss India World 2023 crown in the grand ceremony held at Khuman Lampak Stadium, Imphal, Manipur.
- ✓ Femina Miss India 2022 winner Sini Shetty of Karnataka crowned Nandini Gupta.
- ✓ Nandini Gupta will now represent India at the 71<sup>st</sup> edition of Miss World (2023), which is to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ **Hosts**– Manish Paul and Bhumi Pednaker
- ✓ **Jury Panel**– Femina Miss India Universe 2002 and Mentor Neha Dhupia, ace choreographer Terence Lewis, film director & writer Harshvardhan Kulkarni, boxing icon Laishram Sarita Devi, and distinguished designers Rocky Star and Namrata Joshipura.
- ✓ **Runners-Up**– Shreya Poonja of Delhi became the 1st runner-up and Thounaojam Strela Luwang of Manipur was crowned the 2nd runner-up.



### Indian Actor Shah Rukh Khan won TIME100 Reader Poll 2023

- ✓ India's Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan won the 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll, the 100th edition of TIME's readers poll in which readers voted for the individuals/groups that they think deserve a spot on the Time's annual list of the most influential people.
- ✓ Shah Rukh Khan topped the list by receiving around 4% of the vote after more than 1.2 million votes were cast.



- ✓ Shah Rukh Khan's net worth is estimated to be around Rs 627 million (\$770 million), which positions him as the wealthiest actor in Asia and the fourth wealthiest actor globally.
- ✓ Editors of the TIME magazine will reveal their choices for the 2023 TIME100 list on April 13, 2023.

### Wg Cdr Deepika Misra becomes 1st Woman Officer of IAF to receive Gallantry Award

- ✓ On April 20, 2023, Wing Commander (Wg Cdr) Deepika Misra became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be presented with Vayu Sena Medal (VM) for Gallantry.
- ✓ The award was presented by Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari at an Investiture Ceremony 2023 held at the Air Force Auditorium in Subroto Park, New Delhi, Delhi.



### Five-time Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal passed away

- ✓ On April 25 2023, Five-time Punjab Chief Minister (CM) and veteran Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Parkash Singh Badal passed away at the age of 95 in Mohali, Punjab. He was born on 8th December 1927 at Abul Khurana, near Malout in Punjab.
- ✓ Parkash Singh Badal started his political career in 1947, he was elected to Punjab Vidhan Sabha in 1957 for the first time from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), a Sikh-centered regional political party, in Punjab.
- ✓ He has served as the CM of Punjab and holds the record for being Punjab's youngest CM, at the age of 43 and for being the state's oldest CM, at the age of 90.



- ✓ Parkash Singh Badal held the CM post for five terms: Between 1970 and 1971; from 1977-1980; from 1997-2002; from 2007-2012 and from 2012-2017.
- ✓ He also served as the leader of the opposition from 1972 to 1977, 1980 to 1983, and from 2002 to 2007. In his career, Parkash Singh Badal contested 13 state assembly elections and won 11. Between 1969 and 2017, he won ten polls back-to-back.

### Former Chairman Emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra, Keshub Mahindra Passed Away

- ✓ On 12th April 2023, Keshub Mahindra, former chairman emeritus of Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Group, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra, at the age of 99. He was born on 9th October 1923 in Shimla, British India (now in Himachal Pradesh).
- ✓ According to the Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2023, Keshub Mahindra was named India's Oldest Billionaire.



### Renowned scientist Dr.N. Gopalakrishnan passes away at 68

- ✓ N. Gopalakrishnan, the creator of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) and a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has passed away at the age of 68.
- ✓ Gopalakrishnan held a Master of Science degree in Chemistry, a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. He was born in the city of Kochi in the Ernakulam district of Kerala, and his parents were Narayanan Embranthiri and Satyabhama.



### Legendary theatre actor Jalabala Vaidya passes away

- ✓ Jalabala Vaidya, a renowned theatre artist and co-founder of Delhi's Akshara Theatre, passed away at the age of 86. Born in London to Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English

classical singer Madge Franckeiss, Jalabala Vaidya began her career as a journalist and contributed to various national newspapers and magazines in Delhi.

### Former Indian Cricketer Salim Aziz Durrani Passes Away

- ✓ On 2nd April 2023, Salim Aziz Durrani, a former Afghan-born Indian Cricketer, passed away in Jamnagar, Gujarat, at the age of 88. He was born on 11th December 1934 in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is the only Indian Test cricketer to have been born in Afghanistan.
- ✓ He has represented India in 29 Tests, scoring 1202 runs and taking 75 wickets.
- ✓ He represented Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy of domestic cricket.
- ✓ He was well known for India's first Test series victory over England in 1961-62. In 1961, he was honoured with Arjuna Award. He became the first cricketer to receive the Arjuna Award.
- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) honoured him with Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

### Jharkhand Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto Passed Away

- ✓ On 6th April 2023, Jagarnath Mahto, Minister of Education in Jharkhand, passed away at a hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), at the age of 56. He was born on 1 January 1967 in Alargo, Bokaro, Jharkhand.
- ✓ Jagarnath Mahto, a politician and cabinet minister from Jharkhand, represented the Dumri Vidhan Sabha constituency. He was an MLA from Jharkhand Mukti Morch (JMM) party.

