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English Medium

Digest JUNE - 2023

Coverage from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



49th G7 summit

The summit was held from 19 to 21 May 2023 in Hiroshima under the presidency of Japan.



ISRO's GSLV-F12

'ISRO's GSLV-F12 Successfully Places Navigation Satellite NVS-01



'100 Days 100 Pays'

RBI launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign to Settle Unclaimed Deposits.



INS Magar

Indian Navy's Landing Ship Decommissioned After 36 Years of Service.



2023 International Booker Prize

Georgi Gospodinov's novel, "Time Shelter," translated by Angela Rodel, wins 2023 International Booker Prize



57th Jnanpith Award

Damodar Mauzo, a Goan short story writer honoured with 57th Jnanpith Award.



16th Season of IPL 2023

Chennai Super Kings wins their fifth IPL title by defeating Gujarat Titans in the final.



UBI Global ranks

Kerala Startup Mission as World's No.1 Public Business Incubator



Neeraj Chopra

Neeraj Chopra becomes World No.1 in men's javelin rankings.

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"Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

- **Winston Churchill**  
former United Kingdom prime minister

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# G20

<b>Founded</b> The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis.	<b>Members</b> It comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and the United States) and the European Union.
The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.	The group does not have a permanent secretariat
<b>2023 presidency: India</b> Theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'	
2022 presidency: <b>Indonesia</b> ♦ 2024 presidency: <b>Brazil</b>	
<b>Troika:</b> It is supported by the previous, current, and future holders of the presidency, known as the troika. In 2023, the Troika consists of Indonesia, Brazil, and India.	
India G20 Sherpa 2023: <b>Amitabh Kant</b>	

# SCO

(Shanghai Cooperation Organization)

<b>Founded</b> The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian political, economic, international security, and defence organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001.	It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, and 40% of the world's population. Its combined GDP is around 20% of global GDP
<b>Members</b> SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017. Iran has been admitted as a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit.	
Headquarters: Beijing, China (Secretariat)	
<b>Observers:</b> Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia are observers who would like to follow Tehran.	<b>Dialogue Partners:</b> Azerbaijan, Armenia, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
<b>2023 presidency: India</b> Theme: 'For a SECURE SCO'	
2022 presidency: <b>Uzbekistan</b> ♦ 2024 presidency: <b>Kazakhstan</b>	





The 49th G7 summit was held from 19 to 21 May 2023 in Hiroshima under the presidency of Japan. The summit began with a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to honor the victims of the atomic bomb. Throughout the sessions, the leaders emphasized cooperation, the rule of law, and the transition to a clean energy economy. PM Modi also attended the Summit at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister.

### **G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué**

#### • On Ukraine

- ✓ Condemned in the strongest possible terms the war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine.
- ✓ Separately issued G7 Leaders' Statement on Ukraine.
- ✓ Decided to take concrete steps to support Ukraine for as long as it takes in the face of Russia's illegal war of aggression.

#### • On Disarmament and Non-proliferation

- ✓ Decided to strengthen disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, towards the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The summit also released the G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament.

#### • Indo-Pacific

- ✓ Reiterated the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive, prosperous, secure, based on the rule of law. Underscored commitment to strengthen coordination with regional partners,

including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its member states.

#### • Global Economy, Finance and Sustainable Development

- ✓ The global economy has shown resilience against multiple shocks including the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and associated inflationary pressures.
- ✓ It decided to coordinate the approach of members to economic resilience and economic security that is based on diversifying and deepening partnerships and de-risking, not de-coupling.
- ✓ It decided to work on issues such as resilient supply chains, non-market policies and practices, and economic coercion.

#### • On debt sustainability

- ✓ Debt sustainability is a major concern undermining progress towards SDGs, with low- and middle-income countries disproportionately affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.
- ✓ Supported the G20's effort to improve the implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).
- ✓ DSSI means that bilateral official creditors are, during a limited period, suspending debt service payments from the poorest countries that request the suspension. It welcomed the development of Climate Resilient Debt Clauses (CRDC) to enhance the safety net for borrowers facing the impacts of climate change.

• On infrastructure

- ✓ It reaffirmed the shared commitment to the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and to working together and aiming to mobilize up to \$600 billion by 2027 for infrastructure funding.
- ✓ Climate Change Environment\Decided to work together and with others to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing that reducing poverty and tackling the climate and nature crisis go hand in hand.

• Clean energy economy

- ✓ Decided to take concrete steps to drive the transition to clean energy economies of the future through cooperation within and beyond the G7.
- ✓ Expressed its commitment to deepen cooperation through Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs), the Climate Club and new Country Packages for Forest, Nature and Climate.

• Food Security

- ✓ Announced that member countries are taking concrete steps to launch the Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security with partner countries to address needs of today and into the future.

• Health

- ✓ Decided to invest in global health through vaccine manufacturing capacity worldwide, the Pandemic Fund, the future international agreement for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and efforts to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

• Digital

- ✓ Expressed the commitment to work together and with others to advance international discussions on inclusive artificial intelligence (AI) governance and interoperability to achieve common vision and goal of trustworthy AI.

• Other areas of cooperation

- ✓ Decided to strengthen partnerships with African countries and support greater African representation in multilateral fora. Increased cooperation on international migration and strengthen the common effort to fight the trafficking and smuggling of human beings.

• On China

- ✓ The leaders expressed serious concern about the situation in the East and South China seas, where Beijing has been expanding its military presence and threatening to use force to exert its control over self-governed Taiwan.

**About G7**

**Origin**

- The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.

**G7 & G8**

- In 1998, Russia was formally inducted in the group, which transformed G7 into G8.
- However, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. As a result, it was suspended from the grouping.
- Hence, the group became G7 again in 2014.

**Current Members**

- US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.
- It can be said that the members of this group are the most developed and the advanced economies of the world. The European Union is also represented within the G7.

**Purpose of G7**

- To determine the course of multilateral discourse
- To shape political responses to global challenges.
- Basically, G7 provides a platform to discuss and coordinate solutions to major global issues, especially in the areas of trade, security, economics, and climate change.

**Economic Significance**

- The G7 nations account for close to 60 percent of global net wealth, 46 percent of global gross domestic product, and about 770 million people or 10 percent of the world's population.

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

### 76th annual World Health Assembly held in Geneva

- ✓ The 76th annual World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 30 May 2023.
- ✓ The theme of this 2023's Health Assembly is: **WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.**
- ✓ Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, represented India in the 76th World Health Assembly.
- ✓ Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya delivered the keynote address at a side event session on **'Heal in India & Heal by India'** and 'Together we fight against TB' at the 76th World Health Assembly, reiterating India's contribution in the field of Medical Value Travel and India's resolve to eliminate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.



#### PM Modi's Video Message at World Health Assembly:

- ✓ In his video message at the 76th session of the World Health Assembly, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi stated that during the COVID-19 pandemic, India has shipped almost 300 million vaccine doses to more than 100 countries with most of them from the Global South.
- ✓ He highlighted the need to improve global health equity and equal access to resources.
- ✓ PM Modi mentioned that WHO's first Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is being established in India.
- ✓ He affirmed India's support to WHO in creating availability, accessibility and affordability of healthcare in low- and middle-income countries.
- ✓ The World Health Assembly not extended Taiwan an invitation to the event and it was excluded due to the Chinese opposition. China and Pakistan urged members to reject Taiwan's inclusion while Eswatini and the Marshall Islands supported Taiwan's inclusion.

#### WHO's Programme Budget for 2024-2025

- ✓ i.Member States of WHO agreed to the WHO's Programme Budget of USD 6.83-billion for the next two years 2024-2025, which shows a historical 20% increase in assessed contributions (membership fees).

#### PM Modi attended the 3rd in-person Quad Leaders' Summit

- ✓ As a part of his visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 19 to 24, 2023 Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participated in the third in-person Quad (Quadrilateral



PM Modi's remarks at Quad Summit in Hiroshima, Japan

- Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023, along with Anthony Albanese, PM of Australia, Fumio Kishida, PM of Japan and Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ **Vision Statement:** The Quad leaders unveiled a 'Vision Statement' titled 'Enduring Partners for Indo-Pacific' expressing their resolve to act as a "force for good" to find common solutions for region-wide benefit.
- ✓ **Initiatives announced by Quad Leaders**
- ✓ The Quad leaders unveiled a series of initiatives including in areas of clean energy supply chains, undersea cables and investments in strategic technologies to strengthen the resilience and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ **Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative:** It would facilitate research and development and support the Indo- Pacific's energy transition.
- ✓ In addition, the Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains were also approved to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development.
- ✓ **'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme':** It was the initiative made to support policymakers and practitioners in the Indo-pacific region to

design, build and manage sustainable and viable infrastructure in their countries.

- ✓ **‘Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience’**: It was the initiative made to leverage Quad’s collective expertise in the design, manufacturing, laying and maintenance of undersea cables to secure and diversify these critical networks.
- ✓ **ORAN deployment** :Quad support for a small-scale ORAN deployment in Palau, the first in the Pacific region. They also released the ORAN Security Report to support industry investment in open, interoperable and secure telecom platforms.
- ✓ **Quad Investors’ Network**: Quad Investors’ Network has been launched as a private sector-led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.
- ✓ They have reaffirmed their participation under Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q- CHAMP), launched in 2022 to enhance climate and clean energy cooperation as well as promote adaptation and resilience.
- ✓ **Unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi**
- ✓ PM Modi unveiled a 42-inch tall bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023. The Mahatma Gandhi bust has been gifted by the Government of India to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan.
- ✓ The bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Shri Ram Vanji Sutar. The location of the bust location adjacent to the Motoyasu River, which is close to the iconic A-Bomb Dome has been chosen as a mark of solidarity for peace and non-violence.

#### India to Host Quad 2024

- ✓ At the Quad Leaders’ Summit, PM Narendra Modi stated that India is willing to host the Quad meeting in 2024 and he also invited Quad Leaders to India for the next Quad Summit.
- ✓ The Quad leaders had a discussion about developments in the Indo-Pacific and affirmed their shared democratic values and strategic interests.

## PM Modi Visit to Papua New Guinea and Australia

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made official visit to Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 21 to 24,2023.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi along with PM of Papua New Guinea James Marape released translation of the Tamil classic ‘Thirukkural’ in the Tok Pisin language to bring the Indian thought and culture closer to the people of this southwestern Pacific nation. Tok Pisin is the official language of Papua New Guinea.
- ✓ Modi conferred with the “Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu (GCL)“, the highest civilian award in Fiji, in recognition of his global leadership.
- ✓ PM Modi jointly hosted the 3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III Summit) with James Marape on May 22, 2023.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi made his official to Australia from May 22 to 24 ,2023 and his visit to Australia builds on the Australia-India Annual Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi in March 2023.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi and Australian PM Anthony Albanese jointly laid the foundation stone of the ‘Little India’ gateway to be built in Harris Park in Western Sydney.

## WHO launches framework to help reduce anaemia in women of reproductive age

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) launches its first-ever comprehensive framework on reducing anaemia, Accelerating anaemia reduction: a comprehensive framework for action, calling on countries to accelerate action to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age by 2025.
- ✓ The United Nations Health Agency launched a comprehensive framework on reducing anaemia during the International Maternal Newborn Health Conference (IMNHC) 2023 held from May 8-11 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa.

## Nepal designates 2025 as a 'Special tourism year'

- ✓ During the joint meeting of the federal parliament, President Ram Chandra Paudel announced that the decade of the 2080s in the Bikram Samvat calendar would be recognized as 'the Visit Nepal decade' and that the year 2025 will be designated as a special year for tourism. These declarations were presented as part of the policies and programmes for the 2080/81 fiscal year.



## Indian Railways Hands Over 20 Broad Gauge Locomotives to Bangladesh

- ✓ In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, Indian Railways has handed over 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh. The virtual handing over ceremony, held at Rail Bhavan, was attended by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bangladesh's Minister of Railway, Md Nurul Islam Sujan. This gesture fulfills a commitment made by the Indian government during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in October 2019. The locomotives, valued at over Rs 100 crore, will help augment Bangladesh's railway network and improve passenger and freight train operations.
- ✓ The Narendra Modi government fulfilled its commitment by gifting 20 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh. This pledge was made during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in 2019. The locomotives were virtually flagged off from Delhi and made their way into Bangladesh via the Bengal border.



## Syria's Readmitted to Arab League

- ✓ After more than a decade of being suspended from the Arab League due to a government crackdown on anti-Assad protesters that led to war, Syria has been readmitted to the organization. This move comes as President Bashar al-Assad seeks to normalize relationships with other Arab nations.

## China and Pakistan agree to extend CPEC to Afghanistan

- ✓ Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan have agreed to enhance their economic relations by extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is supported by Beijing, to Afghanistan. This move aims to fully exploit the potential of Afghanistan as a regional connectivity hub.
- ✓ During the 5th China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, Pakistan's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, China's foreign minister Qin Gang, and Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed acting foreign minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi also emphasized the importance of preventing any group from using their territories to conduct terrorist activities against any country.

## India among seven countries to benefit from Saudi Arabia's new e-visa system

- ✓ According to the Saudi Foreign Ministry, the decision to issue e-visas with QR codes came into effect from May 2023. Countries that will benefit from this initiative include India among others.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia has introduced a new e-visa system to replace traditional visa stickers on passports. It is aimed at digitizing consular services and creating a new way to issue work, residency, and visit visas in seven countries: Jordan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The move comes as part of efforts to automate consular services and "develop a mechanism for granting different kinds of visas".

## Pakistan's Economic Crisis: Hajj quota given up to Saudi Arabia

- ✓ For the first time in 75 years, Pakistan has made the decision to surrender its Hajj quota to Saudi Arabia. This move was prompted by the rising inflation in the country, which has caused thousands of Pakistanis to forgo the pilgrimage this year. In total, Pakistan has returned 8,000 unused seats, which will save the government a considerable amount of money totalling \$24 million.





# NATIONAL

## PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated New Parliament House; Installed Sengol; Unveiled a commemorative stamp & Rs 75 Coin

- ✓ On May 28, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the new building of Parliament House



and dedicated it to the nation and installed the Sengol with Nandi at the top facing

East-West direction in the new Parliament House.

- ✓ PM stated the Parliament House as a witness to the development of Aatmnirbhar Bharat and the realization of a Viksit Bharat.
- ✓ He also stated the new Parliament Building as a reflection of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians. the new building as an example of the coexistence of ancient and modern.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi placed the historic sceptre 'Sengol' near the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair in the newly built Parliament building. PM decided to adopt it as a national symbol of the Amrit Kaal.
- ✓ PM unveiled a commemorative stamp and a special Rs.75 coin during the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

### **Features of New Parliament Building:**

- ✓ The new parliament building includes the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Central Lounge, Central Hall for joint session, Constitutional hall, open courtyard and Offices.
- ✓ The new building is 4- storey triangular shaped and it is a part of a 20,000-crore central vista project built by TATA Group.
- ✓ The construction of the new building, designed by Architect Bimal Patel, began in 2019.
- ✓ The Parliament premises have the national tree Banyan. The interiors of Lok Sabha are themed on

the national bird peacock and Rajya Sabha on the national flower lotus.

- ✓ The building features the Ashoka Chakra on the exterior and inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers.
- ✓ The new Parliament Building is a platinum-rated green building which aims to showcase India's commitment towards sustainable development.

### About 'Sengol'

- ✓ The name of the historical sceptre, 'Sengol' was derived from the Tamil word 'semmai,' meaning 'righteousness/full of wealth'.
- ✓ The sceptre Sengol, which is Constructed by Vummidi Ethirajulu and Vummidi Sudhakar, is made of gold and silver and is decorated with many precious stones.
- ✓ The sceptre measures 5 feet in length and carries a golden orb at the top. The orb has a carving of Nandi, the bull (that is precious to Lord Shiva) symbolising justice.
- ✓ Background:
- ✓ In the ancient South Indian kingdom, the great Chola empire, the Sengol holds great significance and it was seen as a symbol of power, authority, the path of service duty and nation.
- ✓ It was claimed that Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam, a Saivite mutt based in the town of Thiruvaduthurai in Mayiladuthurai District, Tamil Nadu gifted the 'Sengol' to Jawaharlal Nehru in August 14, 1947 during India's Independence.
- ✓ Now, the head priest of Madurai Adheenam (mutt) presented the same sceptre 'Sengol' to PM Narendra Modi. PM stated the Sengol as the sacred symbol of the transfer of power.
- ✓ In Tamil, Adheenam is the oldest Saivite adheenam (also known as a matha or mutt), a form of Hindu monastery, in South India.
- ✓ The 'Sengol', which was Previously housed in the Nehru Gallery of the Allahabad Museum ( Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh), has now been transported to Delhi and installed in the newly constructed Parliament building.

## PM Narendra Modi flags off Assam's & Northeast's first Vande Bharat Express

- ✓ On May 29, 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the Northeast region's first Vande Bharat Express which will connect Guwahati (Assam) with New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal).
- ✓ This is also the first "Made in India" Vande Bharat Express of Assam and the 3rd Vande Bharat Express connecting West Bengal.
- ✓ Vande Bharat Express is a semi-high-speed train built with indigenously developed technology.
- ✓ It would cover Guwahati to New Jalpaiguri a distance of approximately 411 kilometres within a span of 5 hours and 30 minutes. Earlier, the fastest train on the same route took 6 hours and 30 minutes to cover the distance.



## Atal Bhujal Yojana Water Scheme extended for another 2 years, beyond 2025

- ✓ On May 26 2023, the National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) at its fourth meeting held in New Delhi, Delhi has made a decision for the continuation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), India's Central Sector water conservation Scheme for an additional two years beyond its original 2025 end date.
- ✓ The 2 year extension aims to compensate for implementation delays due to covid-19 and to further community behaviour change towards conservation and smart water management.
- ✓ The Atal Bhujal Yojana Scheme is facilitating sustainable ground water management since April 2020, as a Central Sector Scheme under the Department of Water Resources (DoWR), River Development (RD) and Ganga Rejuvenation (GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ✓ The scheme facilitating sustainable ground water management with an outlay of Rs.6000 crores. Out of this, Rs.3000 crores will be as loan from the World Bank.

## Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launched National Medical Devices Policy, 2023

- ✓ On May 26, 2023, the Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), unveiled the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023, and launched the Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices during the inaugural event of the 8th International Conference on Pharma and Medical Device Sector in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Mansukh Mandaviya also launched a scheme titled 'Assistance for Medical Devices clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)' to establish and strengthen common infrastructure facilities in the medical devices clusters and fortify testing facilities for medical devices.

## PM Modi flags off Uttarakhand's 1st Vande Bharat train: Dehradun-Delhi

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually flagged off Uttarakhand's 1st semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Train connecting Dehradun with Delhi.
- ✓ The inaugural run of the train connects Dehradun to Delhi's Anand Vihar terminal. This will be the 6th Vande Bharat train connecting Delhi from a different state. This also marks the 18th Vande Bharat train in India.
- ✓ PM Modi also dedicate the newly electrified rail line sections in Uttarakhand.with this Uttarakhand will have its entire rail route 100% electrified.

## 8th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

- ✓ Recently, the Prime Minister of India has chaired the 8th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog. The Meeting was held at the New Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It was attended by Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors representing 19 States and 6 UTs.
- ✓ **Theme: Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Role of Team India.**
- ✓ Prime Minister stressed that the Centre, States and UTs should work as Team India and fulfil the dreams and aspirations of people for a Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

- ✓ He said that NITI Aayog can play a critical role in helping States to develop their strategies for the next 25 years and align the same with the National Development Agenda. He urged the States and UTs to work with NITI Aayog so that the country can take a quantum leap towards achieving its vision for the Amrit Kaal.

About NITI Aayog
✓ The Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution – NITI Aayog on 1st January, 2015 with emphasis on ‘Bottom –Up’ approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of ‘Cooperative Federalism’.
✓ It is the premier body trusted with developing a shared vision of national priorities and strategies with the active involvement of States and Union Territories.
✓ It is a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues.
It comprises
✓ The Prime Minister of India.
✓ Chief Ministers of all the states and union territories with the legislature.
✓ Lt Governors of other UTs.
✓ Ex-Officio Members,
✓ Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog,
✓ Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog.
✓ Special Invitees.
It has two Hubs
✓ Team India Hub acts as an interface between States and Centre.
✓ Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.
Initiatives
✓ SDG India Index
✓ Composite Water Management Index
✓ Atal Innovation Mission
✓ SATH Project.
✓ Aspirational District Programme
✓ School Education Quality Index

✓ District Hospital Index
✓ Health Index
✓ Agriculture Marketing And Farmer Friendly reform Index
✓ India Innovation Index
✓ Women Transforming India Awards
✓ Good Governance Index
NITI Aayog Vice Chairman: <b>Suman K Bery</b> NITI Aayog CEO: <b>B.V.R. Subrahmanyam</b>

### UDAN 5.1, Specifically Designed for Helicopter Routes

- ✓ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1 to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters.
- ✓ For the first time under Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.
- ✓ The scheme will now allow routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area. Earlier both points had to be priority areas.
- ✓ Airfare caps have been reduced by 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.
- ✓ Viability Gap Funding (VGF) caps for the operators have been increased substantially for both single and twin-engine helicopters to enhance financial viability for operating the awarded routes.
- ✓ The latest round of UDAN scheme is a testament to two emerging phenomena in Indian civil aviation: One is a deeper democratization of air travel with a focus on last-mile connectivity. Second is a growing appetite for helicopters in aiding tourism.
- ✓ It may be mentioned that up to date 46 helicopter routes have been operationalized under previous rounds of the scheme benefiting several hilly and Northeast states and this round is targeting coverage of a much larger number of routes.

### Bhopal First Indian City to Track Progress on SDGs

- ✓ Bhopal has taken a significant step towards localizing the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDGs). It has become the first

city in India to adopt voluntary local reviews (VLR) to demonstrate its commitment and capacity to achieving the SDGs. The SDGs localisation involves translating the global agenda of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into actionable local plans that contribute to the overall achievement of the goals. Bhopal's VLR is the result of collaboration between the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, UN-Habitat, and various local stakeholders, aiming to showcase the city's efforts towards sustainable and inclusive urban transformation. The review incorporates both quantitative and qualitative approaches, including a qualitative mapping of 56 developmental projects.



- ✓ In 2015, all 193 member states of the UN adopted the Agenda 2030, which consists of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Member states report their progress towards these goals through voluntary national reviews (VNRs) submitted to the UN's high-level political forum (HLPF).

### **Cabinet approves establishment of Regional Office of Universal Postal Union**

- ✓ An agreement has been made with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to establish a regional office in New Delhi, which will provide development cooperation and technical assistance to the region. This decision was approved by the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and will allow India to play a more active role in the postal sector, with a focus on South-South and Triangular cooperation.
- ✓ India will provide staff, an office setup, and a project expert for field work, to implement training and capacity building projects, e-commerce and trade promotion, and enhance postal technology in coordination with UPU.
- ✓ This initiative will strengthen diplomatic ties and enhance India's presence in the global postal forum, with particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region.
- ✓ The Universal Postal Union (UPU), founded under the Treaty of Bern in 1874, has its headquarters in the Swiss city of Bern.

- ✓ It operates as a United Nations (UN) specialized agency and is responsible for regulating postal policies and services among member nations worldwide.

### **Indian Govt Introduce 30% Subsidy for Sustainable Shipping Construction**

- ✓ The Indian government has introduced 30% Subsidy for Sustainable Shipping Construction a series of measures aimed at promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly technology in the shipping sector.
- ✓ These initiatives include offering financial assistance and focusing on upgrading ports. The government's announcement was made during a two-day conference organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) following their earlier plan to develop hydrogen ports in India.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the government prioritized the modernization of the shipping industry by imposing an age limit on ships sailing under the Indian flag or owned by Indian shipowners.

### **Giriraj Singh Launches SAMARTH Campaign to Promote Digital Transactions at Gram Panchayat Level**

- ✓ The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in Lucknow. This campaign, initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to promote digital transactions in rural areas, with a particular focus on empowering women. The launch event witnessed the participation of various dignitaries, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti.
- ✓ Under the SAMARTH Campaign, the government seeks to foster the adoption of digital transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats across India. This initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, which commemorates 75 years of India's independence.

The campaign commenced on February 1, 2023, and will continue until August 15, 2023.

### PM Modi inaugurates International Museum Expo 2023

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurates International Museum Expo 2023. During the inauguration of the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized his government's commitment to safeguarding India's heritage. However, he regretted that insufficient efforts were taken towards this cause following Independence.
- ✓ The theme for IMD this year is "museums, sustainability, and well-being."

### Amit Shah Lays Foundation Stone of National Academy of Coastal Policing Campus in Dwaraka, Gujarat

- ✓ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing in Dwaraka, Gujarat. In his address, Shah emphasized the BJP government's commitment to coastal security, stating that it is a top priority under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The academy aims to provide comprehensive training facilities to over three thousand security personnel annually.
- ✓ National Academy of Coastal Policing Established in 2018, It is the first national academy dedicated to providing intensive training to marine police personnel.

### Bhupender Yadav launches Meri LiFE App

- ✓ The Meri LiFE app, launched by Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, is set to revolutionize the way individuals and communities track their progress in the global mass movement called Mission LiFE. Inspired by the vision of the Prime Minister, this movement aims to nudge people towards taking action to protect the environment and adopt sustainable lifestyles. With a focus on youth engagement, the app encourages individuals to

participate in a series of LiFE-related tasks, empowering them to make a positive impact on the environment.

- ✓ Mission LiFE, launched by the Prime Minister on October 20, 2022, in Kevadia, Gujarat, seeks to bring about behavior changes in individuals through simple, actionable steps.

### UGC launches new website, UTSAH and PoP portals to promote quality education

- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced three initiatives to aid the National Education Policy 2020 implementation and enhance higher education quality in India.
- ✓ The UGC has launched a new website, the UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal, and the Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal to promote quality education in India. The launch of these new initiatives is a significant step by the UGC in its efforts to promote quality education in India. The new website, UTSAH Portal, and PoP Portal will provide valuable resources to students, faculty, and universities, and will help to improve the quality of higher education in India.
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### 5th edition of Global Ayurveda Festival

- ✓ The fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival (Gaf 2023) will be held from December 1 to 5 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The theme of the event is 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda'. The event will bring together Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders from around the world to showcase Ayurveda's potential in addressing health challenges.
- ✓ The conclave will be attended by top scientists, including Nobel laureates, and over 7,500 delegates from 75 countries. The event will also feature over

750 research papers and 750 poster presentations on the sidelines.

### Santiniketan in tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage list

- ✓ Saantinketan the home of Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore has been recommended for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List. The recommendation was made by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which is the advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, based on a file moved by the Indian government.
- ✓ ICOMOS, a France-based International culture body, comprises of professionals, experts, representatives from local authorities, companies and heritage organizations. It is dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of global architectural and landscape heritage.
- ✓ The nomination would be formally announced at the World Heritage Committee meeting to be held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in September 2023,
- ✓ Santiniketan, if selected would be the second cultural symbol from West Bengal, to make it to the UNESCO list. In 2021, UNESCO had included 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' in its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ✓ India has a total of 40 sites that have been awarded the UNESCO World Heritage tag. These include 32 cultural sites. India also has 52 sites on the tentative list.

### Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Launches 'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023

- ✓ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched 'Harit Sagar' Green Port Guidelines 2023 to achieve its vision of zero carbon emissions. The guidelines were launched by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, in the presence of other senior officials of the ministry in New Delhi. The guidelines aim to align with the 'Working with Nature' concept, minimize the impact on the biotic components of harbor ecosystems, and promote the use of clean/green energy in port operations.

- ✓ The launch event also saw the conferring of the 'Sagar Shreshtha Samman' awards to major ports for their exceptional achievements in various operational parameters. The awards were conferred to the ports for their all-time best performance on select operational and financial parameters during FY – 2022-23.



### India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027

- ✓ India has announced that it will participate in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027. The decision was made at a meeting of the Parliament's Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation held in New Delhi and chaired by the Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- ✓ ICAO has been tasked with reducing carbon emissions from international civil aviation. To achieve this goal, the global body has adopted several key aspirational goals, including a two per cent annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth, and net zero by 2050. These goals are clubbed under CORSA and LTAG.

- ✓ CORSIA is to be implemented in three phases, and financial implications due to offsetting have to be borne by individual airlines, depending upon their international operations. It is applicable only to flights originating from one country to another.



### India hosts the first-ever physical Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum in New Delhi

- ✓ India recently hosted the third edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum in the form of the first-ever physical event in New Delhi. The event was organized by Startup India, the Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce. The forum aimed to expand startup interactions among SCO Member States and encourage innovation, employment generation, and talent building.

### Y20 Meet held in Kashmir University

- ✓ The University of Kashmir host a two-day Youth20 event (Y20) on climate change. The event, scheduled for May 10 and 11, is attended 17 delegates from nine foreign countries, with four delegates from Russia and Indonesia, two each from the US and Brazil, and one each from Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria and Mexico.
- ✓ The theme of the event is “Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life”. An outcome document will be prepared based on the inputs from the discussions.

### Foreign Ministers of SCO member countries meet in Goa

- ✓ The foreign ministers of eight member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) are meeting in Goa on May 4 and 5. This meeting will set the stage for the SCO Leaders’ Summit to be held in July in New Delhi. India, the host country, attaches special importance to the SCO in promoting multilateral, political, security,

economic, and people-to-people interactions in the region.

### NTCA Constitutes New Committee to Oversee Cheetah Project

- ✓ National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has established an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Rajesh Gopal, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its chairman. The decision was taken after six cheetahs, who were brought as part of the translocation project, died in the last two months. The other 10 members include RN Mehrotra, former principal chief conservator of forest of Rajasthan; PR Sinha, former director of the Wildlife Institute of India; HS Negi, former APCCF, Wildlife; and PK Malik, former faculty at WII.

### Sanchar Saathi portal launched by Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw

- ✓ The Union Minister for Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched the Sanchar Saathi Portal during a function held in New Delhi. This citizen-centric portal aims to empower mobile phone users by providing essential services, such as tracking and blocking lost mobile phones.
- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications has developed this initiative, which also allows citizens to control the connections associated with their names.

### First Border Haat Inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet Division between India and Bangladesh

- ✓ The first-ever border haat in Sylhet division along the India border was opened at Bholaganj in Companiganj upazila. Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad and Indian High Commissioner in Sylhet Niraj Kumar Jaiswal jointly inaugurated the haat, which is located between East Khasi Hills of India’s Meghalaya and Sylhet’s Bholaganj.
- ✓ Both the Bangladeshi minister and the Indian high commissioner announced that more haats will be set

up in the district in the days to come. A process is also underway to launch the border haat in Sunamganj.

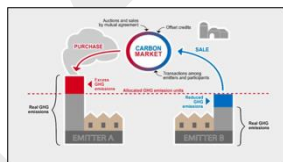
- ✓ Currently, 13 border haats are operating between India and Bangladesh, and three more haats are awaited to launch.

### Union Government signs agreement with 6 States to Start Digital Crop Survey

- ✓ Union Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 6 States Governments of Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to initiate the digital crop survey.
- ✓ The agreement was signed during the National Conference of State Agriculture Secretaries & State Revenue Secretaries on Digital Crop Survey, which was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) in New Delhi, Delhi to discuss with the state governments for the implementation of digital crop survey plan.

### Govt to develop Indian Carbon Market; MoP, MoEF&CC Plans to Develop Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- ✓ Union Government (Govt) plans to develop the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) where a national framework will be established to decarbonise the Indian economy by pricing the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions through trading of the carbon credit certificates. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Power (MoP), along with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is developing the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for the ICM.
- ✓ A one-day 'Stakeholder Consultation on Accredited Carbon Verifiers under ICM' was organized on May 11, 2023, in New Delhi with participants from key stakeholders including Accredited Energy Auditors, Carbon/Energy Verifiers, Sector Experts etc.



### India & Bangladesh launched a '50 start-ups exchange programme'

- ✓ India and Bangladesh launched a '50 start-ups exchange programme', under which 50 Start-ups from Bangladesh and 50 Start-ups from India were planned to exchange visits to each other's countries for exploring partnerships, expanding business relations, sharing experience and knowledge and expand youth and entrepreneurial cooperation. The start-ups of Bangladesh were introduced to India's 'Start-up India' initiative.

### Cabinet Approvals on May 17, 2023

- ✓ On May 17, 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi has approved the following:
- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA) between India's Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for promoting access to high quality affordable assistive technology.
- ✓ Union Cabinet also approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for Information Technology (IT) Hardware with an outlay Rs 17,000 crore.
- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (CA Maldives).

### Israel & India Partners to Establish Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, representing India, has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the government of Israel. The purpose of this agreement is to collaborate on establishing the "India-Israel Center of Water Technology" (CoWT) at IIT Madras. The center will focus on advancements in Water Resource Management and Water Technologies.
- ✓ It aims to build human capacity to ensure the implementation of the best technologies of Israel in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements



and pilot sustainable technologies to ensure water security for India.

### Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launches “Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi” for ECCE

- ✓ Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), launched “Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi”, the flagship programme of MoWCD, to strengthen Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0).
- ✓ The programme was launched during the national event organised by MoWCD on key initiatives for strengthening ECCE at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi. ECCE is an important component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) and is envisaged under the National Education Policy.

### Union Govt Constitutes 11-member Committee to restructure 94-years-old ICAR

- ✓ Union Government has formed an 11-member high-level committee under the chairmanship of Sanjay Garg, Additional Secretary (AS) of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DPRE) & Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), to restructure the 94-year-old ICAR, which was established in 1929, to meet the objective of Amrit Kaal.
- ✓ Earlier, the union government constituted the committees under Dr MS Swaminathan and Dr RA Mashlekar. However, their recommendation was never implemented.

### 50% of India’s Total Villages Achieved ODF Plus Status under SBM-G Phase II

- ✓ According to the data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, as of May 10, 2023, 50% of the total villages in India achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G). An ODF Plus village is one that has implemented solid or liquid

waste management systems in addition to maintaining its ODF designation.

- ✓ Top Performing States/UTs: The top performing states in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages are as follows:
  - ✓ Among big states – Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%).
  - ✓ Among small states – Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%).
  - ✓ Among UTs – Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.

### India sets Foodgrain Production Target of 332 MT for 2023-24 crop year

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India, has set a target of 332 million (3320 lakh) tonnes of production of foodgrains for the 2023-2024 crop year (July 2023-June 2024).
- ✓ MoA&FW’s target includes the production of 29.25 MT of pulses, 44 MT of oilseed, and 17 MT of millets.
- ✓ Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State (MoS) for MoA&FW stated that following the celebration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM), the global demand for millets is set to rise.

### MoA&FW and NAFED launched First ever Millets Experience Centre

- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) launched the first ever ‘Millets Experience Centre’ (MEC) at Dilli Haat, INA (Indian National Airways), New Delhi in Delhi, in order to enhance the public awareness on Millets and encourage the utilization of Millets.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023), in response to India’s proposal, which was supported by 72 countries.

## STATES

### Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to make digital health cards for children

- ✓ The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched the 'School Health Program' making Uttar Pradesh (UP) the first Indian state to make digital health cards for children.
- ✓ As a pilot project, the program has been started by Lucknow Smart City in three schools in Lucknow viz. Aminabad Inter College, Kashmiri Mohalla Girls Inter College and Kashmiri Mohalla Montessori School.
- ✓ These schools have been given the responsibility of health checkup of 1765 children.
- ✓ Under this, a digital health report card will be prepared on 130 parameters for the overall physical and mental well-being of municipal school. A health insurance worth Rs 25,000 will also be given to these children.

### Kerala becomes India's first e-governed State

- ✓ Kerala became India's first fully e-governed state as it successfully digitized a range of government services for prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens.
- ✓ It was announced by the Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan during the Total e-Governance Kerala event organised by the Kerala IT Mission in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

#### e-Sevanam Portal:

- ✓ A single-window portal named e-Sevanam was launched by the state government to offer 900 government services online. It was further set to be extended to taluk-level offices.
- ✓ The portal offers citizen services including various registrations and services related to social security pension.

#### Other e-Governance Initiatives

- ✓ i. Under this comprehensive e-governance initiative, the Kerala government aims to bring services directly to citizens by eliminating the need to visit government offices in person.

- ✓ A noteworthy step in this direction is the implementation of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project, which has made internet access a citizen's right.
- ✓ This initiative will make the internet affordable or even free for the residents of Kerala.
- ✓ About 7.5 crore certificates were distributed through the e-district online service scheme. Around 250 services are currently being delivered online in the state's panchayats.
- ✓ Kerala has also established India's first digital university namely Kerala University of Digital Sciences,

### Punjab Becomes 1st State to Enforce 'right to walk'

- ✓ Punjab has become the first Indian State to implement the "Right to walk" by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones.
- ✓ This is a part of the efforts of Punjab to control the number of accidents and deaths of pedestrians and cyclists.
- ✓ These directions were issued by the Government of Punjab following 2 court orders after Public Interest Litigations (PILs) filed at the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Supreme Court of India.
- ✓ According to the government, the number of pedestrians killed in road crashes has increased from 25,858 in 2019 to 29,124 in 2021, which indicates that the road infrastructure does not provide safety to pedestrians.
- ✓ In 2022, the Supreme Court of India notified the states to ensure the safety of the pedestrians and cyclists by provided dedicated, seamless and safe pedestrian lanes and cycle tracks.

### Telangana Govt Launches India's 1st State Robotics Framework

- ✓ On May 9, 2023, the Telangana government (Govt) launched 'Telangana State Robotics Framework', a first-of-its-kind policy in India, to provide a roadmap for the state to create a sustainable robotic

ecosystem and be a leading state in the field of robotics.