### 2-time Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award Winner Sarah Thomas Passed Away

- ✓ On 31st March 2023, renowned Malayalam writer, Sarah Thomas, a 2-time Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awardee, passed away in Trivandrum, Kerala, at the age of 88. She was born on 15th September 1934 in Trivandrum, Travancore Kingdom, British India (now in Kerala).

## APPOINTMENTS

### Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India

- ✓ The Indian government has selected Rajneesh Karnatak as the Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of India (BOI). Karnatak currently serves as the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India. As per the announcement, he will take up the role of MD & CEO of Bank of India for a period of three years, starting from the date he assumes office or until further instructions.



### Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda

- ✓ Debadatta Chand has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Bank of Baroda (BOB), according to a government announcement made on April 29. Chand is currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank. He will assume the position of MD for a term of three years, effective from July 1, 2023, or until further notice. This appointment follows the term extension of the previous MD, Sanjiv Chadha, which ended on January 19, 2021, and was extended by the government for an additional five months until June 30, 2021.



### Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024

- ✓ The government announced the appointment of Siddhartha Mohanty as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) until June 29, 2024. Following this, he will serve as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer until June 7, 2025, as stated by LIC in a release. Mohanty, who is



currently the Managing Director, had been serving as the interim Chairperson of the state-run life insurance company since March 14, replacing M R Kumar, whose term ended on March 13, 2023.

### Hari Hara Mishra takes charge as CEO of ARCs

- ✓ Hari Hara Mishra has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs). The ARCs are the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies in India and have been active for over eight years. Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India.



### Microsoft India president Anant Maheshwari appointed Nasscom chairperson

- ✓ Anant Maheshwari, the President of Microsoft India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of Nasscom for the period 2023-24, succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, the President of Business and Technology Services at Tata Consultancy Services, who held the position for the year 2022-23. Additionally, Rajesh Nambiar, the Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, has been named as the Vice Chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24. Nasscom is the top association for the software and IT services industry.



### A Madhavarao set to be next CMD of Bharat Dynamics Ltd

- ✓ A Madhavarao, who currently serves as the Director (Technical) at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence, has been recommended as the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the



company. The recommendation was made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel after conducting interviews with five candidates, including two from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), and one each from BDL, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. Madhavarao was chosen from the list of five candidates interviewed by the PESB selection panel.

### Md Sahabuddin sworn in as 22nd president of Bangladesh

- ✓ On 24th April 2023, a former judge, freedom fighter Mohammed (Md) Sahabuddin was sworn in as the 22<sup>nd</sup> president of Bangladesh in Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban, Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- ✓ Md Shahabuddin, the 73-year-old politician, an Awami League candidate, was elected uncontested on February 13 2023.
- ✓ The 21st President of Bangladesh Md Abdul Hamid, the longest-serving president of Bangladesh will go on retirement after spending 10 years and 41 days as President for two consecutive terms, and according to the Constitution of Bangladesh, he cannot hold a third term.



### Oliver Dowden appointed as a new Deputy PM of UK

- ✓ On April 21, 2023, The British government named Oliver Dowden Deputy Prime Minister (PM), replacing Dominic Raab, who resigned following an inquiry into bullying allegations.
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, Oliver Dowden had been serving in Rishi Sunak's (PM of the United Kingdom) government as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Office secretary.



### RBI appoints Neeraj Nigam as New Executive Director

- ✓ On 3rd April 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Neeraj Nigam as the new Executive Director (ED) with immediate effect. He will be in charge of 4 departments, including that consumer education and protection.

- ✓ Before being promoted as ED, Neeraj Nigam was heading the Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) regional office of the RBI as director.
- ✓ For more than 3 decades, he has worked at the RBI's central office and regional offices in the fields of Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts and other areas.
- ✓ He has also earned the professional certification of Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (CAIIB).

### Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh Assumed Charge as VCNS of the Indian Navy

- ✓ On April 1, 2023, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, AVSM, NM, took over as Vice-Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) of the Indian Navy, following incumbent Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, who stepped down as VCNS on March 31, 2023, due to retirement.
- ✓ Sanjay Jasjit Singh held the position of Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) before becoming the VCNS.
- ✓ Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy in Pune, Maharashtra, and joined the Indian Navy's Executive Branch in 1986.



### Sudha Shivkumar took over as 40th President of FICCI Ladies Organisations

- ✓ Chennai (Tamil Nadu)-based lawyer & investment banker Sudha Shivkumar took over as the 40th National President of the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) – FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the term 2023-2024.
- ✓ Sudha Shivkumar succeeds Jayanti Dalmia, 39th national president of FICCI FLO (2022-2023). Prior to this appointment, Sudha Shivkumar was serving as the National Senior Vice President of FICCI FLO.



## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### SIPRI Report: World Military Expenditure in 2022 rose by 3.7% to US\$2240 billion; US Topped the List, India Ranked 4th

- ✓ According to the SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) Fact Sheet April 2023 'Trends In World Military Expenditure, 2022', World military expenditure grew for the 8th consecutive year in 2022 by 3.7% in real terms (i.e. when adjusted for inflation) to an all-time high of US\$2240 billion.
- ✓ With a military expenditure of US\$81.4 billion, India was the fourth largest spender in the world in 2022. Its spending increased by 6.0% from 2021 and 47% from 2013. The United States, China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia, were the five biggest spenders in 2022, which together accounted for 63% of world military spending.
- ✓ Total world military spending accounted for 2.2% of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.