- ✓ Telangana State Robotics Framework was launched by Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao(KTR), Minister for Information Technology(IT) and Industries, the Government of Telangana at T-Hub Events Room, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ The framework was developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C (Information Technology, Electronics and Communications) Department of Telangana in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association.
- ✓ During the event, the Telangana government signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with IIT (Indian Institutes of Technology)-Hyderabad, ART PARK(AI & Robotics Technology Park) Indian Institute of Science (IISC), GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), AgHub (Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University(PJTSAU)) and All India Robotics Association (AIRA).
- ✓ The robotics framework is the 6th framework formulated and launched by the emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department.
- ✓ The State has earlier launched five frameworks, covering the technology areas of Blockchain (2018), Drones (2019), AI (2020), Cloud Adoption Framework (2021), and SpaceTech (2022).

### **Kerala Becomes 1st Indian State to Launch Welfare Fund for Workers under MGNREGS**

- ✓ Kerala became the first state in India to launch a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers in the State. The initiative was launched by the Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan at Kotta Maidanam, Palakkad, as part of the 100-day action plan in connection with the state government's second anniversary.
- ✓ This fund is based upon the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021. Under this, the workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of Rs 50 as a contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount.

### **MP Cabinet approved 'CM Learn and Earn' Scheme for Unemployed Youths**

- ✓ The State Cabinet of Madhya Pradesh chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a new scheme named 'Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' (Chief Minister Learn and Earn Scheme) to provide opportunity to learn skills for unemployed youths of the state.
- ✓ Objective:
  - To provide employment-oriented skill training to about a lakh youth of MP.
  - The scheme will also provide stipend to the youths along with training, skill upgradation which will boost employment opportunities and pave the way for a better way of earning.
- ✓ Eligibility: Candidates accommodated in Madhya Pradesh and aged between 18 and 29, with a minimum educational qualification of 12th class, ITI (industrial training) are eligible for the scheme.

### **Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023: Interest waiver scheme for farmers launched in MP**

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (MP) Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched a farm loan interest waiver scheme namely 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023 or the Chief Minister Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme' to compensate the defaulter farmers, who have outstanding loans of up to Rs 2 lakh including the principal and interest as on March 31, 2023, from Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) affiliated to District Cooperative Central Banks.
- ✓ Under this outstanding amounts of Rs 2,123 crore will be waived off for 11,19,000 farmers, and will also be certified as default-free.
- ✓ This initiative will make the farmers eligible for the crop loan scheme at a 0% interest rate. The scheme also includes short-term crop as well as short-term loans, which have been converted into medium-term loans due to natural calamities.

## Telangana launches “SAHAS”; An Initiative to Make Workplaces Safer for Women

- ✓ On 19th May 2023, Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Minister of Home, Prisons, and Fire Services of Telangana, inaugurated the “SAHAS” initiative, which means ‘Courage’, aimed at enhancing support systems for women facing workplace sexual harassment.
- ✓ SAHAS is the first of its kind State Police- Industry Body collaborative initiative to strengthen the ecosystem of support for women employees in workplaces across Telangana.
- ✓ The SAHAS project was conceptualised by Shikha Goel, DGP (Director General of Police) Women Safety Wing.
- ✓ The initiative includes the launch of the Sahas Microsite, Sahas Sathi Chatbot, Sahas Whatsapp Number, Forum, and online support facilities in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ The Sahas initiative is sponsored and supported by Ixoreal Biomed, the manufacturer of “KSM-66 Ashwagandha”.

## Sourav Ganguly appointed Brand Ambassador of Tripura Tourism

- ✓ On 23rd May 2023, Sourav Ganguly, former Indian cricket team captain who served as the 35th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has been appointed the brand ambassador of Tripura tourism.
- ✓ The announcement came after Tripura’s Minister of Tourism Sushanta Chowdhury, Chairman of Tripura Tourism Development Corporation Limited (TTDCL), met Sourav Ganguly at his residence in Kolkata, West Bengal, along with Tripura state officials, and discussed the proposal.

## UP govt inaugurated an online education programme ‘Pahal’ for rural area students

- ✓ On May 15 2023, Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary of the Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) inaugurated an online rural education programme ‘Pahal’ at Government UP Sainik Inter College, Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow, UP.

- ✓ The programme Pahal has been developed by the Department of secondary education in collaboration with IIT (Indian Institutes of Technology) Kanpur.
- ✓ Under this programme, free online education has been initially provided at 10 government secondary schools, and will soon be extended to 40,000 schools in UP.

## Goa Statehood Day 2023 observed on 30th May

- ✓ The smallest state by area, Goa is famous for its beaches and the relics of its colonial past. It got its statehood on May 30, 1987. It was a Portuguese territory since Alfonso de Albuquerque conquered it in 1510 by defeating Adil Shah of Bijapur who was ruling the region. 400 years later, India took back Goa from the Portuguese. This year Goa celebrates its 36th anniversary of statehood.
- ✓ May 30 is the day when Goa was declared a state separate from Daman and Diu. This took place in the year 1987 and since then, the day is observed as ‘Goa Statehood Day.’ After it received its statehood, Panaji was given the status of the capital of Goa and Konkani language became the official language.

## Telangana Achieves 100% Coverage of PMJDY: A Step Towards Financial Inclusion

- ✓ Telangana State has achieved a significant milestone in financial inclusion by attaining 100% coverage of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). Since the launch of this national mission, the state has made remarkable progress in extending banking services to all sections of the population.
- ✓ Empowering Every Unbanked Adult The PMJDY is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion that aims to provide affordable access to financial services such as banking, savings and deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, and pension. It serves as the foundation stone for people-centric economic initiatives, including Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, and increased wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).

## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### UPI Transactions Reach Record High of Rs 14.3 Trillion in May 2023

- ✓ Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions in India soared to unprecedented levels in May 2023, with a total transaction value of Rs 14.3 trillion and a volume of 9.41 billion. This represents a 2% increase in value and a 6% increase in volume compared to the previous month of April. The surge in UPI transactions comes at a time when the Indian government is actively promoting digital payments and aims to bring various tax collections under the digital payment ecosystem.



- ✓ In May, UPI transactions experienced remarkable growth, with a value of Rs 14.3 trillion and a volume of 9.41 billion. The transaction volume witnessed a staggering 58% increase compared to the same period in the previous financial year, while the transaction value rose by an impressive 37%. These numbers highlight the growing acceptance and adoption of UPI as a preferred mode of payment in India.

### Govt approves Digital Communication Framework Between Banks and CEIB

- ✓ The government has approved a new digital reporting and communication system to address loan defaults exceeding Rs 50 crore. Instead of relying on paper-based communication, the Union government has introduced a digital mechanism. Under this system, the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) will send digital reports to public sector banks within 15 days of a loan request at the pre-approval stage.
- ✓ The government has implemented a digital system to streamline communication between banks and the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB).
- ✓ Under the new system, banks are required to submit their requests to CEIB through dedicated emails using a specific format. In return, CEIB will exclusively send reports to banks via email,

maintaining a record of the timeline and actions taken by the banks.

### Goldman Sachs hikes India's 2023 GDP forecast to 6.3%

- ✓ Goldman Sachs increased the Indian economic growth forecast by 30 basis points to 6.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) for calendar year 2023 from its earlier forecast of 6%, citing a boost in net exports.
- ✓ It has pegged GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth for the Jan-March 2023 quarter at 4.9%, 6.5% for April-June 2023, 5.9% for July-September 2023 and 8.1% for October-December 2023.

### FDI Equity Inflows Declined by 22% to USD 46.03 billion in FY23: DPIIT Data

- ✓ According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India declined by 22% to USD (United States Dollar) 46.03 billion in FY23 as compared to USD 58.77 billion during FY22.

#### Top Investor in FY23

- ✓ Singapore emerged as the top investor with USD 17.2 billion in FDI. It was followed by Mauritius (USD 6.13 billion), the US (USD 6 billion), the United Arab Emirates (USD 3.35 billion), the Netherlands (USD 2.5 billion),
- ✓ Japan (USD 1.8 billion), United Kingdom (USD 1.73 billion), Cyprus (USD 1.27 billion), Cayman island (USD 772 million), and Germany (USD 547 million)
- ✓ The FDI inflows have contracted in FY23 from Mauritius, the United States (US), the Netherlands, the Cayman Islands, and Germany.

#### Top Investing State

- ✓ Maharashtra continued to be the most favoured destination for investors. It received USD 14.8 billion worth of investments, although inflows declined from USD 15.44 billion in FY22.
- ✓ It is followed by Karnataka at 2nd with around USD 10.43 billion in FY23, up from USD 22.01 billion in FY22.

- ✓ Delhi is at 3rd rank. Its FDI inflows declined to USD 7.53 billion, from USD 8.18 billion in FY22.
- ✓ FDI in Gujarat has increased to USD 4.71 billion in FY23 as against USD 2.7 billion in FY22.
- ✓ The overseas inflows during the March 2023 quarter (Q4 FY23) increased by 40.55% to USD 9.28 billion.
- ✓ Total FDI inflows, which include equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, declined by 16% year- on-year (y-o-y) to USD 70.97 billion in FY23.
- ✓ The FDI equity inflows declined in January, February, and March in FY23 to USD 4.05 billion, USD 2.85 billion, and USD 2.38 billion, respectively as against USD 6.4 billion in January 2022, USD 4.61 billion in February 2022, and USD 4.6 billion in March of FY22.
- ✓ Computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 9.4 billion during FY23, however, these inflows are down as compared to USD 14.5 billion in FY22.
- ✓ FDI in the automobile industry dipped 72% to USD 1.9 billion in FY23 as compared to about USD 7 billion in FY22.
- ✓ The services sector including financial, banking, insurance, research and development, and courier services has seen USD 8.71 billion worth of FDI but contracted 41% y-o-y.

### **BSE relaunches Sensex & Bankex Derivative Contracts**

- ✓ On 15th May 2023, BSE (formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange), Asia's oldest stock exchange, relaunched Sensex and Bankex derivative contracts in its bid to boost derivative trading at India's premier bourse.
- ✓ The relaunch of derivative contracts comes with a reduced lot size of futures and options and a new expiry cycle of Friday from Thursday earlier.
- ✓ The lot size of futures and options has been reduced to 10 from 15 for Sensex, and to 15 from 20 in the case of Bankex.
- ✓ It evoked a good response from market participants.
- ✓ Nearly 100 members participated in trading with a total turnover of Rs 53.12 crores with an open interest of 252 lots.

- ✓ BSE launched Sensex-30 derivatives (options and futures), which are made up of 30 of the largest and most actively traded companies on BSE, for the first time in 2000.

### **NSE India Launched Rupee-Denominated NYMEX WTI Crude Oil & Natural Gas Futures Contracts**

- ✓ On May 15, 2023, the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE India) launched the rupee-denominated New York Mercantile Exchange's (NYMEX) West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment.
- ✓ In February 2023, NSE signed a data licensing agreement with CME Group to list, trade and settle rupee- denominated NYMEX WTI crude and Henry Hub natural gas derivatives contracts on its platform.
- ✓ On March 02, 2023, the NSE received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch the rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil and natural gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment.

### **SBI's Ecowrap Report Projects India's GDP Growth to 5.5% in Q4 FY23 & 7.1% in FY23**

- ✓ According to the Ecowrap report of the State Bank of India (SBI) released on May 26, 2023, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the fourth quarter (Q4) of Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23) is projected to be 5.5%. India's growth for FY23 is projected at 7.1% due to growth in manufacturing sector.

#### **Comparative Analysis**

- ✓ SBI's projection is in line with the advance estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in January 2023, which projected the growth for the FY23, at 7%.
- ✓ RBI has estimated Q4FY23 Real GDP growth to be 5.1%.
- ✓ As per the report, domestic consumption and investment benefited from stronger prospects for agricultural and allied activities.

- ✓ The GDP growth projection by Ecwrap was made SBI's ANN (Artificial Neural Network) model, based on 30 high-frequency indicators from key sectors which are tuned/trained to project the GDP numbers forecasts.

#### **India to contribute 16% to global GDP growth: Morgan Stanley**

- ✓ According to Morgan Stanley, the Indian economy is a key contributor to Asian economic growth outperformance and India is expected to contribute 16% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) growth over 2023-24.

#### **Fitch Ratings has lowered India's 2023-24 GDP forecast to 6% from 6.2%**

- ✓ Fitch Ratings has lowered India's 2023-24 (i.e. Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24)) GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to 6% from 6.2% of its earlier projection, amid increased inflation and interest rates along with subdued global demand.
- ✓ The projection for FY25 also decreased to 6.7% from 6.9% projected earlier.
- ✓ India's FY24 growth will be slower than the 7% expected in FY23, as weak domestic and global demand is induced

#### **Netherlands becomes India's 3rd Largest Export Destination in FY23 after US, UAE**

- ✓ As per the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Netherlands emerged as the 3rd largest export destination for India in Financial Year 2023-23 (FY23) after the United States (US) and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

#### **India – Netherland Trade Progress FY23**

- ✓ India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has increased from USD 8 billion in FY22 to USD 13 billion in FY23.
- ✓ The trade surplus was mainly due to an increase in the shipment of goods such as petroleum products, electronic items, chemicals, and aluminium goods.
- ✓ As per the economic think tank GTRI (Global Trade Research Initiative), ATF (aviation turbine

fuel) and diesel were the key petroleum products exported from India to the Netherlands.

- ✓ Telecom equipment and smartphones (with a value of over USD 1 billion) were the largest electronic items exported.
- ✓ India's exports to the Netherlands increased by about 48% to USD 18.52 billion in FY23 as against USD 12.5 billion in FY22.
- ✓ India's exports to the Netherlands increased to USD 18.1 billion in 2022 from USD 5.5 billion in 2017.
- ✓ The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.
- ✓ The outbound shipments to the European country in FY22 and FY21 stood at USD 12.55 billion and USD 6.5 billion, respectively.

#### **IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Asia-Pacific to grow 4.6% in 2023; India, China to contribute half of global growth**

- ✓ According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Regional Economic Outlook Asia and Pacific May 2023, the Asia-Pacific region's growth is estimated to increase to 4.6% in 2023 from the 3.8% growth recorded in 2022. The forecast for 2023 is an upgrade of 0.3% from its October forecast (October 2022 World Economic Outlook) of 4.3%.
- ✓ Asia and the Pacific region is expected to contribute around 70% of global growth in 2023.
- ✓ IMF expects China and India to contribute around half of global growth in 2023, with the rest of Asia and the Pacific contributing an additional fifth.
- ✓ The growth of Asia is driven primarily by the recovery in China and resilient growth in India, while growth in the rest of Asia is expected to bottom out in 2023, in line with other regions.
- ✓ The IMF reduced 2024's Asian growth forecast by 0.2% to 4.4%, and warned of risks to the outlook such as stickier-than-expected inflation, slowing global demand as well as the impact of US and European banking-sector stress.
- ✓ The global economy is expected to grow by 2.8% in 2023 and 3% in 2024. In 2022, the global economy projected to rise 3.4%.

## Turbo UPI: Razorpay unveils India's fastest One-Step Payments Solution

- ✓ Razorpay has launched India's fastest one-step UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payment solution namely 'Turbo UPI' allowing customers of online merchants to make UPI payments directly without getting redirected to a third-party UPI app during checkout.
- ✓ This Solution was developed in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Axis Bank. Through this app, the payment steps are reduced from 5 to 1.

### Aim:

- ✓ To deliver a 5X faster payment experience. To support the businesses to achieve an increase in the success rate of UPI payments by 10%.

## Paytm Money Launches Bond Investing on its Platform for Retail Investors

- ✓ Paytm Money Limited, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm, has launched India's most advanced bonds platform for retail investors to simplify bonds and enable them to invest in three types of bonds such as government, corporate and tax-free.
- ✓ Currently, Bonds on Paytm Money is being launched with an early access waitlist program.

## Aditya Birla Capital launches 'Udyog Plus': An Innovative One-Stop Business Platform for MSMEs

- ✓ Aditya Birla Capital, the financial services business of the Aditya Birla Group, through its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, has announced the launch of "Udyog Plus", an innovative one-stop business platform, designed for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers.
- ✓ This new Business-to-business (B2B) digital platform offers solutions for MSMEs, including financing, protection, investments, advisory and value-added services for managing and growing their businesses.
- ✓ Both existing and new customers of Aditya Birla Finance can access Udyog Plus, an open market,

through the financing portion of the Aditya Birla Capital website.

- ✓ The platform offers a completely paperless digital journey for business loans of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- ✓ Udyog Plus is integrated with government e-commerce websites via Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) and with private e-commerce websites to provide credit facilities to sellers on these platforms.

## Tide and Transcorp launch India's first Recycled PVC RuPay Card

- ✓ Tide, United Kingdom-based fintech, in partnership with Transcorp International Limited, launched India's first recycled Polyvinyl Chloride (rPVC) Rupay card, along with MCT Cards & Technology Pvt. Ltd. and NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).
- ✓ PVC cards are more durable than paper-based cards and can last longer without getting damaged or torn, along with security features.
- ✓ rPVC Rupay cards are made from recycled PVC plastic. Every 99% rPVC card weighing 5.5-6 grams, saves on 7-8 grams of CO2 emissions and 3.5-4.0 grams of plastic waste, which will be used in the production of a new card made with virgin PVC.
- ✓ With this launch, all the 4 entities initiated industry-first initiatives as part of an India-wide and global shift away from virgin plastic and accelerate reduction in carbon emissions.

## Bajaj Allianz Life Launched India's First ULIP Small-Cap Fund

- ✓ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd launched India's first small-cap fund in the ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan) segment namely 'Bajaj Allianz Life Small Cap Fund' that offers customers the opportunity to achieve capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of small-cap stocks. The NFO (New Fund Offer) period for Bajaj Allianz Life's small-cap fund ends on May 23, 2023.
- ✓ The benchmark index is the Nifty Small Cap 100 index. The benchmark index is a standard or reference point used to measure the performance of a particular market or segment.



## NPCI introduces CVV-less payments for Tokenized Cards

- ✓ RuPay, the Indian payment network developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has rolled out a new feature that enables its cardholders to make Card Verification Value (CVV)-less payments if they have tokenized their debit, credit or prepaid cards on the merchant application or webpage, supporting this feature.
- ✓ This means the cardholder will not have to reach out to their wallet or remember any card details, if they have tokenized their card on the ecommerce merchant.

### What are RBI Guidelines for tokenization?

- ✓ RBI mandated to store customer's card information in the form of an encrypted form i.e. Card-On-File (COF) to secure transactions. COF turns sensitive cardholder data into randomly generated 16 digit numbers called "token" with no meaningful value, if breached. These tokens then allow payments to be processed without disclosing any customer details like Card number, CVV, Card expiry date. This is called tokenization.

## HDFC AMC launches India's first Mutual Fund focused on Defence Sector

- ✓ On May 16, 2023, the HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) Limited, investment manager to HDFC Mutual Fund (HDFC MF) announced the launch of the 'HDFC Defence Fund' i.e. India's first mutual fund that plans to invest in the defence sector.
- ✓ It follows a bottom-up approach to portfolio construction within the defence ecosystem.
- ✓ Objective: To provide long-term capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity and equity-related securities of Defence & allied sector companies.
- ✓ The new fund offering (NFO) of HDFC Defence Fund, an open-ended equity scheme would open on May 19, 2023 and close on June 2 2023.
- ✓ At least 80% of the net assets of the defence fund will be invested in defence and allied sector companies.

- ✓ The Defence and allied sector stocks include stocks forming part of aerospace and defence, explosives, shipbuilding, and allied services.
- ✓ The defence fund will invest in companies with good quality management with demonstrated track records and aims to achieve diversification by following a multi-cap strategy.
- ✓ The fund's focus would be on growth and quality at reasonable valuations by investing across large, mid and small-cap stocks.

## Visa Launched CVV-Free Payments Feature for Tokenised Cards

- ✓ Visa, the Card payments company, launched a Cardholder Verification Value (CVV) free feature for tokenized cards in India to make the online transaction process easier. Thus enabling the users to carry out online transactions without the need to enter the CVV.
- ✓ It eliminates the need for customers to enter the CVV for every domestic transaction.
- ✓ The feature allows the merchants only to verify the three-digit CVV once when tokenising the card.
- ✓ Under tokenized cards, the tokenization process replaces card details with a unique code, which improves transaction security.
- ✓ The tokenised transactions require two-factor authentication i.e. first at tokenisation and then when entering the OTP.

## India extends \$1bn credit line for Sri Lanka by a year until March 2024

- ✓ 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).
- ✓ India has extended a USD 1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by one year until March 2024 thus providing abackup infusion of dollars for essential imports.
- ✓ The credit line is part of about USD 4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis in 2022, which was scheduled to end in March 2023.

- ✓ There is about USD 350 million left of the credit line that can be utilized as needed.
- ✓ The extension came as Sri Lanka's creditor nations are preparing for their first meeting to coordinate the restructuring of the nation's debt.
- ✓ Sri Lanka owes USD 7.1bn to bilateral creditors, government data show, with USD 3bn owed to China, followed by USD 2.4bn to the Paris Club and USD 1.6bn to India.
- ✓ The government also needs to renegotiate more than USD 12 billion of debt in euro bonds with overseas private creditors, and USD 2.7 billion on other commercial loans.

### Yes Bank unveils new logo; launched 'Life Ko Banao Rich' campaign tagline

- ✓ Yes Bank, headquartered in Mumbai (Maharashtra) has unveiled a new logo and brand identity. The new identity is designed to resonate with the evolving needs and aspirations of customers and enable people to live each day to the fullest.
- ✓ The tick has been transformed into a soaring bird, representing the Bank's current position of 'soaring'. the red and blue have been given an electric tone, representing the high energy and innovation of the bank.
- ✓ The bank also launched an integrated campaign with the tagline – 'Life Ko Banao Rich' which represents its core focus of being a complete solution provider.
- ✓ The campaign will be promoted across social and digital media, OTT (over-the-top) networks and television. The tagline reflects its objective to encourage customers to spend time and make memories with their loved ones.



Bank of Maharashtra

### Bank of Maharashtra top performer in NPA management during FY23

- ✓ As per the data of banks, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) decreased to 0.25% during FY23.

- ✓ This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore including both Private Sectors Banks and Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- ✓ With respect to NPAs, BoM is followed by the HDFC Bank with net NPA falling to 0.27% at 2nd spot and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) at 3rd spot with 0.37% of net advances.
- ✓ On the PSB side, BoM was followed by the State Bank of India (SBI) with net NPAs falling to 0.67% and Bank of Baroda (BoB) at 0.89% at the end of March 2023.
- ✓ All the 12 PSBs together recorded 57% jump in net profit at Rs 1,04,649 crore in FY23, according to published yearly numbers of PSBs.
- ✓ BoM recorded highest growth in profitability with bottom-line growing almost 126% to Rs 2,602 crore during FY23.
- ✓ BoM also retained the top position in terms of garnering low-cost Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits with 53.38%.
- ✓ It is followed by IDBI Bank with 53.02% and KMB at 52.83%.
- ✓ Total business growth of BoM was also the highest at 21.2% at Rs 4,09,202 crore.
- ✓ It is followed by BoB at 14.3% (Rs 18,42,935 crore) at the end of FY23.

### SBI General launches 'Surety Bond Bima' for Infrastructure Projects

- ✓ On May 23, 2023, SBI General Insurance (SBIG), the non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI), launched 'General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional)' insurance product for infrastructure projects.
- ✓ It will act as a security arrangement to provide protection for infrastructure projects and shield both the contractor and the principal (the entity awarding the contract).
- ✓ Objective:
- ✓ To provide protection against breach of terms and conditions by the contractors either during the bidding stage or during the performance stage of a project.
- ✓ This Surety Bond Insurance is available in two variants viz. Conditional and Unconditional.

- ✓ In a conditional bond, a specified sum is paid to the beneficiary upon claim when specific conditions are met.
- ✓ The unconditional bond allows the beneficiary to claim the money almost without any conditions.

### Union Govt Approved Digital communication system between PSU banks & CEIB to Check Loan Defaults

- ✓ The Union government has ended paper-based communication and introduced a digital communication mechanism between Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) banks and Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) to check the defaults on loans.
- ✓ Under the digital mechanism, the CEIB will digitally send a report regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of Rs 50 crore or higher at the pre-approval stage within 15 days of request.
- ✓ With the new digital mechanism will make the process more smooth and faster with banks just having to place a request with CEIB online and getting final reports within 15 days.

### Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals

- ✓ On May 23, 2023, the Axis Bank Ltd has launched 'Sarathi', a first of its kind digital onboarding platform to enable easy installation of Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.
- ✓ Sarathi provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants unlike the traditional onboarding process that can take several days.
- ✓ Sarathi enables merchants to complete the onboarding process in four simple steps such as
  - The application process under Sarathi are streamlined through real-time database checks.
  - Merchant information will be authenticated through Live video verification at the customer's convenience.
  - Instant decision-making, as the solution eliminates the field verification process.

### Public Sector Banks total profit reaches Rs1,04,649cr in FY23

- ✓ The 12 Public Sector Banks' (PSBs) cumulative profit crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in FY23 by touching Rs1,04,649 crore.
- ✓ They witnessed a 57% increase in total profit compared to Rs 66,539.98 crore earned in FY22.
- ✓ In the March 2023 quarter, the PSBs' profit cumulatively increased more than 95% to Rs 34,483 crore as compared to Rs 17,666 crore in March 2022.
- ✓ **In percentage terms,**
  - Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) had the highest net profit growth with 126% to Rs 2,602 crore.
  - It is followed by UCO Bank with a 100% rise to Rs 1,862 crore, and
  - Bank of Baroda (BoB) with a 94% increase to Rs 14,110 crore.
- ✓ **In absolute terms,**
  - ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has reported an annual profit of Rs 50,232 crore in 2022-23, showing an increase of 59% over FY22.
  - ✓ Except for the Punjab National Bank (PNB), other PSBs have reported impressive annual increases in their profit after tax. PNB posted a 27% decline in annual net profit from Rs 3,457 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 2,507 crore in March 2023.
  - ✓ The PSBs which reported an annual profit in excess of Rs 10,000 crore are Bank of Baroda (Rs 14,110 crore) and Canara Bank (Rs 10,604 crore).
  - ✓ Punjab & Sind Bank posted an annual profit growth 26% (Rs 1,313 crore), Central Bank of India 51% (Rs 1,582 crore), Indian Overseas Bank 23% (Rs 2,099 crore), Bank of India 18% (Rs 4,023 crore), Indian Bank 34% (Rs 5,282 crore) and Union Bank of India 61% (Rs 8,433 crore)

### IDBI, BOB and SBI Capital Appointed to Manage IREDA IPO

- ✓ The Union government has appointed the three merchant bankers IDBI Capital Market & Securities Ltd, BOB Capital Markets Ltd and SBI Capital Markets Ltd to manage the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction.

- ✓ Separately, Saraf and Partner was appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO.
- ✓ The IPO, which is expected in FY24, will likely comprise a 10% stake sale by the government and 15% fresh equity issuance by the renewable energy project financier to fund its business growth.

### Yes Bank Launched Solar Financing Scheme 'YES KIRAN' for MSMEs

- ✓ On May 8, 2023, Yes Bank Limited announced the launch of a solar financing scheme named 'YES KIRAN' to offer financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) manufacturers who wish to install solar panels at their premises.
- ✓ Objective: The scheme was launched by the bank to support MSMEs to adopt sustainable energy practices and bring in cost efficiency by reducing the expenses towards power and fuel.
- ✓ The bank has partnered with solar panel manufacturers like Tata Power Solar Systems, Goldi Solar and Loom Solar, and Panasonic Solar Power System to facilitate MSME businesses for their transition to renewable energy solutions.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes India's 1st to Relocate Mauritius Domiciled Fund to GIFT IFSC

- ✓ Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has become India's 1st to relocate Mauritius domiciled fund to Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-city), Gujarat. On 6th May 2023, it successfully re-domiciled Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to GIFT City, India's 1st International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- ✓ Kotak Bank issued the 1st ever Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) licence to Alchemy's Fund incorporated in GIFT and registered with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for relocating from its original jurisdiction.
- ✓ This is the 1st FPI license issued by a custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in India, to a fund incorporated in GIFT City, to relocate an existing fund.

### FPIs pulled out Rs 29,921cr from Banking and Financial Services sector in FY23

- ✓ Foreign Portfolio Investors' (FPIs) holdings in many of the private sector banks went down marginally in FY23 as they pulled out Rs 29,921 crore from Banking and Financial Services sector in FY23. Banking and Financial Services sector becomes the 3rd highest loser of FPI money after IT (Information Technology) Services (Rs 51,138 crore) and Oil & Gas (Rs 37,674 crore).

### Bank of Baroda introduces Live Video chat & Web Chat for Customers

- ✓ Bank of Baroda (BOB), launched two innovative customer service initiatives: "a Live Video Calling service- bob Video Chat" and "a Live Web Chat facility- bob Live Chat" on its website to enhance the overall experience for customers and prospective customers.
- ✓ BoB is the 1st Public Sector bank to offer live video chat and live web chat services to its customers.

### BoI Launches Shubh Arambh FD scheme for Senior citizens

- ✓ Bank of India (BoI) announced the launch of a retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens named 'Shubh Arambh Deposit'. Through this scheme it revised its interest rates with an additional interest rate of 0.50% for Senior Citizens and 0.65% for super Senior Citizens.
- ✓ With effect from April 1, 2023, the Bank of India is offering a interest rate of 7.80% for 501-day fixed deposits for super senior citizens aged above 80 and senior citizens aged 60-80 at the rate of 7.65%.
- ✓ The bank is providing a 7.15% interest rate on a 501-day term for the general public.
- ✓ Bank of India is also offering attractive interest rates across other tenures ranging from 7 days to 10 years. The deposits with terms from 7 days to 10 years will get interest rates up to 7.40% for super senior citizens, 7.25% for Senior Citizens and up to 6.75% for regular customers.

### **ADB Announces IF-CAP Program for Climate Change Financing in Asia&Pacific**

- ✓ In May 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced the launch of a significant financing program, the 'Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific' (IF-CAP), to support Asia and the Pacific region in the battle against climate change.
- ✓ The announcement was made by Masatsugu Asakawa, President of ADB on the first day of the ADB's 56th Annual Meeting in Incheon, South Korea.
- ✓ As Asia and the Pacific is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, floods, and sea-level rises. There is an immense climate financing gap that must be filled to win the battle against climate change.

### **Zomato UPI: Zomato inks pact with ICICI Bank to launch its own UPI**

- ✓ Zomato has collaborated with ICICI Bank to introduce its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service called 'Zomato UPI' for select users.
- ✓ This feature allows customers to make direct payments within the Zomato app by creating their own UPI ID, eliminating the need for redirection to external payment gateways like PhonePe, Google Pay, or other third-party apps.
- ✓ Users can utilize this service for both peer-to-peer transactions and merchant payments.

### **Pine Labs Partners ICICI Bank to Accept Digital Rupee on its PoS Terminals**

- ✓ On May 2, 2023, Pine Labs India, the Merchant commerce platform, announced the acceptance of the digital Rupee (e-Rupee- e₹) or central bank digital currency (CBDC), on its PoS (point-of-sale) terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) in partnership with ICICI Bank.
- ✓ The execution of Pine Labs' e-Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR built within its smart Android PoS terminals.

### **ADB, India signs US\$141.12 million Loan Agreement for industrial corridor development in AP**

- ✓ On May 25, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a US\$141.12 million loan agreement to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure such as roads, water supply systems and electricity distribution network in three industrial clusters in the state of Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ✓ The US\$ 141.12 million will be used for the project to build infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the Visakhapatnam and Srikalahasthi-Chittoor nodes in AP.

### **World Bank approves USD 82mn for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in India**

- ✓ On May 10, 2023, the World Bank's (WB) Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 82 million loan for Animal Health System Support for One Health Program (AHSSOH) that will support India's Livestock Health and Disease Control Program, which seeks to control animal diseases by adopting global best practices for animal health management and to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic diseases.
- ✓ The loan has a maturity of 11.5 years with a grace period of 4.5 years.
- ✓ The loan will be disbursed from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and uses the Program-for-Results (PforR) financing instrument that links disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.

### **Gupshup Launches UPI Payments for Feature Phone Users**

- ✓ Gupshup.io's launch of UPI payments for feature phone users through the GSPay app represents a significant step towards financial inclusion and digitization in India. This innovative approach allows seamless payment experiences using SMS, eliminating the need for internet connectivity. Leveraging the UPI 123 Pay system introduced by RBI and the NPCI, Gupshup.io is making digital payments accessible to a wider audience.

## No TDS on Interest from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate: Finance Ministry

- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) recently issued a notification clarifying that interest earned from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) will not be subject to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS). This announcement brings relief to individuals investing in the scheme, as the interest income will now be taxed in the hands of the recipient as per their eligible tax slab. Here's an overview of the scheme and the implications of the CBDT's notification.
- ✓ The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme was introduced during FY23 as a savings option exclusively for girls and women. It offers an attractive annual interest rate of 7.5% and allows individuals to open an account in their name. The maximum deposit limit for the scheme is set at Rs. 2 lakh, making it an accessible and empowering financial instrument for women.
- ✓ The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme comes with a maturity tenure of 2 years. Individuals can invest a minimum amount of Rs. 1,000 and a maximum amount of Rs. 2 lakh in the plan. These flexible investment limits enable women from all walks of life to participate and benefit from the scheme.

## BharatPe rebrands PAYBACK India as 'Zillion'

- ✓ BharatPe, a leading fintech company in India, has announced the rebranding of PAYBACK India, the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program, as 'Zillion.' This move aligns with the company's vision to make Zillion a ubiquitous loyalty and rewards program across the nation.
- ✓ Zillion aims to target customers of all age groups and add a new dimension to their shopping experience across various categories and brands. With the new brand identity, the loyalty program will offer customers a wide range of options to earn and redeem rewards at a network of offline and online partners, including groceries, fuel, entertainment, travel, apparel, and more.

## GetVantage secures NBFC licence from RBI

- ✓ GetVantage, a fintech platform offering alternative financing solutions, has obtained an NBFC licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Its lending operations will be managed by its NBFC subsidiary, GetGrowth Capital. The platform plans to raise a total of ₹200 crore to expand its lending operations, with ₹50 crore already invested by backers such as Chiratae Ventures, InCred and Sony and DI.

## India's GDP grows 6.1% in Q4, FY23 growth pegged at 7.2%

- ✓ India's economy showcased remarkable resilience as it recorded a higher-than-expected growth rate of 6.1 percent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY23, surpassing analysts' predictions. This robust expansion was primarily driven by the manufacturing and construction sectors, which outperformed expectations and reflected sustained domestic demand amidst a gloomy global economic outlook. The encouraging Q4 performance led to an upward revision of the overall economic growth forecast for FY23, now pegged at 7.2 percent, compared to the previously estimated 7 percent.

## Government Plans to Sell up to 3% Stake in Coal India

- ✓ The Indian government has announced its intention to sell up to a 3% stake in Coal India Ltd through the offer for sale (OFS) route, according to a recent regulatory filing. The OFS will be open for both retail and non-retail investors on June 1 and 2, offering an opportunity to participate in the sale of shares in the renowned coal producer.
- ✓ The proposal entails offloading 9.24 crore shares, equivalent to a stake of 1.5% in Coal India. The seller aims to sell up to 9,24,40,924 equity shares of the company, representing 1.50% of the total paid-up equity share capital. In case of oversubscription, there will be a green shoe option for selling an equal amount of stake. This provision allows the seller to offer additional shares beyond the original base offer size.

## RBI UPDATES

### RBI Launches '100 Days 100 Pays' Campaign to Settle Unclaimed Deposits

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently initiated the '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign, aimed at tracing and settling the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district within a span of 100 days. This campaign is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and ensure their rightful return to owners or claimants. With the launch of this campaign, the RBI hopes to bring attention to the issue of unclaimed deposits and facilitate their resolution.
- ✓ Unclaimed deposits refer to funds that have remained untouched or inactive for a period of ten years or longer. When such deposits exhibit no activity, banks transfer the funds to the "Depositor Education and Awareness" (DEA) Fund, which is maintained by the RBI. However, depositors retain the right to claim their deposits, along with applicable interest, from the bank(s) where these deposits were held, even after they have been transferred to the DEA Fund.

### BI Annual Report 2022-23: General Government Deficit and Debt Moderate to 9.4% and 86.5% of GDP, Respectively

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its annual report for the fiscal year 2022-23, highlighting significant improvements in the general government deficit and debt. The report notes that the general government deficit moderated to 9.4% of GDP, while the government debt stood at 86.5% of GDP. These figures represent a decline from the peak levels of 13.1% and 89.4% recorded in 2020-21, respectively.
- ✓ The RBI report acknowledges the government's commitment to credible fiscal consolidation. It credits the government for leading the revival in the investment cycle through increased capital expenditure. The report emphasizes the multiplier

effects of augmented capital expenditure in crowding in private investment and lifting the economy's growth potential.

### RBI approves the voluntary amalgamation of Maratha Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-operative Bank

- ✓ On May 26, 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanctioned the merging of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra) with the Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd, Pune (Maharashtra), the second largest urban cooperative bank of India through Voluntary scheme of amalgamation from May 29, 2023, in exercise of its powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.
- ✓ In accordance with the scheme, all the 7 branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited.
- ✓ Voluntary scheme of amalgamation: A voluntary scheme of amalgamation refers to a merger or consolidation of two or more companies based on their mutual agreement and voluntary decision. The Companies Act, 2013, governs the process and regulations related to amalgamations and mergers in India.

### RBI Board approved Transfer of Rs 87,416 Crore as Surplus to Government

- ✓ On 19th May 2023, the board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the transfer of Rs 87,416 crore as surplus to the Government for the year 2022-2023 at the 602nd meeting of the RBI's Central Board of Directors, Chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. It also decided to raise the contingency risk buffer to 6% from 5.5%.
- ✓ In the financial year (FY) 2021-2022, the RBI transferred Rs 30,307 crore to the government.
- ✓ The RBI's annual report and its financial statements for the accounting year 2022-2023 were approved by the board, led by Shaktikanta Das. The board

also discussed the working of the RBI during the year April 2022 to March 2023.