### AI Index Report 2023: India Ranked 5th with most AI Investment; US Tops

- ✓ According to 'Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2023', the 6th edition of the annual Artificial Intelligence(AI) index report published by Stanford University's Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI), India is ranked 5th in terms of private investments received in 2022 by startups offering AI-based products and services with a total investment of US\$3.24 billion.
- ✓ In 2022, the United States (US) led the world in terms of total AI private investment with US\$47.4 billion investment followed by China (US\$13.4 billion), United Kingdom (US\$4.4 billion), Israel (US\$3.24 billion).
- ✓ India which stood in 5th place was ahead of South Korea, Germany, Canada and Australia, among others.
- ✓ Global AI private investment was \$91.9 billion in 2022, which represented a 26.7% decrease since 2021.

### India - Ranked 77 in World's 'most criminal countries' List, Ranked 71 at Crime Rate by Country 2023

- ✓ According to the ranking of the world's 'most criminal countries' released by the World of Statistics, Venezuela ranked first in the list followed by Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan. India was at the position 77th on the list of criminal countries.
- ✓ The US (United States) and the UK(United Kingdom), have ranked 55th and 65th, being ahead of India in the criminal ranking country.
- ✓ Turkey, Germany, and Japan were among the least criminal countries, ranking at 92nd, 100th, and 135th ranks.
- ✓ The top 10 most criminal countries list include Venezuela (1), Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9) and Jamaica (10).
- ✓ As per the World Population Review's (WPR) 'Crime Rate by Country 2023', Venezuela ranked as the country with the highest crime rates globally with a crime Index of 83.76.
- ✓ India was ranked 71 with a crime index of 44.43.

### Mumbai ranked 19th in 'Best public transport in the world 2023'

- ✓ According to a survey published by London (United Kingdom) based global magazine 'Time Out', India's Financial Capital Mumbai (Maharashtra) was ranked 19th in the list of 'Best public transport in the world 2023'.
- ✓ Mumbai is the only Indian city to feature in the list.
- ✓ The list is topped by Germany's Berlin with the best public transport system globally. It has the most reliable, safe, and comfortable public transport network. 97% of its residents praised the public transit network, particularly for its metro system, U-Bahn.
- ✓ The survey was conducted among 20,000 respondents in 50 cities worldwide to gauge public sentiment about their local transport systems.

## World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023 released by Henley & Partners; New York tops

- ✓ The investment migration firm Henley & Partners released its annual 'World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023' which is again topped by New York, United States of America (USA) with 340,000 millionaires, 724 centi-millionaires, and 58 billionaires in 2022.
- ✓ New York followed by Tokyo (Japan), California's Bay Area (USA), London (United Kingdom) and Singapore.
- ✓ The annual survey looked at 97 cities in 9 regions around the world viz. Africa, Australasia, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The data is supplied by wealth intelligence firm, New World Wealth.
- ✓ Established in 2013, New World Wealth tracks the movements and spending habits of the world's wealthiest people.
- ✓ The US has emerged as the leader in the number of wealthy cities, with 10 out of the top 50 cities in the world. It is followed by China with five and Australia with four.

## Top 10 Busiest Airports Worldwide for 2022

- ✓ According to ACI, the top 10 airports for total passenger traffic, which account for 10% of global traffic, saw a 51.7% increase from 2021, amounting to an 85.9% improvement over their 2019 figures.
- ✓ Five of the top ten airports in the world are located in the United States (US), and they all have sizable domestic passenger shares (ranging from 75% & 95% of domestic traffic). Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW, 73.4 million passengers) is in the 2nd spot, followed by Denver International Airport (DEN, 69.3 million passengers) in the 3rd spot, Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD, 68.3 million passengers) in the 4th spot.
- ✓ Dubai Airport (DXB, 66.1 million passengers, +127%) at 5th rank and Istanbul Airport (IST, 64.3 million passengers, +73.8%) at 7th rank, were also

reinstated in the top ten. It is followed by London Heathrow Airport, Delhi Airport, and Paris CDG Airport in the 8th, 9th, and 10th places, respectively.

## 3rd India Justice Report 2022: Karnataka tops among Large States in Delivery of Justice

- ✓ According to the 3rd edition of India Justice Report (IJR 3) 2022 released on 4th April 2023, Karnataka has topped the overall ranking among the large and mid-sized States (states with a population over 1 crore).
- ✓ Karnataka is followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) in 2nd position and Telangana in 3rd position.
- ✓ In this category, Uttar Pradesh (UP) is at rank 18th which is the lowest.
- ✓ Sikkim topped the overall ranking among Small States (states with a population up to 1 crore).
- ✓ Sikkim has been followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 2nd and Tripura at 3rd place. Goa is at rank 7th which is the lowest.