## RBI withdrew Rs 2,000 banknote from Circulation; Exchange/Deposit until September 30, 2023

- ✓ On May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation and directed banks to stop issuing this banknote with immediate effect.



- ✓ As a result of this notification, the public needs to deposit and/or exchange Rs 2000 banknotes with bank branches or 19 Regional Offices (ROs) of RBI within 4 months i.e. from May 23, 2023, to, on or before September 30, 2023.
- ✓ The limit for the exchange facility is Rs 20,000 at a time to ensure operational convenience and prevent any disruption to the regular activities of bank branches.
- ✓ While the Rs 2000 banknotes will no longer be issued or circulated after September 30, 2023, they will still be considered legal tender after this too.
- ✓ For transactions, the individuals can continue to use the Rs 2000 banknotes upto September 30, 2023, but are encouraged to exchange/deposit within the given time frame.
- ✓ Rs 2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of RBI Act, 1934, as an immediate relief to meet the currency requirement of the Indian economy amid the withdrawal of the legal tender status of all Rs 500 and Rs 1000 banknotes in circulation at that time.
- ✓ Its intended objective was met as an adequate quantity of other denominations became available. Therefore, its printing was halted in 2018-19.

### Reasons behind its Withdrawal

- ✓ **Sufficient Supply of Alternatives:** The stock of banknotes in other denominations is adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.
- ✓ **Concluding Timeframe:** Approximately 89% of the Rs 2000 banknotes were put into circulation before March 2017. These banknotes are

approaching the end of their projected lifespan of 4 to 5 years.

- ✓ **Diminishing Circulation:** The cumulative value of these banknotes in circulation has declined from Rs 6.73 lakh crore as on March 31, 2018 (37.3% of notes in Circulation) to Rs 3.62 lakh crore, as compared to on March 31, 2023, representing 10.8% of notes in Circulation. This means, that people are hoarding this high-value currency. So, the decision will help in curbing black money to a great extent.
- ✓ **Clean Note Policy:** This withdrawal is also in pursuance with RBI's Clean Note Policy which ensures the availability of good quality banknotes to the public.

## Govt Included ICCs Spending outside India under RBI's LRS & Levied 20% TCS

- ✓ On May 16, 2023, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI) omitted Rule 7 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000 under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and included the international credit cards (ICCs) spendings outside India under the RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and also be subjected it to a higher rate of 20% Tax Collected at Source (TCS) effective after July 1, 2023.

### Applicability of TCS

- ✓ TCS is the tax the seller collects from the buyer at the point of sale so that it can be deposited with the tax authorities. Banks deduct TCS on foreign remittances.
- ✓ The amendment of FEMA was made in accordance with the announcement made in budget 2023-23 and the TCS for foreign remittances under LRS was raised from 5% to 20% on overseas tour packages and funds remitted under LRS (other than for education and medical purposes).
- ✓ Till July 1, 2023, a 5% TCS would be levied on ICCs transactions. To eliminate procedural ambiguity, it was decided that individual payments up to Rs 7 lakh per financial year made using international debit or credit cards would be



excluded from the LRS limits and therefore not subject to TCS.

- ✓ Medicine and Education: TCS of 5% will be levied towards medical treatment expenses exceeding Rs 7 lakh. A lower TCS rate of 0.5% would be levied above the Rs 7 lakh threshold for those availing loans for overseas education.

#### **What is LRS scheme?**

- ✓ i.LRS is a scheme which allows Indian Resident Individuals (including minors) to remit funds outside India up to USD 250,000 or its equivalent in any freely convertible foreign currency per financial year (April-March) for any permissible capital or current account transaction or a combination of both without any prior approval from the RBI.
- ✓ **Exception:** The amended LRS rule will not be applicable for payments made through money held in Resident Foreign Currency (RFC) Account in a bank in India.

### **RBI asks banks to Ensure Complete Transition away from LIBOR from July 1, 2023**

- ✓ On May 12, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities to ensure a complete transition from the international benchmark reference rate US\$ London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) from July 1, 2023.
- ✓ After June 30, 2023, Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) will cease to publish Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR).
- ✓ LIBOR has been a globally accepted key benchmark interest rate that indicates borrowing costs between banks.
- ✓ Banks / Financial Institutions (FIs) have been advised to ensure that no new transactions undertaken by them or their customers rely on or are priced using the US\$ LIBOR (including transactions that reference MIFOR).
- ✓ In this regard, banks/FIs will develop systems and processes to manage the complete transition away from LIBOR. RBI will continue to monitor for ensuring a smooth transition from LIBOR.

### **RBI provided license to Profectus Capital for Factoring Services to MSMEs; Mandates INR settlement of fees for Certain Cards**

- ✓ On 10th May 2023, Profectus Capital Private Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) backed by Actis, received the Certificate of Registration (CoR) under the Factoring Regulations Act, 2011 from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide factoring services to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ Factoring is a financial tool that provides the seller of goods (client) with an advance against the accounts receivable.
- ✓ Now, Profectus Capital plans to offer timely and efficient factoring services to improve their working capital management, boost their businesses, and receive short-term finance to fund operations.
- ✓ Profectus will continue to focus on select manufacturing and service sectors based on its cluster-based lending approach.
- ✓ It will focus on BBB- and above rated corporate buyers.
- ✓ RBI mandates rupee-only settlement of fees for certain cards
- ✓ RBI also mandated Rupee (INR)-only settlement of fees charges levied by 'Authorised Persons' on International Debit Cards, Store Value Cards, among others, and payable in India.

### **RBI Data: India's Service Exports increased by 26.6% in FY23**

- ✓ According to the data released by RBI on 2nd May 2023, India's services exports increased by a record 26.6% in 2022-23 (FY23) to US\$ 322 billion.
- ✓ Services imports grew 22.2 % to US\$179.7 billion, leading to a services trade surplus of US\$142.5 billion.
- ✓ Merchandise exports rose by only 6% to US\$ 447 billion in FY23.
- ✓ With a US\$267 billion merchandise trade deficit in FY22, India has a cumulative trade deficit (or net exports) of US\$124.5 billion.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### North Korea 1st spy satellite launch fails

- ✓ On May 30, 2023, North Korea's attempt to put the country's first spy satellite "Malligyong-1 satellite" into space failed as the new satellite transport rocket Chollima-1 lost propulsion and crashed into waters off the Korean Peninsula's western coast.
- ✓ The rocket was launched from the North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground northwestern Tongchang-ri area, Cholsan, North Pyongan Province, North Korea.
- ✓ This satellite launch by North Korea is a violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that ban the country from conducting any launch based on ballistic technology.

### IISc named Hypersonic Wind Tunnel After Late Prof Roddam Narasimha

- ✓ On 28th May 2023, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka, named its 0.5 Meter Diameter enclosed free-jet Hypersonic Wind Tunnel after Late Professor Roddam Narasimha, an aerospace scientist, to recognise his pioneering efforts in experimental hypersonics in India.

### SpaceX launched a telecommunication Satellite Arabsat BADR-8, into Orbit

- ✓ On May 27 2023, SpaceX (The Space Exploration Technologies Corporation) launched a big telecommunications satellite named Arabsat BADR-8, Saudi Arabia's leading satellite service provider from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the United States of America (USA) into Earth's orbit.
- ✓ SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket lifted off with the BADR-8 communications satellite for Arabsat.
- ✓ BADR-8 satellite weighs approximately 9,900 pounds (4,500 kilograms), will provide television broadcast services, video relay, and data services across the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, and Central Asia.

### China launches Shenzhou-16: First civilian astronaut joins space station mission for 5 months

- ✓ On May 30, 2023, China successfully launched the Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship, sending three astronauts, including the first civilian to its Tiangong space station for 5-month mission. It was launched onboard Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Gobi Desert in northwest China.
- ✓ For the first time, China has included a civilian in its rotating crew for the space station.
- ✓ The launch also marks the 475th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- ✓ China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) is an agency of the People's Republic of China responsible for the administration of China Manned Space Program.

#### Men Onboard

- ✓ First Chinese Civilian travel to Space: Gui Haichao, a professor at Beihang University in Beijing.
- ✓ Mission's commander: Jing Haipeng, who is also making history by becoming the first Chinese astronaut to go into space for a record fourth time.
- ✓ The third is astronaut flight engineer Zhu Yangzhu who is also making his first journey into space.

### ISRO's GSLV-F12 successfully places navigation satellite NVS-01 into Orbit

- ✓ On May 29, 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the GSLV-F12/NVS-01 mission and placed a second-generation Navigation Satellite, NVS-01, into geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).
- ✓ The satellite was carried through a 51.7-metre-tall, 3-stage Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket with a cryogenic upper stage and lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC)-Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- ✓ GSLV rocket deployed the 2,232 kg satellite into the intended GTO at an altitude of about 251 km. NVS-01 carries navigation payloads L1, L5, and S bands.
- ✓ The satellite is powered by two solar arrays, capable of generating power up to 2.4kW and a lithium-ion battery supporting payload and bus load during the eclipse.
- ✓ For the first time, the second-generation satellite also carried an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock, which was developed by the Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre. Earlier scientists at ISRO had used an imported atomic clock.
- ✓ ISRO launched NVS-01 to augment the continuity of Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) services with the launch of the satellite.
- ✓ India has a functional navigational system called the IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System), the operational name was NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

### Indian Navy & ISRO Jointly Released 'Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan' at WSTF INS Garuda

- ✓ On May 24, 2023, the Indian Navy along with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released a 'Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan' at the state-of-the-art Water Survival Test Facility (WSTF) at INS (Indian Naval Ship) Garuda, Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ The training document was jointly released by Vice Admiral Atul Anand, Director General of Naval Operations, Indian Navy, Dr Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), and Dr Umamaheshwaran R, Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of ISRO.

### SpaceX sends Ax-2 Mission to ISS; Crew Includes 1st Saudi Astronauts & 1st Saudi Woman

- ✓ On May 21 2023, SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket launched the Crew of 4 astronauts (including the 2 Saudi Arabian Astronauts) with the Dragon Capsule spacecraft on the all- private Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) chartered flight to the International Space Station

(ISS) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States of America (USA).

- ✓ Saudi Astronauts' 1st Flight to ISS: The private flight carries two Americans and two Saudi Arabians, including the first woman to fly in space from the Arab nation.
- ✓ One of the crew members Rayyanah Barnawi, became the first woman Astronaut from Saudi Arabia to go to space. She was accompanied by Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot with the Royal Saudi Air Force.
- ✓ Ali al-Qarni and Rayyanah Barnawi, sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Government, were the first from Saudi Arabia to ride a rocket since a Saudi prince launched aboard shuttle Discovery in 1985.

### South Korea launched NEXTSat-2, 1st commercial-grade satellite, aboard Nuri

- ✓ On May 25, 2023, South Korea successfully launched 'Next Generation Small Satellite 2(NEXTSat-2), the first commercial-grade satellite aboard Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle Two (KSLV-II), nicknamed Nuri, from the launch pad at Naro Space Centre in Goheung, South Jeolla Province, South of Seoul, South Korea.
- ✓ NEXTSat-2 is the main payload of Nuri, whose mission is to deploy a total of 8 satellites (NEXTSat-2 and 7 small-sized cube satellites (CubeSats)) into a solar synchronous orbit circling the earth at an altitude of 550 kilometres.
- ✓ This also marks the 3rd launch of Korea's domestically developed Nuri rocket.

### Vast and SpaceX partnered to launch the first commercial space Station Haven-1 by 2025

- ✓ On May 10 2023, Vast, a California (United States of America) based Space startup, has announced a plan to launch the world's first commercial space station, called Haven-1 in partnership with SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies) using the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket to low-Earth orbit as soon as August 2025. Haven-1 will initially act as an independent crewed space station before connecting as a module to a larger Vast space station.

- ✓ The initial mission will be followed by a Crew Dragon mission called Vast-1 that will transport four astronauts to the module for a stay of up to 30 days. Vast-1 will also launch atop a Falcon 9, and its astronauts will ride on a SpaceX Dragon capsule.

### Iran successfully test-launched 'Kheibar' New Generation Ballistic Missile

- ✓ On May 25 2023, Iran successfully test-launched a new surface-to-surface 4th generation of Khorramshahr ballistic missile, a medium-range precision-guided projectile named Kheibar. It was developed by the Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO) under Iran's Ministry of Defense.
- ✓ The missile was unveiled during the event organised to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr city from Iraq in 1982. The missile was unveiled alongside a replica of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City, Israel.

### ISRO successfully tested Semi-Cryogenic Engine at IPRC, Mahendragiri

- ✓ On May 10 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000kN (Kilonewton) thrust Semi-cryogenic Engine at the newly commissioned Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The design and development of a Semi-cryogenic Engine were undertaken by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of ISRO with Indian industry participation, and it works on a Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene propellant combination which will power the booster stages of future launch vehicles.
- ✓ This test has demonstrated the successful performance of the test facility, and Power Head Test Article (PHTA) in the first attempt.
- ✓ The newly established test facility at IPRC in Mahendragiri, TamilNadu with a state-of-art

Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)-based control system and data acquisition system, is capable of testing Semi-Cryogenic engines up to 2600 kN thrust and will support the subsequent testing and qualification of the fully integrated Semi-cryogenic engine and stage.

### Vistara Becomes the First Indian Airline to Use Sustainable Aviation Fuel

- ✓ On 4th May 2023, Air Vistara became the 1st Indian carrier to operate a commercial domestic flight on a widebody aircraft using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The feat was achieved by the airline's new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner flying from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- ✓ International Airport, Mumbai using a blend of 17% SAF and 83% conventional jet fuel, reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by around 4,500 kilograms (kg).
- ✓ On this flight, Vistara was able to reduce approximately 10,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- ✓ This initiative is a part of Vistara's efforts to minimize carbon emissions and support a sustainable future for the aviation industry. Vistara is the flagship brand of Tata SIA Airlines, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines.

### AirAsia India i5-767 becomes India's first commercial plane to take off using SAF from Pune to Delhi

- ✓ On May 19, 2023, AirAsia India flight i5-767 became India's first commercial passenger flight to successfully take off using an indigenously produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blended Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from Pune (Maharashtra) to New Delhi (Delhi).
- ✓ It is a significant development towards the decarbonization of the aviation sector. SAF was supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) in partnership with Praj Industries Ltd. (Praj).
- ✓ Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) received the special flight at the airport.

## DEFENCE

### First Sea Sortie of 6th Scorpene Submarine “Vaghsheer”

- ✓ On 18th May 2023, the 6th Scorpene Submarine of Project-75, Yard 11880, Indian Navy’s Kalvari class “Vaghsheer” commenced its sea trials. The submarine was launched on 20 April 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), formerly known as Mazagon Dock Limited.
- ✓ MDL has delivered 3 submarines of Project-75 in 2 years and the commencement of sea trials of the 6th submarine is a significant milestone.
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vaghsheer will now undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, which includes propulsion systems, weapons and sensors.
- ✓ Vaghsheer is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after the completion of these trials.
- ✓ INS Vaghsheer is named after the Sand Fish a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.

### MoD approves 4th Positive Indigenisation List to promote Aatmanirbharta in Defence

- ✓ On May 14, 2023, the Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD) approved 4th Positive Indigenization List (PIL) of 928 strategically-important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Spares & Components including high-end materials & spares.
- ✓ The import substitution value of this list is worth Rs 715 crore.
- ✓ Details of these items are available on SRIJAN Portal. These will only be procured from the Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list.

This fourth list is a follow up to the previous three PILs involving LRUs/Sub-systems/Assemblies/Sub-assemblies/Spares & Components which were notified by the Department of Defence Promotion(DDP)/MoD in December 2021, March 2022 and August 2022 respectively.

### MiG-29K makes first-ever Night Landing on INS Vikrant

- ✓ On May 24, 2023, an Indian Navy (IN) MiG-29K fighter jet landed on the indigenous aircraft carrier Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant for the first time at night when the ship was sailing in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ This is indicative of IN’s impetus towards Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance).
- ✓ A prototype of the naval version of the locally created Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas planes and a MiG-29K of Russian origin both made day landings on the aircraft carrier in February 2023.
- ✓ INS Vikrant Commissioned in September 2022, INS Vikrant is currently sailing in the Arabian Sea. The aircraft carrier is presently undergoing air certification and flight integration trials with rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft to achieve combat-ready state

### Indra Installs Naval Version of Lanza 3D Radar on Indian Navy’s Destroyer

- ✓ Indra Sistemas, S.A.(Indra), Madrid (Spain) based Information Technology and Defense System Company, and TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has installed the naval version of Lanza-N 3D on one of the Indian Navy’s Destroyer Ship.
- ✓ This is the first of the 23 radars that will be equipped in the Indian Naval Ships. Indra will deliver the radars to the Indian Navy by over the next decade.
- ✓ The Lanza radars will replace the ELM-2248 MF-STAR and RAWL-02/LW-08 radars on India’s destroyers: Kolkata-class and Visakhapatnam-class, during their scheduled refit or mid-life modernization program.
- ✓ The installation is part of the contract signed by Indra in 2020 with TASL, within the framework of a technology transfer program. This provides for the delivery of a total of three complete radars by Indra, and the core system elements for another 20

radars, destined for ships, which will be locally assembled and integrated by TASL.

### Indian Navy's warship INS Mormugao Engages Sea-skimming Supersonic Target

- ✓ On May 23, 2023, the Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao, successfully carried out the engagement of a sea-skimming supersonic target with Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) missile.
- ✓ The Indian Navy undertook the 1st MRSAM firing from INS Mormugao.
- ✓ The successful MRSAM missile firing by INS Mormugao is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's quest for accurate delivery of Ordnance on Target. It showcases Indian Navy's Future Proof Combat Readiness and commitment toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ Prior to this, on a test firing INS Mormugao also launched a Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.
- ✓ Sea skimming is a technique that is used by anti-ship missiles and some fighter or strike aircraft to avoid radar or infrared detection during their approach to the target.
- ✓ INS Mormugao is the second ship of the Visakhapatnam-class Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ It was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai (Maharashtra) to offer new design concepts for improved survivability, seakeeping, and manoeuvrability.

### IAF's First C295 for India completes its Maiden Flight in Spain

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF)'s 1st C295 medium transport aircraft has completed its maiden flight in Spain, marking a significant milestone towards its delivery by the second half of 2023. The aircraft took off from Seville, Spain, on 5 May 2023 and landed after 3 hours of flight.
- ✓ This first flight represents a significant accomplishment for the 1st Make in India aerospace programme.

- ✓ India's defence ministry signed a ₹21,935-crore agreement to acquire 56 C295 aircraft in September 2021 to replace the (IAF) legacy AVRO fleet.
- ✓ The first 16 aircraft will be assembled in Seville, Spain, and delivered to the customer in 'fly-away' condition.
- ✓ The remaining 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited companies.
- ✓ The C295 programme comprises a total of 280 orders from 39 operators, making it an unmatched aircraft in its weight and mission class.

### IAF Received 1st Batch of Indigenous Loitering Munitions – TATA ALS 50

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its first indigenously designed and developed Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) loitering munitions named the TATA ALS 50 which are capable of operating from all kinds of terrain and high altitude areas and can take down targets at a range of over 50 km, without exposing any personnel to risk.
- ✓ The munitions which are also known as suicide drone has been developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)
- ✓ The munitions are designed for VTOL and have successfully demonstrated their capability to carry out precision strikes (less than 2 meters) during trials and tests.
- ✓ TATA ALS 50 could allow for real-time targeting, either by the operator or autonomously.

### Indian Navy decommissions INS Magar at Naval base in Kochi after 36 years of Service

- ✓ On May 6, 2023, the Indian Navy (IN) decommissioned Indian Naval Ship (INS) Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large) after 36 years of service at the Naval base in Kochi, Kerala. It was commanded by CDR Hemant V Salunkhe.
- ✓ It was decommissioned in the presence of Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Commanding-in-Chief,

Southern Naval Command, as a Chief Guest. He helmed the ship from 2005-06.

- ✓ During service, INS Magar participated in numerous operations, amphibious exercises and humanitarian missions and operations including Samudra Setu wherein more than 4,000 Indian nationals were repatriated from various corners of the world, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ INS Magar was launched on November 16, 1984 by Meera Tahiliani and commissioned on July 18, 1987 at Garden Reach Shipyard and Engineers (GRSE) Limited, Kolkata (West Bengal) by late Admiral Radhakrishna Hariram Tahiliani.

### Indian Navy Successfully Test-fired BrahMos Missile from INS Mormugao

- ✓ On May 14, 2023, a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's frontline guided missile destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Mormugao.
- ✓ The indigenous ship (INS Mormugao) and weapon (BrahMos supersonic cruise missile), mark the symbol of 'AatmaNirbharta' and the Indian Navy's firepower at sea. This marks INS Mormugao's first BrahMos Supersonic cruise missile firing.
- ✓ BrahMos Missile is a supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms and is already inducted by the Indian Armed Forces.

### 2nd edition of India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' held in Saudi Arabia

- ✓ On May 25 2023, the second edition of India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Naval Exercise designated as "Al Mohed Al Hindi 23", a series of exercises undertaken by the Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force RSNF on land and at sea concluded.
- ✓ The 5 days bilateral naval Exercise between India and Saudi Arabia was held from May 21, 2023 to May 25, 2023 in Al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The INS (Indian Navy Ship) TARKASH, the flagship frigate of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, and the INS SUBHADRA, an offshore patrol

vessel, and IN (Indian Navy) Dornier, one maritime patrol aircraft took part in the naval exercise.

- ✓ First-ever edition "Al-Mohed Al-Hind" took place in August 2021 at Al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia.

### 35th Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) held at IMBL in the Andaman Sea

- ✓ From May 3-10, 2023, the 35th edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was conducted between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea.

#### Participants

- ✓ India: INS Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L) and Maritime Patrol Aircraft
- ✓ Thailand: His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft

### 4th India-Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Samudra Shakti 23' held at Batam, Indonesia

- ✓ Samudra Shakti-23, the 4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and Indonesian Navy (IDN) is being held at Batam, Indonesia from May 14-19, 2023.

#### Participants

- ✓ India: INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kavaratti, an indigenously designed & built ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Corvette; Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, and Chetak helicopter
- ✓ Indonesia: KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter

### Operation Karuna

- ✓ India has taken an initiative to aid those affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar by launching "Operation Karuna." On May 18th, three ships, namely Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri, arrived in Yangon with emergency relief material such as food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, and hygiene items.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo received 57th Jnanpith Award

- ✓ On 27th May 2023, Damodar Mauzo, an eminent Konkani writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner, received the 57th Jnanpith Award from P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa, at an event held at the Raj Bhavan, Panaji, Goa.
- ✓ He is the 2nd konkani writer after Ravindra Kelekar to receive the award. Ravindra Kelekar was the recipient of the 42nd Jnanpith Award.
- ✓ He was honoured with the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for his outstanding contribution to literature.
- ✓ Nilmani Phookan, an Assamese poet received the 56th Jnanpith Award.
- ✓ Damodar Mauzo from Majorda, Goa is a short story writer, novelist, columnist and screenplay writer.



#### About Jnanpith Award

- ✓ The Jnanpith Award is recognised as the oldest and the highest Indian literature for English and other Indian languages.
- ✓ The award is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, a cultural organisation and it was instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith trust founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain family.

### IIFA 2023: Hrithik Roshan and Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor awards

- ✓ The 23rd edition of NEXA International Indian Film Academy (IIFA 2023) Awards was held on 26th & 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan won Best Actor in a Leading Role (male) for his performance in Vikram Vedha and Alia Bhatt won Best Actor in a

- ✓ Leading Role (Female) for her role in Gangubai Kathiawadi.
- ✓ On behalf of Alia Bhatt, Jayantilal Gada, producer of Gangubai Kathiawadi, received the award.
- ✓ Veteran actor and Padma Shri Awardee Kamal Haasan was conferred the Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award.
- ✓ Riteish Deshmuk and Genelia D'Souza, Ved were honoured with the Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema.
- ✓ Manish Malhotra was honoured with Outstanding Achievement for Fashion in Cinema.
- ✓ The movie Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva won many awards including: Best Playback Singer (Female) – Shreya Ghoshal for “Rasiya”; Best Playback Singer (Male) – Arijit Singh for “Kesariya”; Best Supporting Actor (Female) – Mouni Roy; Best Music – Pritam Chakraborty; and Best Lyrics – Amitabh Bhattacharya for “Kesariya” and Best Special Effects (Visual).
- ✓ Actor and producer R. Madhavan won the Best Director award for his directorial debut film “Rocketry: The Nambi Effect.”
- ✓ Drishyam 2 starring Ajay Devgan and Tabu won the award for Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Editing and Best Film.
- ✓ The hosts of Nexa IIFA Awards 2023 are the Bollywood actors Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal.

#### About IIFA

- ✓ The International Indian Film Academy Awards, popularly known as IIFA, is an annual awards ceremony for Bollywood. Produced by Wizcraft International Entertainment Ltd, a Mumbai (Maharashtra) headquartered global experiential marketing company.
- ✓ The winners of the awards are decided by fans, who vote online for their favourite actors from the Hindi film industry and the ceremony is held in different countries around the world every year.
- ✓ IIFA awards were first instituted in 2000 at London, the United Kingdom (UK).



## Princess Sophia Duleep Singh London home honoured with Commemorative Blue Plaque

- ✓ On May 26 2023, the London home of Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, a suffragette Indian princess, Red Cross nurse, and critic of British rule in India, was honoured with the English Heritage's commemorative Blue Plaque in London, the United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ The blue plaque is erected at Faraday House, 37 Hampton Court Road, Richmond, London, where Princess Sophia Duleep Singh lived for over five decades.
- ✓ Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was a member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the militant group led by Emmeline Pankhurst, a British political activist who organised the UK suffragette movement.
- ✓ Faraday House, was granted to Princess Sophia and her sisters as a grace and favour apartment in Hampton Court Palace southwest of London by Queen Victoria.

## 76th Cannes Film Festival: Justine Triet's Anatomy of a Fall won the Palme d'Or

- ✓ The 76th annual Cannes International Film Festival was held from May 16 to 27 2023 in Cannes, France. French film director Justine Triet's French courtroom thriller 'Anatomy of a Fall' has won the top award of the 2023 – 'Palme d'Or' for best feature film.
- ✓ Justine Triet is the third woman director to win Cannes' top honour (the second in three years), following Julia Ducournau, who received the Palme d'Or award for Titane in 2021. Jane Campion was the first-ever female Palme d'Or winner in 1993 for 'The Piano'.
- ✓ The Grand Prix, the Cannes film festival's runner-up award, was given to 'The Zone of Interest', a German-language historical drama film, Directed by English film director Jonathan Glazer. The



movie was based on the novel of the same title written by Martin Amis.

- ✓ Japanese actor, Koji Yakusho won the best actor prize at the 2023 Cannes Festival, for his role in "Perfect Days" directed by Wim Wenders, a German filmmaker.
- ✓ Hungarian filmmaker Flóra Anna Buda's animated short film "27" won the Palme D'Or for Best Short Film.

### About The Cannes Film Festival

- ✓ Cannes film festival, official name Festival de Cannes, film festival held annually in Cannes, France. The 1st annual Cannes Film Festival was held in 1946.
- ✓ It is now the world's most prestigious film gathering, as well as its most widely publicised cultural event. It previews new films of all genres, including documentaries, from all around the world.

## 3 Indian peacekeepers honoured with UNs Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

- ✓ On 25th May 2023, 3 Indian peacekeepers, Border Security Force(BSF) personnel Head Constables Sanwala Ram Vishnoi & Shishupal Singh and civilian peacekeepers (national staff) Shaber Taher Ali, were Posthumously awarded the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.
- ✓ Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Ambassador to the UN, received the medals on behalf of the Indian Peacekeepers from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

## Bulgarian Writer Georgi Gospodinov Wins International Booker Prize 2023 for his novel 'Time Shelter'

- ✓ Bulgarian Writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize 2023 for the dark comic novel titled "Time Shelter". This becomes the first book originally written in Bulgarian (and translated into English) to win the International Booker Prize.
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of 50,000 pounds, divided equally between the author and the



translator. In addition, the shortlisted authors and translators each receive £2,500.

- ✓ On May 23 2023, the winners were announced by French-Moroccan novelist Leïla Slimani, chair of the 2023 judge panel, at an event at London's Sky Garden in the United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ "Time Shelter" is Georgi Gospodinov's third nov to be published in English and it was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, a British publisher of UK.

#### **About International Booker Prize**

- ✓ The International Booker Prize is awarded annually for a single book, translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- ✓ The International Booker Prize was established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize, a biennial prize for a body of work.
- ✓ since 2015, the prize is awarded annually for a single book, written in another language and translated into English.

### **Commonwealth Foundation Announced 2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize Regional Winners**

- ✓ The regional winners of the 2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize have been announced. The Commonwealth Foundation named the winning writers from five continents such as Hana Gammon (South Africa, Africa) Agnes Chew (Singapore, Asia), Rue Baldry (United Kingdom, Canada and Europe), Kwame McPherson (Jamaica, Caribbean) and Himali McInnes (New Zealand, Pacific).
- ✓ The Commonwealth Short Story Prize which is a cultural initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation is awarded annually since 2012 for the best piece of unpublished short fiction from the Commonwealth.
- ✓ The regional winners of 2023 have been selected from 6,642 entries.

### **SAFFMontréal 2023: Kavitha Lankesh's "Gauri" bags "Best Long Documentary Award"**

- ✓ "Gauri," a documentary based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, directed by Kavitha Lankesh, has won the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the 12th edition of the South Asian Film

Festival of Montréal (SAFFMontréal 2023) in Montréal, Canada.

- ✓ The film portrays the life of Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017. The documentary film "Gauri" has been commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ In 2022, "Gauri" won the "Best Human Rights Film" award at the Toronto Women's Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- ✓ SAFFMontréal(SAFFM) is presented by Kabir Centre for Arts & Culture, a not-for-profit organization promoting various art forms and activities such as music, dance, cinema, literature and poetry.
- ✓ SAFFM was held in hybrid mode on-site from 28th April to 7th May 2023 and online from 1st to 10th May 2023.

### **Tata Sons Chairman Chandrasekaran Conferred with Highest French Civilian Honour**

- ✓ On 17th May 2023, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was honoured with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French Civilian award, for his substantial role in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.
- ✓ N Chandrasekaran received the award from Catherine Colonna, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, who gave the award on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron.



### **Musharraf Ali Farooqi wins the Inaugural Armory Square Prize for Translation**

- ✓ On 8th May 2023, Pakistani-Canadian author, translator, and storyteller, Musharraf Ali Farooqi, who translated Siddique Alam's short story collection "The Kettledrum and Other Stories" from Urdu to English, won the inaugural edition of the Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature in Translation.

- ✓ As part of the prize, the Kettledrum and Other Stories will be published by Open Letter Books in 2024.
- ✓ The Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature in Translation is an annual effort launched in July 2022.

### India Business Leader Awards' (IBLA) 2023

- ✓ The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of India Business Leader Awards' (IBLA) 2023 hosted by CNBC-TV18, was held at Jio World Convention Centre at BKC (Bandra Kurla Complex), Mumbai, Maharashtra. The event was presented by Standard Chartered in partnership with Hindustan Times.
- ✓ The India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) was instituted to recognise exceptional leaders, high achievers, and true visionaries in the Indian corporate world.
- ✓ TV Narendran, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Steel has been named the Outstanding Business Leader of the Year at IBLA 2023.
- ✓ Infosys Limited, an Indian multinational information technology company, has been named the Outstanding Company of the Year at IBLA 2023. Salil Parekh, CEO of Infosys, received the award on behalf of Infosys.
- ✓ Azim Premji, Founder and former Chairman of WIPRO Limited and one of India's leading business tycoons has been honoured with the Hall of Fame Award during the event.
- ✓ Indian boxer and 2-time world women's boxing champion Nikhat Zareen won the Sports Leader of the Year
- ✓ Satwicksairaj & Chirag Shetty, Neeraj Chopra, Savita Punia and Harmanpreet Kaur were among the nominees for the Sports Leader of the Year.
- ✓ Late Ela Ramesh Bhatt, winner of Ramon Magsaysay Award (1977), Padma Shri (1985) and Padma Bhushan (1986) has been honoured with the Special Recognition Award for Social Impact Icon.
- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the national governing body of Cricket in India, has been named the Game Changer of the Year.

- ✓ Indian women cricketers Mithali Raj, Jemimah Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, Jhulan Goswami, Harmanpreet Kaur and BCCI secretary Jay Shah jointly received the award on behalf of BCCI.

### Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar Awarded the first ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

- ✓ On May 11 2023, Professor Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, an eminent astrophysicist and past president of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) was awarded the first ASI Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 for his outstanding contributions to the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics in India.
- ✓ In 2022, ASI celebrated its golden jubilee and instituted the Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement award for the year 2022, which was named after Professor Govind Swarup (1929-2020), who is widely recognised as the pioneer of Indian radio astronomy.

### Ram Nath Kovind confers 'Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award' on CM Yogi Adityanath

- ✓ On 5th May 2023, Ram Nath Kovind, a former President of India, honoured Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP), with the 13th edition of the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award, for creating a fear-free UP, during the ceremony held at Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The award was received by Lalji Prasad, a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in UP, on behalf of CM Yogi Adityanath.

### Three Imprisoned Iranian women journalists receive 2023 UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize

- ✓ On May 2, 2023, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced three imprisoned Iranian women journalists – **Niloofer Hamed, Elahe Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi** as the laureates of the 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano



World Press Freedom Prize, an award that celebrates press freedom.

- ✓ The three journalists were selected following the recommendation of an international jury of media professionals.
- ✓ The Award Ceremony took place on 2 May 2023 in New York, United States of America (USA) in the presence of Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO.

### UK based Indian origin actor-author Meera Syal receives BAFTA Fellowship

- ✓ UK (United Kingdom) based Indian-origin actor, writer Meera Syal, 61 has been presented a BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Fellowship, the highest accolade granted annually by the BAFTA, a world-leading independent arts charity, upon an individual in recognition of an outstanding and exceptional contribution to films, games and/or television. 
- ✓ On May 14, 2023, the fellowship will be presented to Meera Syal, during the BAFTA Television Awards ceremony as part of a special commemoration of her work to date at the Royal Festival Hall in London, UK.
- ✓ As part of the fellowship, Meera Syal will work directly with the arts charity over the upcoming year to inspire and support aspiring creatives through BAFTA’s year-round learning, inclusion and talent programmes.

### 2023 Pulitzer Prizes: Associated Press won Journalism Prize under Public Service

- ✓ On 9th May 2023, the winners of the 2023 Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism; Books, Drama and Music; and Special Citations were announced.
- ✓ Associated Press won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism under the Public Service category.
- ✓ Associated Press’ journalists Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant were recognized for reporting from the besieged city of Mariupol that bore witness to the

slaughter of civilians in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

2023 Pulitzer Prizes: JOURNALISM	
<u>Public Service:</u>	Associated Press, for the work of Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant
<u>Breaking News: Reporting</u>	Staff of the Los Angeles Times
<u>Investigative Reporting:</u>	Staff of The Wall Street Journal
<u>Explanatory Reporting:</u>	Caitlin Dickerson of The Atlantic
<u>Local Reporting:</u>	Anna Wolfe of Mississippi Today, Ridgeland, Miss
<u>National Reporting:</u>	Caroline Kitchener of The Washington Post
<u>International Reporting:</u>	Staff of The New York Times
<u>Feature Writing:</u>	Eli Saslow of The Washington Post
<u>Commentary:</u>	Kyle Whitmire of AL.com, Birmingham
<u>Criticism:</u>	Andrea Long Chu of New York magazine
<u>Editorial Writing:</u>	Nancy Ancrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangel and Lauren Costantino of the Miami Herald
<u>Illustrated Reporting: and Commentary</u>	Mona Chalabi, contributor, The New York Times
<u>Breaking News Photography:</u>	Photography Staff of Associated Press
<u>Feature Photography:</u>	Christina House of the Los Angeles Times
<u>Audio Reporting:</u>	Staff of Gimlet Media, notably Connie Walker
2023 Pulitzer Prizes: BOOKS, DRAMA & MUSIC	
<u>Fiction:</u>	“Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper)
<u>Fiction:</u>	“Trust” by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead Books)
<u>Drama:</u>	“English” by Sanaz Toossi
<u>History:</u>	“Freedom’s Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power” by Jefferson Cowie (Basic Books)
<u>Biography:</u>	“G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century” by Beverly Gage (Viking)
<u>Memoir or Autobiography:</u>	“Stay True” by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
<u>Poetry:</u>	“Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020” by Carl Phillips (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
<u>General Nonfiction:</u>	“His Name Is George Floyd: One Man’s Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice” by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa (Viking) (Moved by the Board from the Biography category.)
<u>Music:</u>	“Omar” by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

# SPORTS

## 16th Season of IPL: CSK won their 5th title defeating Gujarat Titans

- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni led Chennai Super Kings(CSK) won their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title by defeating the reigning champions Gujarat Titans(GT) led by Hardik Pandya by five wickets in the finals of the 16th edition of IPL(IPL 2023) at Narendra Modi Stadium(the largest cricket stadium in the world) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ With this win, CSK equals the Mumbai Indians (MI) record of most trophies. CSK became the most successful team in the tournament. The team won 5 titles in 14 editions breaking the record of MI which has won 5 titles in 16 editions.
- ✓ CSK IPL Winning Years: 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 & 2023.
- ✓ The 16th edition of IPL also known as Tata IPL 2023 for sponsorship reasons, is a franchise Twenty20(T20) cricket league in India. The tournament was held from 31st March 2023 to 28th May 2023 (finals rescheduled on reserve day – 29th May).
- ✓ IPL 2023 is organised by the IPL governing council.Arun Singh Dhumal is the current chairman of IPL.