## WB's World Development Report 2023: Globally 185 million People are Migrant

- ✓ According to the World Bank's (WB) annual report 'World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies', there are 184 million people (i.e. 2.3 % of the world's population) are migrants (i.e. they lack citizenship in the country in which they live) in which the largest share of 43% of them was living in low- and middle-income countries.
- ✓ The report provides a comprehensive analysis of international migration and its potential to serve as a force for growth and shared prosperity in all countries and it proposes policies to better manage migration in destination, transit, and origin countries.
- ✓ As per the report, the faster ageing of economies will increase dependence on migration.
- ✓ Out of the 184 million migrant people, 37 million are refugees, a number that has tripled over the last decade.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who has recently (in April '23) inaugurated 91 new 100W FM Transmitters of All India Radio (AIR) across 18 States and 2 UTs to boost radio connectivity in India?
  - a) Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Communications)
  - b) Anurag Singh Thakur (Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting)
  - c) Jitendra Singh (MoS of Science and Technology)
  - d) Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
  - e) Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)
2. India's first cable-stayed railway bridge called 'Anji Khad bridge' in \_\_\_\_\_ (state/UT) will be ready in May 2023 with the cost of over Rs.400 crore.
  - a) Arunachal Pradesh
  - b) Jammu & Kashmir
  - c) Uttarakhand
  - d) Himachal Pradesh
  - e) Sikkim
3. Name the bank that has recently (in April '23) partnered with the Redington Limited to offer Solar Loans of up to Rs 5 crore.
  - a) ICICI Bank
  - b) HDFC Bank
  - c) State Bank of India
  - d) Bank of Baroda
  - e) Bank of Maharashtra
4. In April 2023, RBI removed restrictions on resident individuals from opening interestearning Foreign Currency Accounts (FCA) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) for making investments under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). RBI also removed the condition of repatriating any funds lying idle in the FCA account for up to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) 10 days
  - b) 15 days
  - c) 30 days
  - d) 60 days
  - e) 20 days
5. In April 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Arab to undertake a spacewalk during Expedition 69 venturing out of the International Space Station (ISS) and completing his spacewalk.
  - a) Sultan Al-Neyadi
  - b) Hazza Al Mansouri
  - c) Mohammad Al Mulla
  - d) Ali AlQarni
  - e) Noran Al Matrooshi
6. Match the following Tiger Reserves with their respective state:
 

i. Indravati Tiger Reserve	a. Tamil Nadu
ii. Panna Tiger Reserve	b. Chhattisgarh
iii. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve	c. Maharashtra
iv. Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve	d. Madhya Pradesh

  - a) i-c, ii-d, iii-a, iv-b
  - b) i-b, ii-d, iii-a, iv-c
  - c) i-a, ii-b, iii-c, iv-d
  - d) i-b, ii-d, iii-c, iv-a
  - e) i-a, ii-d, iii-c, iv-b
7. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the cabinet approval on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023?
  - A) The Union Cabinet approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, which is expected to help the Medical Devices sector expand to USD 50 billion by 2030.
  - B) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in co-location with existing medical colleges established since 2014 with the outlay of Rs 1,570 crore.
  - C) The maximum number of nursing colleges will be set up in Uttar Pradesh (27) followed by Rajasthan (23).
  - a) Only A
  - b) Only A & B
  - c) Only B & C
  - d) Only A & C
  - e) All A, B & C
8. In April 2023, the Ministry of Finance (MoF), approved the upgradation of \_\_\_\_\_ (company) to a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a Category-I MiniRatna CPSE.
  - a) Bharat Dynamics Limited
  - b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
  - c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
  - d) Central Coalfields Limited
  - e) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited



9. Which company has developed the world's first liquid Nano DAP (Diammonium phosphate) that was launched by the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah in April 2023?
- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited
  - Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited
  - Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited
  - National Fertilizers Limited
  - Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited
10. Which organisation has recently (in April '23) released the report 'World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies' with key highlighting that 184 million people are migrants?
- United Nations Development Programme
  - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
  - World Bank
  - United Nations Human Settlement Programme
  - United Nations Population Fund
11. In April 2023, 14th Dalai Lama received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in Person after \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- 59
  - 52
  - 64
  - 70
  - 60
12. Which country's Hakuto-R Mission 1 (M1) lander has recently (in April '23) failed to land on the lunar surface?
- China
  - Russia
  - North Korea
  - Japan
  - South Korea
13. Match the following Tiger Reserves with their respective state:
- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| i. Buxa Tiger Reserve      | a. Uttar Pradesh |
| ii. Rajaji Tiger Reserve   | b. West Bengal   |
| iii. Ranipur Tiger Reserve | c. Telangana     |
| iv. Kawal Tiger Reserve    | d. Uttarakhand   |
- i-c, ii-d, iii-a, iv-b
  - i-b, ii-d, iii-a, iv-c
  - i-a, ii-b, iii-c, iv-d
  - i-b, ii-d, iii-c, iv-a
  - i-a, ii-d, iii-c, iv-b
14. Name the personality who has recently (in April '23) taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- Pradeep Goel
  - Sanjay Jain
  - Girish Sinha
  - Hari Hara Mishra
  - Neeta Mukerji
15. Who has been recently (in April '23) appointed as the Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) for the year 2023-24?
- Anant Maheshwari
  - Krishnan Ramanujam
  - Sangeeta Gupta
  - Sanjeev Malhotra
  - Kritika Murugesan
16. Which state's five-time Chief Minister (CM), Parkash Singh Badal, passed away in April 2023?
- Madhya Pradesh
  - Haryana
  - Maharashtra
  - Punjab
  - Jharkhand
17. Which bank has recently (in April '23) collaborated with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to launch 'Digitalised Submission of Form 15G/15H'?
- Canara Bank
  - State Bank of India
  - Union Bank of India
  - Punjab National Bank
  - Bank of Baroda
18. In April 2023, Union Minister for Labour & Employment & Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, launched new features in \_\_\_\_\_ (Portal) for unorganised workers.
- e-Saubhagya
  - e-Sachivalaya
  - eDharti
  - e-Aushadhi
  - eShram
19. As of April 2023, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL), India is building Mongolia's First greenfield Oil Refinery, which is to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_ (Year).
- 2027
  - 2025
  - 2028
  - 2024
  - 2026
20. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 'Trends In World Military Expenditure, 2022' report released by the SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) in April 2023?
- World military expenditure grew for the 8th consecutive year in 2022 by 3.7% in real terms to an all-time high of US\$2240 billion.
  - India was the fourth largest spender in the world in 2022 with a military expenditure of USD 81.4 billion.
  - The United States topped the List followed by China, second largest spender in the world.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only A & C
  - Only B & C
  - All A, B & C

21. In April 2023, the Reserve Bank of \_\_\_\_\_ is set to launch a gold-backed digital currency to serve as legal tender.
- a) Australia                      b) New Zealand  
c) Zimbabwe                     d) Denmark  
e) Fiji
22. On 24th April 2023, the \_\_\_\_\_ based Sharjah Cricket Stadium 'West Stand' was renamed the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand'.
- a) Sri Lanka  
b) Qatar  
c) United Arab Emirates  
d) Zimbabwe  
e) Bangladesh
23. Name the operation that was recently (in April '23) launched by India to bring back its nationals from Sudan.
- a) Operation Ganga  
b) Operation Kaveri  
c) Operation Devi Shakti  
d) Operation Dost  
e) Operation Vande Bharat
24. Which of the following ministries has launched the 'City Beauty Competition' portal recently?
- a) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs  
b) Ministry of Rural Development  
c) Ministry of Home Affairs  
d) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
e) Ministry of Tourism
25. The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) subsidiary has launched the NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions made on the ONDC network. What is ONDC?
- a) A non-profit organization promoting digital commerce in India  
b) A government agency regulating e-commerce platforms in India  
c) A network for buyers and sellers to transact across different platforms  
d) A network exclusively for small businesses to sell their products  
e) None of the above
26. Reliance General Insurance has made history by becoming the first general insurance company to accept the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (e₹) for premium payments. Reliance General Insurance has tied up with \_\_\_\_\_ to facilitate the collection of premiums in digital mode.
- a) HDFC Bank                      b) ICICI Bank  
c) Axis Bank                        d) YES Bank  
e) State Bank of India
27. What is the extra corpus support provided to the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme in the FY 2023-24 Union Budget?
- a) 1,000 crores  
b) 5,000 crores  
c) 9,000 crores  
d) 12,000 crores  
e) 15,000 crores.
28. What is the current inflation rate in India as of April 2023?
- a) 4.5%                                  b) 5.5%  
c) 5.66%                                d) 7.5%  
e) 8.5%
29. What is the name of the upcoming NASA mission that will investigate the Moon's South Pole for resources?
- a) Lunar Resources Exploration-1  
b) Lunar Polar Rover  
c) Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment-1  
d) Lunar Resource Extraction-1  
e) Volatile Exploration Mission-1
30. Who has been awarded the Immigrant Achievement Award in 2023 for their contributions to higher education in the US?
- a) Neeli Bendapudi  
b) Kamala Harris  
c) Sundar Pichai  
d) Satya Nadella  
e) Indra Nooyi
31. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. receives Global Gold Award for CSR work. Who gave the award to PGCIL for their CSR work in Odisha?
- a) United Nations  
b) The Green Organization  
c) The World Bank  
d) The International Monetary Fund  
e) The Red Cross
32. How many Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) are currently (as of April 2023) registered with the Reserve Bank of India?
- a) 10  
b) 15  
c) 20  
d) 25  
e) 28
33. What is Locked Shields?
- a) A new type of digital encryption software  
b) The world's largest cyber defence exercise  
c) A type of computer virus  
d) A hacker group  
e) None of the above

34. Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the RBI. What is a neobank?
- A traditional brick-and-mortar bank
  - A bank that provides services exclusively through online or mobile platforms
  - A bank that focuses on catering to high-net-worth individuals
  - A bank that provides services to only small and medium-sized businesses
  - A bank that provides services to rural and remote areas
35. According to the SIPRI Report, what is India's rank in global military expenditure in 2022?
- First
  - Second
  - Third
  - Fourth
  - Fifth
36. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) is planning to set up its first international campus in Tanzania?
- IIT Bombay
  - IIT Delhi
  - IIT Madras
  - IIT Kharagpur
  - IIT Kanpur
37. What is the theme for the 2023 World Intellectual Property Day?
- Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity
  - Protecting IP in the Digital Age
  - IP and Sustainable Development
  - IP and Artificial Intelligence
  - None of the above
38. What did the RBI announce regarding provisioning norms for urban cooperative banks?
- They have increased the provisioning norms for all categories of UCBs
  - They have decreased the provisioning norms for all categories of UCBs
  - They have unified the provisioning norms for standard assets across all categories of UCBs
  - They have introduced different provisioning norms for different categories of UCBs
  - None of the above
39. Which countries are a part of the The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)?
- India, Russia, and Iran
  - India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
  - India, Bangladesh, and Nepal
  - India, China, and Japan
  - None of the above
40. What is the name of the village in Uttarakhand that has been recognized as the "first Indian village?"
- Ganga
  - Kedarnath
  - Rishikesh
  - Mana
  - Badrinath
41. What new feature was introduced on the eShram portal?
- Access to free healthcare
  - Access to housing schemes
  - Access to education opportunities for children of migrant workers
  - Access to transportation facilities
  - Access to free meals
42. What is the unique celestial event set to occur in Bengaluru on April 25?
- Lunar Eclipse
  - Solar Eclipse
  - Zero Shadow Day
  - Comet sighting
  - Meteor shower
43. Which UCBs have been categorized as tier 1 by the RBI?
- Only unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs irrespective of deposit size
  - UCBs having deposits up to Rs 100 crore
  - Both a and b
  - Only UCBs having deposits up to Rs 100 crore
  - None of the above
44. Which state has topped the list in the first-ever waterbody census conducted in India?
- West Bengal
  - Maharashtra
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Karnataka
  - Gujarat
45. Which city tops the list of world's wealthiest cities in 2023?
- London
  - Tokyo
  - New York City
  - Singapore
  - None of the above
46. Who is the first woman officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to receive a gallantry award?
- Wing Commander Sunita Williams
  - Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi
  - Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh
  - Wing Commander Deepika Misra
  - None of the above

47. Which country has become the biggest oil supplier to India (as of April 2023)?  
a) Saudi Arabia  
b) United States  
c) Iraq  
d) Russia  
e) United Arab Emirates
48. What is the name of the scheme launched by the government to bring marginalised rural women into SHGs network?  
a) Sangathan se Suraksha  
b) Sangathan se Samriddhi  
c) Sangathan se Swavlamban  
d) Sangathan se Sahayog  
e) Sangathan se Samman
49. Who is the author of the book 'Sachin@50'- Celebrating A Maestro?  
a) Boria Majumdar  
b) Sachin Tendulkar  
c) Rahul Dravid  
d) Virat Kohli  
e) None of the above
50. Which country has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in FY23?  
a) China  
b) USA  
c) Japan  
d) Russia  
e) France
51. Who has been named in Time Magazine's '100 Most Influential People' list?  
a) Shah Rukh Khan  
b) SS Rajamouli  
c) Both a and b  
d) Neither a nor b  
e) None of the above
52. Which Ministry launching the "Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)" under the National One Health Mission?  
a) The Prime Minister of India  
b) The Minister of Health and Family Welfare  
c) The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
d) The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
e) The Minister of Science and Technology
53. Which country is set to host the maiden Global Buddhist meet?  
a) Sri Lanka  
b) Japan  
c) India  
d) Thailand  
e) Nepal
54. Total enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana crossed 5.20 crore mark till March 31 this year. In which year Atal Pension Yojana launched?  
a) 2015  
b) 2017  
c) 2016  
d) 2014  
e) 2013
55. In April 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched the \_\_\_\_\_ phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN).  
a) 4th  
b) 3rd  
c) 2nd  
d) 5th  
e) 6th
56. In April 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ (company) completed the construction of Asia's largest underwater hydrocarbon pipeline across \_\_\_\_\_ river.  
a) Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited; Ganga  
b) Bharat Petroleum; Godavari  
c) Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited; Brahmaputra  
d) Hindustan Petroleum; Ganga  
e) Bharat Petroleum; Brahmaputra
57. In which city, India's Tallest Babasaheb Bhimrao Ramji (BR) Ambedkar (125-ft bronze) statue was unveiled to mark the 132nd birth anniversary (14th April '23) of the architect of the Indian Constitution?  
a) Hyderabad, Telangana  
b) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh  
c) Mumbai, Maharashtra  
d) Jamshedpur, Jharkhand  
e) New Delhi, Delhi
58. In which city, Log9 Materials has recently (in April '23) inaugurated India's first lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility?  
a) Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
b) Bengaluru, Karnataka  
c) Hyderabad, Telangana  
d) Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
e) New Delhi, Delhi
59. According to the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and its indicators report released by World Bank (WB) in April 2023, India secured \_\_\_\_\_ rank in the index, while \_\_\_\_\_ tops.  
a) 36th; Finland  
b) 40th; Singapore  
c) 38th; Finland  
d) 36th; Denmark  
e) 38th; Singapore
60. Name the bank that has recently (in April '23) introduced the first-of-its-kind EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) facility for UPI (Unified Payment Interface) payments made by scanning QR code.  
a) HDFC Bank  
b) ICICI Bank  
c) YES Bank  
d) Axis Bank  
e) IndusInd Bank

61. In April 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched PSLV-C55 with two \_\_\_\_\_ (country) satellites – TeLEOS-2 (primary satellite) and Lumelite-4 (co-passenger satellite), under the PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indonesia
  - Singapore
  - Philippines
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Türkiye
62. In April 2023, Solar Industries India Limited bagged an order to supply 400 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) 'Nagastra – I' to the Indian Army. Which company has designed and developed the 1st indigenous man-portable loitering munition (LM), Nagastra-1 UAV?
- Economic Explosives Limited
  - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
  - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
  - Bharat Electronics Limited
  - Bharat Dynamics Limited
63. In April 2023, the Union government intensified crackdown against drugs with the aim to make India drug-free by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2047
  - 2028
  - 2030
  - 2027
  - 2035
64. In April 2023, \_\_\_\_\_, the founder of Gemini Circus and a pioneer of Indian circus passed away.
- Kallan Gopalan
  - Priyanath Bose
  - Krishan Mehta
  - M.V. Sankaran
  - Rajkamal
65. Which state has recently (in April '23) signed an MoU with the Government of Assam to settle the long-pending border dispute?
- Sikkim
  - Meghalaya
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Nagaland
  - Manipur
66. As of April 2023, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is set to establish its first overseas office in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Manila, Philippines
  - Tokyo, Japan
  - Shanghai, China
  - Gujarat, India
  - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
67. Which bank has secured 1st rank in the Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms Index for Q3 FY23 released by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in April 2023?
- Punjab National Bank
  - State Bank of India
  - Bank of India
  - Union Bank of India
  - Bank of Baroda
68. Which state has recently (in April '23) received the national award for the best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the year 2022-23?
- Karnataka
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Gujarat
69. Which of the following points is/are 'correct' with respect to the recent appointments made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in April 2023?
- A) Anurag Jain, the current Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- B) Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, MoRTH has been appointed as Secretary of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy (AHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- C) Saurabh Garg, CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been appointed as Secretary of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
70. When was the 16th National Civil Services Day observed across India with the theme of 'Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile'?
- 19th April 2023
  - 17th April 2023
  - 20th April 2023
  - 18th April 2023
  - 21st April 2023
71. Ujjain Batik print recently got the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, it belongs to which State/UT?
- Madhya Pradesh
  - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Ladakh
  - Chhattisgarh

72. In April 2023, the Ministry of Finance (MoF), approved the upgradation of \_\_\_\_\_ (company) to a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from a Category-I MiniRatna CPSE.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited
  - Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
  - Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
  - Central Coalfields Limited
  - Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited
73. According to the RBI data on 'Sectoral Deployment of bank Credit- March 2023', the Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) reported credit growth of \_\_\_\_\_ in FY23.
- 15.4%
  - 17.5%
  - 12.8%
  - 16.2%
  - 13.7%
74. As per the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Report 2022, which country is the largest recipient of ADB-funded programs/projects in 2022?
- Sri Lanka
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - Indonesia
  - Bangladesh
75. Name the personality who was recently awarded with the honorary MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by King Charles III.
- Arjuna Misra
  - Naheed Abidi
  - Mandan Mishra
  - M.N. Nandakumara
  - G. Balakrishnan Nair
76. Which regulatory body of the Ministry of Finance has recently (in April '23) announced the launch of a pilot scheme 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO' to enhance the electric vehicle market?
- Reserve Bank of India
  - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
  - Securities and Exchange Board of India
  - Small Industries Development Bank of India
77. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 36th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships, held at Astana, Kazakhstan in April 2023?
- Aman Sehrawat won India's 1st gold medal, under the men's 57kg freestyle category by defeating Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov.
  - India has won 14 medals (one gold, three silvers and ten bronze) and is ranked 7th in overall medal tally.
  - Kazakhstan was topped in the medal tally followed by Japan and Iran.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
78. In April 2023, India made a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, for women empowerment.
- USD 400,000
  - USD 300,000
  - USD 500,000
  - USD 100,000
  - USD 200,000
79. In April 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became India's 1<sup>st</sup> commercial bank to connect with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) for delivering bill payment services through video banking.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank
  - Capital Small Finance Bank
  - Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
  - Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
  - AU Small Finance Bank
80. According to the State of World Population (SOWP) 2023 report published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in April 2023, India overtakes China to become the most populous nation in the world with \_\_\_\_\_ population.
- 142.86 crore
  - 139.24 crore
  - 142.57 crore
  - 136.20 crore
  - 125.34 crore
81. Which state government has recently (in April '23) launched India's first heavy lift logistics eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-off and Landing) BonV drone?
- Maharashtra
  - West Bengal
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Odisha
  - Karnataka
82. Name the company that has recently (in April '23) won the Best Production/Process Development Award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (ViE) awards at the World Vaccine Congress Washington 2023.
- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
  - Biological E Limited
  - Bharat Biotech International Limited
  - Indian Immunologicals Limited
  - Serum Institute of India
83. In which city, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the program 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' in April 2023?
- Guwahati, Assam
  - Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
  - Mysuru, Karnataka
  - Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
  - Palakkad, Kerala

84. Which state is set to get the world's 1st conservation and breeding centre for the Asian king vulture?
- Uttar Pradesh
  - Gujarat
  - West Bengal
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Odisha
85. Which of the following points are “correct” with respect to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Monetary Policy Report released in April 2023?
- A) The credit growth continued to outpace deposit growth in FY23 at an 11-year high, despite banks fully transmitting lending rates linked to external benchmarks (250 basis points) which now account for nearly half of floating-rate loans.
- B) The internal benchmark for loan pricing, the Marginal Cost of Funds-Based Lending Rate (MCLR), increased by 140 bps from May 2022 to March 2023.
- C) The 1-year median MCLR of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) increased by 135 bps from May 2022 to February 2023.
- Only A
  - Only B
  - Only C
  - Only A & B
  - All A, B & C
86. Who was recently (in April ‘23) awarded with the 2023 International Prize in Statistics?
- Siva Ramachandran Athreya
  - Bimal Kumar Roy
  - S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan
  - Biswatosh Sengupta
  - Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao
87. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-2022 released by the Union Minister of Power. K. Singh in April 2023?
- A) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana have featured in the frontrunner category of the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) report for 2021-22.
- B) Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab were featured in the Achiever category of the SEEI report for 2021-22.
- C) The best-performing states in their respective state groups are Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka.
- All A, B & C
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - Only A
88. In April 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) downgraded India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast to \_\_\_\_\_ for the financial year 2023-24 from 6.1% in January 2023.
- 5.6%
  - 5.2%
  - 5.5%
  - 5.7%
  - 5.9%
89. Which company was recently (in April ‘23) accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)?
- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited
  - Bharat Dynamics Limited
  - Bharat Earth Movers Limited
  - Central Warehousing Corporation
  - Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
90. India ranks \_\_\_\_\_, in the 6th edition of the annual Artificial Intelligence (AI) index report published recently (in April ‘23) by Stanford University’s Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI).
- 8th
  - 4th
  - 6th
  - 3rd
  - 5th
91. What type of Biometric Authentication was recently (in April ‘23) launched by Citi Union Bank, which is considered to be India’s 1st for Logging into its Banking App?
- Palm vein
  - Facial
  - Voice
  - Finger vein
  - Iris
92. In April 2023, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) raised the interest rate on various small savings schemes for the first quarter (Q1) of FY24. Which of the following points are ‘correct’ with respect to Small Saving Schemes (SSS) & their interest rates as of April 2023?
- The interest rate for Senior Citizen Savings Schemes has been increased from 8% to 8.2%.
  - The National Savings Certificates (NCS) witnessed the highest increase in rate, which increased from 7% to 7.7% from January to June.
  - Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) has changed to 115 months of maturity period with an interest rate of 7.5% from 120 months of maturity period with an interest rate of 7.2% .
  - The Public Provident Fund (PPF) has remained unchanged with the interest rate of 7.1% over Q1 FY24.
  - All above

93. Name the Mobile app of National Logistics Portal (Marine) that was launched by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal in March 2023.
- Sagar Parikrama
  - Sagar Manthan
  - Sagar Mala
  - Sagar Baran
  - Sagar Setu
94. In April 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the 1st Indian Bank to open 'Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA)' in Malaysia to facilitate transactions between India and Malaysia in the Indian rupee.
- State Bank of India
  - Union Bank of India
  - Bank of India
  - Bank of Maharashtra
  - Bank of Baroda
95. In April 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted a Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- The mission was performed in collaboration with which of the following organisations/defence sectors?
- Defence Space Research Organisation
  - Indian Air Force
  - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 1 & 3
96. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on India's balance of payments (BoP) for the third quarter of Financial Year 2022-23 (Q3 FY23), India's current account deficit declined to \_\_\_\_\_ of the GDP in Q3 FY23 from 3.7% of GDP in Q2 FY23.
- 3.5%
  - 3.0%
  - 2.2%
  - 2.5%
  - 2.9%
97. Name the personality from India who has recently (in April '23) conferred with "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion Honour), the highest French civilian award.
- Swati Piramal
  - Leena Tewari
  - Sangita Jindal
  - Anand Mahindra
  - Kiran Nadar
98. Which state has recently (in April '23) launched 'India's 1st Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028' to reduce the heat island impact and heat stress?
- Gujarat
  - Maharashtra
  - Telangana
  - Rajasthan
  - Jharkhand
99. The Government of India (GoI) has recently (in April '23) given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 33 new products from different states.
- As of April 2023, How many products received GI Tags in India?
- 465
  - 320
  - 534
  - 210
  - 350
100. Which of the following points is/are "Correct" with respect to the 37th Annual World Billionaire List 2023, released by Forbes in April 2023?
- Mukesh Ambani regained his spot as the richest person in Asia and India with a net worth of USD 83.4 billion, and ranked at No. 9 on the world billionaire list.
  - Bernard Arnault, CEO of LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton) topped the list for the first time with a net worth of USD 211 Billion followed by Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX & Tesla, ranked 2nd with net worth of USD 180 Billion and Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon at 3rd rank with a net worth of USD 114 Billion.
  - Gautam Adani is in 2nd place with a net worth of USD 47.2 billion as the richest person in Asia and India and ranked at 24th Place on the world billionaire list.
  - Both 1 & 2
  - All 1,2 & 3



## Answers

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

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