### IPL 2023 Sponsors

- Title Sponsor: TATA (Rs 440 crore)
- Official partner: Dream11; Unacademy; TATA Safari; CRED; Upstox; & RuPay
- Official Broadcasters: Star Sports Network
- Official Digital streaming partner: JioCinema

### **IPL 2023 final-Brief scores**

- ✓ Gujarat Titans: 214/4 (in 20 overs)  
(Wriddhiman Saha – 54, Sai Sudharsan – 96)
- ✓ Chennai Super Kings: 171/5 (in 15 overs) ( Ajinkya Rahane 27, Shivam Dube 32 not out, Devon Conway 47, Ravindra Jadeja 15 not out; Mohit Sharma 3/36, Noor Ahmad 2/17).

### IPL 2023-Full list of Award Winners

- ✓ Eden Gardens and Wankhede Stadium share the award for the Best Venues of the Season.
- ✓ Shubman Gill wins Orange Cap (890) award.
- ✓ Mohammad Shami wins Purple Cap (28) award.
- ✓ Ajinkya Rahane wins Fairplay of the Season award.
- ✓ Rashid Khan wins Catch of the Season award.
- ✓ Faf du Plessis wins Longest Six of the Season (115m) award.
- ✓ Shubman Gill wins Most Fours (84) award.
- ✓ Shubman Gill wins Most Valuable Player of the Season award.
- ✓ Shubman Gill wins Dream11 Gamechanger of the Season award.
- ✓ Glenn Maxwell wins Super Striker of the Season award.
- ✓ Yashasvi Jaiswal wins Emerging Player of the Year award.

### IPL Final Match awardee's

- ✓ Devon Conway wins Player of the Match award
- ✓ MS Dhoni wins Catch of the Match award
- ✓ Sai Sudharsan wins Longest Six award
- ✓ Sai Sudharsan wins the Maximum Fours award
- ✓ Sai Sudharsan wins Most Valuable Asset of the Match award
- ✓ Sai Sudharsan wins Gamechanger of the Match award
- ✓ Ajinkya Rahane wins Electric Striker of the Match award

### **Virat Kohli becomes 1st batter to cross 7,000 runs in IPL:**

On 6th May 2023, Royal Challengers Bangalore(RCB)'s Virat Kohli became the first batter to get to 7000 runs in IPL, a T20 Tournament. He achieved the feat during the 46-ball 55 in a match against the Delhi Capitals(DC) in Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi.He also holds the record for the most runs scored in a single edition of IPL. He achieved the feat in 2016 with 973 runs.

## 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards: Lionel Messi & Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce win top awards

- ✓ Lionel Messi, Argentine professional footballer and forward of Ligue 1 club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), was honoured with the Laureus World Sportsman Of The Year 2023 at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards.
- ✓ Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Jamaican track and field sprinter, won the Laureus World Sportswoman Of The Year 2023
- ✓ The winners of the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards, the most prestigious honours in sport, were honoured in the ceremony held on 8th May 2023 in Paris, France.
- ✓ Laureus Awards 2023 marks the 24th edition of the Laureus World Sports Awards.
- ✓ The 2023 Awards will honour the most memorable sporting performances of 2022.
- ✓ This is the 2nd time that Lionel Messi has been honoured with the Laureus World Sportsman Of The Year Award. In 2020, he shared the award with British race car driver Lewis Hamilton.



## Ambati Rayudu announces retirement from IPL

- ✓ On 28th May 2023, Former Indian Cricketer Ambati Rayudu who plays for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), announced his retirement from IPL. The final of the 2023 IPL against Gujarat Titans will be his last match in IPL.
- ✓ Ambati Rayudu, hailing from Andhra Pradesh (AP), has been part of the CSK since 2018. He represented Mumbai Indians in IPL from 2010 to 2017.
- ✓ He was a part of the MI team that won the IPL title in 2013, 2015 and 2017 and was part of the CSK team that won the title in 2018 and 2021.
- ✓ He had played 203 IPL games and has made 4329 runs with 22 half-centuries and one century.



- ✓ He retired from International cricket in 2019. During his international career, He represented India in 55 One Day Internationals (ODIs), scored 1694 runs at an average of over 47, including 3 centuries and 10 half-centuries.

## Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins Grand Prix De Monaco 2023

- ✓ On May 28 2023, Red Bull's Max Verstappen, a Dutch-Belgian racer, won the 2023 Monaco Grand Prix (GP) held at Circuit de Monaco in Monaco. This marks his 2nd ever Monaco GP title, he previously won the title in 2021.
- ✓ Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso (Spain) finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alpine's Esteban Ocon (France) finished 3rd in Monaco GP 2023.
- ✓ 2023 Monaco GP is Max Verstappen's fourth victory of 2023 season
- ✓ Max Verstappen also became the 2nd Red Bull driver to become a multiple Monaco GP winner after Mark Webber, who won the title twice in 2010 and 2012.

## Malaysia Masters 2023: HS Prannoy won Men's Singles title & 1st World Tour Title

- ✓ Indian Shuttler Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar (HS Prannoy) (World no 9) won the Men's Singles Title at the Perodua Malaysia Masters 2023 by defeating China's Weng Hong Yang.
- ✓ This marks his maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Title. Malaysia Masters 2023, 14th edition of the tournament, was held from 23rd to 28th May 2023 in Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ✓ Akane Yamaguchi, two-time world champion and current world No.1 defeated Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tungjung to win the Women's Singles title at Malaysia Masters 2023.
- ✓ Baek Ha Na and Lee So He of South Korea defeated Pearly and Thinaah Muralitharan of Malaysia to win the women's doubles title, while Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyuk of South Korea claimed the men's doubles title by defeating Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee.



- ✓ Thailand's pair Dechapol Puavaranukro and Sapsiree Taerattanachai won their mixed doubles title by defeating China's Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping.

### Italian Open 2023: Daniil Medvedev wins Men's Singles title; Elena Rybakina wins Women's singles title

- ✓ Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev won the Men's Singles title at the 2023 Italian Open (also known as the Rome Masters or the Internazionali BNL d'Italia) by defeating  Holger Rune of Denmark in the final. The 2023 Italian Open was from 2nd to 21st May 2023 at Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.
- ✓ This marks Daniil Medvedev's first-ever Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) title on the clay court of his career and his first-ever Italian Open title.
- ✓ With this win, Daniil Medvedev ascended to world number 2 in the ATP rankings.

#### Women's Singles

- ✓ The 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina won the Women's singles title at the Italian Open 2023 by defeating Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine. This marks her first major title on clay.

#### Men's doubles

- ✓ Polish-Monegasque duo Jan Zieliński and Hugo Nys won the men's doubles title at the Italian Open 2023 defeating Robin Haase and Botić van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands in the finals.
- ✓ This marks their first ATP Masters 1000 title as a team and 2nd title (overall).
- ✓ With this win, Nys and Zielinski have topped (No 1) in the Pepperstone ATP Live Doubles Teams Rankings.

#### Women's Doubles

- ✓ Storm Hunter and Elise Mertens of Belgium defeated Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula of the United States of America to win the Women's Doubles title at Italian Open 2023.

### Telangana's Vuppala Praneeth becomes India's 82nd Grandmaster

- ✓ On May 13 2023, 16-year-old Vuppala Praneeth from Telangana, has become India's 82nd GrandMaster (GM) by defeating GM Hans Niemann from United States of America (USA) in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023, which took place from May 4-12, in Baku Crystal Hall, Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ✓ With this win Vuppala Praneeth crossed the required 2500 FIDE's (International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation) Elo live ratings, to achieve the GM title. He is the sixth Grandmaster from the Telangana State.

### Third Edition of Khelo India Games Kicks Off in Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ The highly anticipated third edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) has commenced in Uttar Pradesh, marking a significant milestone in the state's sporting endeavors. With over 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities across the country participating in 21 disciplines, the event is set to span 12 action-packed days. While the majority of events will take place in five cities of Uttar Pradesh, the shooting competitions will be held in New Delhi.

### 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.

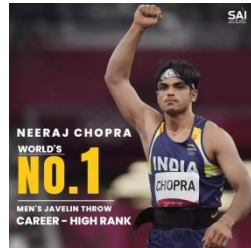
### Gatka Martial Art to feature in 37th National Games

- ✓ The traditional game of Gatka is set to receive a major boost on a national level as it has been officially included in the 37th National Games-2023, which are scheduled to take place in Goa in October of this year. The Indian Olympic

Association (IOA) will be organizing competitions for a total of 43 disciplines during this national event, in collaboration with the Government of Goa.

### Neeraj Chopra becomes World No.1 in men's javelin rankings

✓ Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. On 30 August, 2022, the Indian javelin throw ace rose to World No. 2, but was stuck behind Peters, the reigning world champion, since then.



✓ In 2022, Neeraj won the Diamond League 2022 finals in Zurich in September, which made him the first Indian athlete to do so. However, he was sidelined with an injury following his victory in Zurich. The Indian national record holder in men's javelin throw, competed in the season-opening Doha Diamond League on May 5 and finished first with a throw of 88.67m. Anderson Peters finished third in Doha with a distance of 85.88m.

### FC Barcelona lifts 27th La Liga Title

✓ Football Club Barcelona (FC Barcelona) has become the champions of Spain for the 27th time in the club's 123-year history, securing their first title since 2019. They achieved this feat by winning against local rivals Espanyol with a score of 4-2, which helped them to move 14 points ahead of Real Madrid, who are in second place.

### Golden Globe Race 2022: Indian Sailor Abhilash Tomy 1st Indian & Asian to Complete Golden Globe Race

✓ Abhilash Tomy (44-year-old), a retired Naval officer, has become the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian and Asian to finish the Golden Globe Race, a solo around-the-world sailing race, which started on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022 from Les Sables-d'Olonne in France. He came in 2<sup>nd</sup> taking 236 days 14 hrs and 46 mins to complete this feat.

✓ The 2022 Golden Globe Race is the 3rd edition of the original Sunday Times Golden Globe Race. South African Kirsten Neuschäfer has become the 1st woman ever to win a solo around the world race, finishing 1st in the Golden Globe Race. She took 235 days, 5 hours, 44 minutes and 4 seconds to complete.

### Babar Azam becomes fastest to 5,000 ODI runs

✓ Babar Azam, the captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has set a new record by becoming the fastest player to score 5000 runs in One Day International (ODI) cricket. He achieved this feat in 97 innings, breaking the previous record set by South Africa's Hashim Amla, who reached the 5000 run mark in 101 innings. Babar accomplished this milestone during the fourth match against New Zealand in Karachi. Prior to Babar, Amla held the record for the fastest 5000 runs in ODI cricket, but the 28-year-old batter broke it by achieving the feat in 97 innings.



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

✓ India has won the title of NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup held in Kathmandu. India won the title by defeating Kazakhstan in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwar,



Kathmandu. India defeated Kazakhstan in a shared set of 3-0. India won the first set 25-15, the second set 25-22, and the third set 25-18. Along with this, India finished the competition by remaining undefeated.

✓ The event was organised by the Nepal Volleyball Association and is supported by the NSC, eight nations participated in it. In the competition, Kazakhstan became the runner-up, Nepal third, Uzbekistan fourth, Sri Lanka fifth, Kyrgyzstan sixth, Maldives seventh, and Bangladesh eighth.



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### King Charles III & Queen Camilla crowned at Westminster Abbey, UK

- ✓ On 6th May 2023, King Charles III was crowned as



the King of the United Kingdom (UK) and sovereign of 14 Commonwealth realms at the coronation ceremony

held at Westminster Abbey (formally titled the Collegiate Church of Saint Peter at Westminster) in London, the UK.

- ✓ The Queen Consort (the wife of a reigning king) Camilla, was crowned the Queen beside King Charles III during the coronation. She became the 29<sup>th</sup> Queen Consort to be crowned at Westminster Abbey.
- ✓ This marks the 40th coronation to take place at Westminster Abbey since 1066.
- ✓ For the first time since 1937, the Queen Consort was crowned beside the coronation of the King. Queen Elizabeth, wife of King George VI, was the last Queen Consort to be crowned.
- ✓ King Charles III wore St Edward's Crown for the historic coronation ceremony. It was worn by the King's late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, during her own coronation in June 1953. And by the King's late grandfather, King George VI, at his coronation in May 1937.
- ✓ Queen Camilla wore the Queen Mary's Crown at the Coronation. It is the first time a Consort's crown has been re-used since the 18th century.

#### Significance of King Charles III's coronation

- ✓ The Coronation Service of Their Majesties the King and The Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey will be attended by a congregation of more than 2,200 people including the royal family members, Nobel Prize winners, British Empire Medal recipients and others. The Coronation did not formally change the King's status.
- ✓ Charles became King of the UK and 14 other realms in September 2022, when his mother Queen Elizabeth II died after 70 years on the throne.

- ✓ In total, 4,000 armed forces personnel and 19 military bands took part in the event, making it the biggest state occasion since the coronation of the late Queen in 1953.

### Kannada Writer & Sahitya Akademi Awardee, GH Nayak Passed Away

- ✓ On May 26 2023, noted Kannada writer, critic and Sahitya Akademi award winner Govindaray H Nayak, popularly known as GH Nayak passed away at his residence in Mysuru, Karnataka at the age of 88.
- ✓ He was born in Surve village near Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka in 1935.

### Renowned Telugu writer, Sahitya Akademi Awardee Kethu Viswanath Reddy Passed Away

- ✓ On May 22 2023, a noted Telugu writer, novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Kethu Viswanath Reddy passed away in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh (AP) at the age of 84. He was born on July 10, 1939.
- ✓ He is well known for his short stories and novels depicting culture and ethos of Rayalaseema, the southern region of Andhra Pradesh in the same dialect.

### SP Hinduja, UK-based Billionaire Businessman & Chairman of Hinduja Group, Passed away

- ✓ On May 17 2023, the India-born British industrialist and Chairman of the Hinduja Group, Srichand Parmanand Hinduja (SP Hinduja) passed away at the age of 87 in London, UK.
- ✓ SP Hinduja was also serving as the chairman of the Hinduja Bank of Switzerland and Hinduja Foundations.
- ✓ SP Hinduja was the eldest among the four Hinduja brothers: Gopichand P Hinduja, Prakash P Hinduja & Ashok P. Hinduja.
- ✓ Gopichand Hinduja, brother of SP Hinduja will succeed him as Chairman of Hinduja Group.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Ashwani Kumar appointed as MD & CEO of UCO Bank

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Ashwani Kumar, Executive Director, Indian Bank as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UCO Bank, a Commercial public sector bank undertaken by the Government of India (GOI).
- ✓ The appointment has been made for a period of three years, with the possibility of an extension based on the review of his performance.
- ✓ Ashwani Kumar succeeding Soma Sankara Prasad, who has been the MD & CEO from 2021 is set to retire on 31st May 2023.



### Recep Tayyip Erdogan Re-elected as President of Türkiye for a third term

- ✓ On 28th May 2023, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was re-elected as the President of Türkiye for his third consecutive term. He has been serving as the 12th President of Türkiye since 2014.
- ✓ Recep Tayyip Erdogan won 52.14% of the votes in the second round against the Opposition candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who had 47.86%.
- ✓ Run-off vote held on May 28 2023 was the first time in the history of the Republic of Türkiye, since 2014, where direct Presidential elections were introduced.



### Sandeep Batra reappointed as ED of ICICI Bank for 2 years

- ✓ The board of directors of ICICI Bank has approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director(ED) of ICICI Bank for 2 years with effect from 23rd December 2023 to 22nd December 2025. The current tenure of Sandeep Batra as ED is set to end on 22nd December 2023.

- ✓ In December 2020, Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Batra as the ED of ICICI Bank for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ The Board noted that this renewed term of two years is within the five years term as previously approved by the shareholders.
- ✓ The board of directors has also reappointed Hari Mundra, B. Sriram and S. Madhavan as Independent Directors for a 2nd term, subject to the approval of the shareholders.

### CAG Murmu re-elected as external auditor of WHO for 2024-2027

- ✓ On May 29, 2023, Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu was re-elected as the external auditor of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027. He has been serving as the external auditor of WHO since 2020.
- ✓ The election was held on May 29, 2023 in the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva, He got a majority (114 out of 156 votes) against Tanzania (42 votes). Seventy-nine votes were required for the majority.



### Bola Ahmed Tinubu sworn in as the New President of Nigeria

- ✓ On May 29 2023, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, 71, the former governor of Lagos (Nigeria), was sworn in as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- ✓ Olukayode Ariwoola, Chief Justice of Nigeria, administered the oath of office to Bola Ahmed Tinubu at a ceremony held in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. He succeeds Muhammadu Buhari, who was ineligible to run again after 2 four-year terms that began in 2015. He is also the 5th President of Nigeria since the return of democracy in 1999.
- ✓ Kashim Shettima, a Nigerian Politician, has been appointed as the Vice-President of Nigeria.

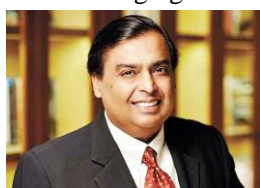


## PK Srivastava appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioner

- ✓ Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava (PK Srivastava) was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). On 29th May, 2023, President of India, Droupadi Murmu, administered the oath of office to PK Srivastava as Central Vigilance Commissioner at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.

## Mukesh Ambani appointed as member of Advisory Committee of COP28

- ✓ On May 26 2023, Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian, other than Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, on the Advisory Committee to the President of COP28.
- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the COP28 Advisory Committee from November 30 to December 12, 2023 in Dubai, UAE that brings together the climate expertise of thought leaders from countries across 6 continents.



Industries has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties

## Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma appointed as MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank

- ✓ On May 26 2023, Karnataka Bank, one of the leading South Indian Private sector banks, appointed Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of his assuming charge. He succeeds Sekhar Rao, who has been serving as the Interim MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank since April 2023.

## R Dinesh elected as President of CII for 2023-24

- ✓ On May 25 2023, the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected R Dinesh, executive vice-chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS), as the new President of CII for the year 2023-24.
- ✓ R.Dinesh succeeds Sanjiv Bajaj, the Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited, who served as CII President for 2022-2023.

## Siddaramaiah sworn in as 24TH CM of Karnataka,

- ✓ On 20th May 2023, Congress Legislative Party Leader Siddaramaiah took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This marks Siddaramaiah's 2nd term as the CM of Karnataka. He previously served as the CM from 2013 to 2018. He became the 24th CM of Karnataka.
- ✓ During the event, Karnataka's Congress President DK Shivakumar took oath as the Deputy CM (Dy CM) of Karnataka.
- ✓ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, administered the oath of office and secrecy to both CM and Dy CM.

### 2023 Karnataka Elections

- ✓ Congress has won the 2023 Karnataka assembly elections by winning 135 of the total 224 seats, this is the biggest victory for "any party in Karnataka" after 1989. In 1989 Congress won 178 seats with a vote share of 43.76%.

## Union Cabinet Reshuffle: Arjun Ram Meghwal Replaces Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister; Kiren Rijiju Assigned to Earth Science Ministry

- ✓ In accordance with the statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan regarding the Union Cabinet Reshuffle, Arjun Ram Meghwal, has replaced Kiren Rijiju with the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice in addition to his existing portfolios. Kiren Rijiju was assigned with the portfolio of the Ministry of Earth Sciences which was earlier handled by Union minister Jitendra Singh.

## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### Unemployment declines further to 6.8% in Q4FY23: 18th Quarterly PLFS by NSO

- ✓ On May 29, 2023, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its 18th quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin for January-March 2023 (Q4FY23).
- ✓ As per it, India's urban unemployment rate (UR) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) terms for persons aged 15 years and above declined to 6.8% during Q4FY23 from 7.2% in Q3FY23.
- ✓ The unemployment rate was 8.2% during January-March 2022.

### World Bank Report: Revenues Collected Globally via Carbon Pricing Raised to US\$95 billion in 2022

- ✓ According to the World Bank's (WB) annual report 'State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023' released on May 23, 2023, revenues collected from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) globally have reached a record high, about US\$95 billion in 2022 despite the challenging context for governments facing high inflation, fiscal pressures, and energy crises.
- ✓ The revenues collected from carbon taxes and ETS in 2021 was about US\$ 84 billion.
- ✓ The report was launched at Innovate4Climate (I4C), the World Bank Group's flagship climate action event which held in Bilbao, Spain, from May 23 to 25 2023.

### India's UHNWI to Rise By 58.4% to 19,119 by 2027: Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2023

- ✓ According to the report titled "The Wealth Report 2023" published by Knight Frank, India's Ultra-High-Net- Worth Individuals (UHNWI) are estimated to increase 58.4% in the next 5 years from 12,069 in 2022 to 19,119 individuals in 2027.

- ✓ UHNWI is someone with a net worth of USD 30 million or more, including their primary residence.
- ✓ The report stated that India's billionaire population is expected to increase from 161 individuals in 2022 to 195 individuals in 2027.
- ✓ The report also stated that the high-net-worth individual (HNWI) population will also rise by around 107% in a five-year period. The HNWI population is expected to increase from 797,714 persons in 2022 to 1.65 million in 2027.
- ✓ HNWI is someone with a net worth of USD 1 million or more, including their primary residence.

### IDMC Report: 71.1 Million Internally Displaced Worldwide in 2022

- ✓ According to the 'Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID 2023): Internal Displacement and Food Security' released jointly by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) around the globe reached 71.1 million in 2022, an increase of 20% from 2021.
- ✓ Meanwhile, 60.9 million new internal displacements were reported in 2022, with some people forced to flee multiple times during 2022.
- ✓ India recorded the 4th largest disaster displacement, with 2,507,000 displacements.

### Born Too Soon: Decade of Action on Preterm Birth: India among Top 5 Countries of Higher Pre-term Births

- ✓ According to the report 'Born Too Soon: Decade of Action on Preterm Birth', published on May 10, 2023, almost half of all pre-term births (babies born before the 37th week of pregnancy) in 2020 happened in five countries of India, Pakistan, Nigeria, China and Ethiopia.
- ✓ The report alarms 'silent emergency', as for every 10 babies born, 1 is preterm, and every 40 seconds, 1 of those babies dies.
- ✓ The report was created by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with PMNCH,

the world's largest alliance for women, children, and adolescents.

- ✓ India tops the list of pre-term birth numbers with 30.16 lakh births, Pakistan is at 9.14 lakh, Nigeria at 7.74 lakh and China at 7.52 lakh.

### UNEP Report: Measures to Reduce 80% of World's Plastic Pollution by 2040

- ✓ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s report "Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and Create a circular economy" states that global plastic pollution can be reduced by up to 80% by 2040 if the companies and countries make policies and market shifts using existing technologies.

### CEA Report: India to have 41 GW of energy storage capacity by 2029-30

- ✓ According to the "Report on Optimal Generation Capacity Mix for 2030 version 2.0" published by the Central Electricity Authority(CEA) under the Ministry of Power, in April 2023, India is projected to have 41 Gigawatt (GW) of energy storage capacity along with 777GW of total installed power capacity by 2029-30.
- ✓ The report was prepared by the CEA team headed by Chief Engineer Ammi Ruhama Toppo.
- ✓ The study is an exercise to assess the least cost generation capacity mix to meet the projected Electricity Demand for 2029-30.

### India's AI Supercomputer 'Airawat' Ranked 75th in Top 500 Global Supercomputing List

- ✓ On May 24, 2023, India's AI (Artificial Intelligence) Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT', has been ranked 75th globally in the 61st edition of Top 500 Global Supercomputing List which was released at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.
- ✓ AIRAWAT or AI Research Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform is installed at C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), Pune (Maharashtra) under National Program on AI (NPAI) by Government of India.

- ✓ The list has been topped by the United States (US) Frontier. This HPE Cray EX system is the first US system with a performance exceeding one Exaflop/s (EXA Floating point Operations per Second).
- ✓ AIRAWAT stands as India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak).

### Tata Group only Indian firm in BCG list of top 50 Most Innovative Firms 2023; Apple Tops

- ✓ Boston Consulting Group (BCG) has released a report namely 'Most Innovative Companies 2023: Reaching New Heights in Uncertain Times' showcasing top 50 companies in 2023 that are most innovative in their operations.
- ✓ In this, Tata Group is the only Indian company to feature in this list at 20th position.
- ✓ The list has been topped by Apple Inc., and followed by Tesla Inc., and Amazon.com, Inc. at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rank.

### UBI Global ranks Kerala Startup Mission as World's No.1 Public Business Incubator

- ✓ Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has been ranked as the World's Top Public/Private Business Incubators in the 2nd edition of the UBI Global World Rankings of business incubators and accelerators (World Ranking Report 21/22). KSUM was honoured for its role in making Kerala a vibrant Startup hub.
- ✓ The honour for the same was jointly received by the Secretary (Electronics & IT), Kerala, Rathan U Kelkar, and KSUM Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anoop Ambika during the UBI Global World Rankings 2021-2022 event held as part of the World Incubation Summit in Ghent, Belgium.
- ✓ This report presents the Rankings and Recognitions derived from the World Benchmark Study 2021-2022 conducted by UBI Global, a Swedish-based innovation intelligence company and community. This is the 6th iteration of the study.
- ✓ Previously in 2019, UBI Global recognized KSUM as the world's No. 1 public business accelerator.

## DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme&Details
May 1st	International Worker's Day or May Day	May 1st, known as May Day, commemorates the first celebrations of the workers' movement in 1890.
May 2nd	World Tuna Day 2023	-----
May 2nd	World Asthma Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Asthma Care for All."
May 3rd	World Press Freedom Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights."
May 7th	World Athletics Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Athletics for All – A New Beginning."
May 8th	World Thalassaemia Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap."
May 8th	World Red Cross Day 2023	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated annually on May 8th to honor the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). <b>Theme:</b> "Everything we do comes from the heart."
May 9th	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2023	Rabindranath Tagore was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta, British India (now Kolkata, India). But, Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti is celebrated on May 9th every year. Therefore, Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2023 on May will mark his 162nd birth anniversary.
May 9th	Russia 78th Victory Day 2023	Russia held the 78th Victory Day parade anniversary on May 9th, at Red Square in Moscow to celebrate the historic victory of the Soviet Union in 1945, when they defeated Nazi Germany in World War II.
May 11th	National Technology Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> 'School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'.
May 12th	International Day of Plant Health 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Plant Health for Environmental Protection."
May 12th	International Nurses Day 2023	International Nurses Day is observed on the 12th of May every year to commemorate the birth of <b>Florence Nightingale</b> , the founder of modern nursing, who was born on May 12, 1820. Nightingale was a British nurse, statistician, and social reformer. <b>Theme:</b> 'Our Nurses. Our Future.'
May 13th	World Migratory Bird Day 2023	World Migratory Bird Day is a global event held twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held on 13 May and 14 October.
May 14th	Mother's Day 2023	-----
May 15-21	UN Global Road Safety Week 2023	<b>Theme:</b> sustainable transport. <b>Slogan :</b> #RethinkMobility.
May 15th	International Day of Families 2023	<b>Theme:</b> 'Demographic Trends and Families'.
May 16th	National Dengue Day	-----
May 17th	World Hypertension Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.'
May 18th	International Museum Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being."
	World Sustainable Transport Day 2023	On 18 <sup>th</sup> May, The United Nations General Assembly took a significant step towards promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation by adopting a resolution to designate November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day.

May 20th	World Bee Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Engaging in Pollinator-Friendly Agricultural Production.”
May 20th	World Metrology Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> Measurements supporting the global food system.”
May 21st	International Tea Day 2023	-----
May 21st	National Anti-Terrorism Day 2023	India observes the National Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21 every year. The day is observed to commemorate the death of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated on this day in 1991.
May 22nd	International Day for Biological Diversity 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity.”
May 22nd	Maharana Pratap Jayanti 2023	Maharana Pratap Jayanti is celebrated in India every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great Rajput warrior, Maharana Pratap. According to the Hindu calendar, this auspicious day falls on the third day of the Jyeshtha month. Maharana Pratap Jayanti 2023 will be Maharana Pratap’s 483rd birth anniversary this year. In the year 2023, Maharana Pratap Jayanti will be celebrated on May 22nd.
May 23rd	World Turtle Day 2023	-----
May 24th	Indian Commonwealth Day 2023	Commonwealth Day is a worldwide celebration that takes place every year on March 13, although India and certain other countries mark it on May 24. <b>Theme:</b> “Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future.”
May 25th	World Thyroid Awareness Day 2023	-----
May 27th	Jawaharlal Nehru’s 59th Death Anniversary	This year marks the 59th death anniversary of the former Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India after Independence and played a significant role in the freedom struggle of India. On May 27, 1964, the first Prime Minister of India took his last breath. He was the PM from 1947 to 1964 till he died at the age of 74. Nehru’s birth anniversary on November 14 is also celebrated as Children’s Day every year in India. He had a great fondness for kids, and children use to call him Chacha Nehru.
May 29th	International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2023(75th anniversary)	<b>Theme:</b> “Peace begins with me”.
May 31st	World No Tobacco Day 2023	World No Tobacco Day is an annual event held on May 31, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote awareness about the detrimental consequences of tobacco usage and advocate for policies aimed at reducing tobacco consumption. <b>Theme:</b> “We need food, not tobacco”.
May25th-31st	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	The International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories is an annual observance held from May 25 to 31. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 with the resolution A/RES/54/91. The purpose of the week is to raise awareness of the issue of decolonization and to express solidarity with the peoples of non-self-governing territories who are still struggling for self-determination.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR
"The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life".	<b>Ruskin Bond</b> , an Indian author of British descent.
'NTR: A Political Biography'	K Ramachandra Murthy
"Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills"	<b>Kasturi Ray</b>
"MADE IN INDIA :75 Years of Business and Enterprise"	<b>Amitabh Kant</b> , former CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action'	<b>Shashi Shekhar Vempati</b> , former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017-2022)." The book was released during a day-long National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @ 100.
Smoke and Ashes'	<b>Amitav Ghosh's</b> new non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' to release in July 2023.
'Sachin@50'- Celebrating A Maestro	<b>Boria Majumdar</b> , a renowned sports historian and popular TV show host.
"Crosscourt"	Jaidip Mukerjea, a renowned tennis player, launched his autobiography titled "Crosscourt"
The Great Bank Robbery NPAs, Scams And The Future Of Regulation	Co-authored by V.Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash.
"Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire"	<b>Nandini Das</b> , a professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford, England.
"Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta"	Piyush Babele
'Azaad'	Ghulam Nabi Azad's Autobiography 'Azaad' launched in New Delhi
"War and Women"	Dr M A Hasan
"A Matter of the Heart: Education in India"	<b>Anurag Behar</b> , the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Azim Premji Foundation.
"Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform"	<b>Rachna Biswat Rawat</b> , an Indian journalist and writer.
"India's Struggle for Independence- The Gandhian Era: 1915-1948"	Co-authored by Dr Justice P. Jyothimani, former Judge of Madras High Court, and G. Balan.
"As Good as My Word: A Memoir",	<b>K.M. Chandrasekhar</b> , former Cabinet Secretary of India.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- In May 2023, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) constituted the 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of 'Project Cheetah'. Who heads the 11-member Committee?
  - Dilip Pandya
  - R. N. Mehrotra
  - Noyal Thomas
  - Rajesh Gopal
  - Shubhoranjan Sen
- Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Quad Leaders' Summit held in May 2023?
  - As a part of his visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia in May 2023 PM Narendra Modi participated in the third in-person Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima, Japan.
  - The Quad leaders unveiled a 'Vision Statement' titled 'Enduring Partners for Indo-Pacific' expressing their resolve to act as a "force for good" to find common solutions for region-wide benefit.
  - India is set to host the Quad meeting in 2024.
  - Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
- In May 2023, the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Naval Exercise, "Al Mohed Al Hindi 23" was conducted in Al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
  - 4th
  - 6th
  - 3rd
  - 5th
  - 2nd

According to the World Energy Investment 2023 (WEI 2023) released by the International
- Energy Agency (IEA) in May 2023, the clean energy investment has increased \_\_\_\_\_ higher than the investment in fossil Fuels.
  - 50%
  - 70%
  - 40%
  - 60%
  - 80%
- Name the organisation/Bank that has recently (in May '23) signed a USD141.12 million loan agreement with India to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.
  - World Bank
  - United Nations Development Programme
  - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
  - Asian Development Bank
  - International Monetary Fund
- Who has been recently (in May '23) appointed as the President of CII for the year 2023-24?
  - Atish Mathur
  - Sanjiv Bajaj
  - Rajiv Memani
  - R Dinesh
  - Sanjiv Puri
- In May 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared \_\_\_\_\_ of every year as the World Sustainable Transport Day.
  - 26th October
  - 26th September
  - 26th November
  - 26th August
  - 26th July
- In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first digital payments app to enable the linkage of 2 lakh Rupay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
  - Paytm
  - BharatPe
  - Freecharge
  - PhonePe
  - Razorpay
- As of May 2023, the Ministry of Finance has notified \_\_\_\_\_ countries, from where investment in start-ups will be exempt from angel tax.
  - 10
  - 21
  - 24
  - 15
  - 18
- In May 2023, the Ministry of Civil Aviation(MoCA) launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance connectivity to remote areas via helicopters.
  - UDAN 4.1
  - UDAN 3.0
  - UDAN 5.1
  - UDAN 4.0
  - UDAN 5.0

11. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia in May 2023?
- A) The PM visited Hiroshima (Japan) to participate in the 49th G7 summit & third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit 2023.  
B) During his visit to Papua New Guinea, PM Narendra Modi along with PM of Papua New Guinea James Marape released a translation of the Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in the Tok Pisin language (official language of Papua New Guinea).  
C) During his visit to Australia, PM Narendra Modi and Australian PM Anthony Albanese jointly laid the foundation stone of the 'Little India' gateway to be built in Harris Park in Western Sydney.
- a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
12. In May 2023, India's AI (artificial intelligence) supercomputer, "AIRAWAT," was ranked \_\_\_\_\_ globally in the 61st edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List, released at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.
- 1) 75th  
2) 50th  
3) 65th  
4) 45th  
5) 85th
13. The Gross collection (provisional) of Direct Taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 stands at Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ showing a growth of 20.33%.
- a) 15.49 lakh crore  
b) 19.68 lakh crore  
c) 17.39 lakh crore  
d) 16.36 lakh crore  
e) 14.38 lakh crore
14. In May 2023, American runner \_\_\_\_\_ officially became an Olympic champion, more than a decade after the London 2012 Summer Olympics.
- a) Lashinda Demus  
b) Debbie Dunn  
c) Natalya Antyukh  
d) Melaine Walker  
e) Jessica Beard
15. Name the ministry that has recently (in May '23) launched a massive campaign programme "Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar" to promote the RRRs (3Rs-Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) of waste management.
- a) Ministry of Jal Shakti  
b) Ministry of Home Affairs  
c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
d) Ministry of Rural Development  
e) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
16. In which state/Union Territory (UT), the Great Prayer Festival 'Monlam Chenmo' was held in May 2023?
- a) Himachal Pradesh  
b) Sikkim  
c) Jammu and Kashmir  
d) Assam  
e) Ladakh
17. As per the 'Most Innovative Companies 2023: Reaching New Heights in Uncertain Times' report released by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ is the only Indian firm in the BCG list of the top 50 most innovative firms in 2023, securing the 20th position.
- a) Tata Group  
b) Adani Group  
c) Infosys Limited  
d) ITC Limited  
e) Wipro Limited
18. According to the World Bank's (WB) annual report 'State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023' released in May, 2023, the revenues collected from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) globally have reached a record high, about USD \_\_\_\_\_ in 2022
- a) 59 billion  
b) 82 billion  
c) 64 billion  
d) 95 billion  
e) 73 billion
19. According to the "Data Centre Q1 2023" Report released by Knight Frank, Mumbai, Maharashtra (India) has emerged \_\_\_\_\_ on the list of data centre markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region with a total capacity of 2,337 megawatt (MW).
- a) 6th  
b) 3rd  
c) 5th  
d) 4th  
e) 2nd
20. Name the bank that has recently (in May '23) launched a first digital onboarding platform 'Sarathi' to enable easy installation of Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.
- a) Axis Bank  
b) ICICI Bank  
c) HDFC Bank  
d) YES Bank  
e) IndusInd Bank
21. In May 2023, Bulgarian Writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize 2023 for \_\_\_\_\_ (Book).
- a) The physics of sorrow  
b) The Story Smuggler  
c) Time Shelter  
d) And Other Stories  
e) Natural Novel

22. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) appointed as the brand ambassador of Tripura tourism.
- Kangana Ranaut
  - Sourav Ganguly
  - Priyanka Chopra
  - Kapil Dev
  - Nandita Das
23. Name the state government that has recently (in May '23) inaugurated an online rural education programme 'Pahal'.
- Assam
  - West Bengal
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - Maharashtra
24. Which country has recently (in May '23) launched the Golden Licence to attract large-scale investment projects?
- Qatar
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Kuwait
  - Bahrain
  - Saudi Arabia
25. Which Indian Naval Ship Vessel (INSV) has recently (in May '23) returned to Goa after a historic 188-day voyage?
- INSV Shardul
  - INSV Ranvijay
  - INSV Tarini
  - INSV Sahyadri
  - INSV Kora
26. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to launch a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers.
- Tamil Nadu
  - Kerala
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
  - Madhya Pradesh
27. In May 2023, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) prepared the "Model Prisons Act 2023" which will replace the existing British-era law "The Prisons Act, of \_\_\_\_\_".
- 1947
  - 1898
  - 1894
  - 1957
  - 1888
28. Which country, along with India has recently (in May '23) launched a '50 start-ups exchange programme'?
- Indonesia
  - Bangladesh
  - Australia
  - United Arab Emirates
  - United Kingdom
29. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the 1st Indian city to measure United Nations (UN)- mandated sustainable development goals (SDG)s process.
- Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - Bhubaneswar, Odisha
  - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Kochi, Kerala
30. Which state's Kangra Tea has recently (in May '23) received a Geographical Indication (GI) with the European Union (EU)?
- Assam
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim
31. Which state government has recently (in May '23) inaugurated the "SAHAS" initiative to make workplaces safer for Women?
- Tamil Nadu
  - Karnataka
  - Telangana
  - Kerala
  - Andhra Pradesh
32. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report released in May 2023, the countries can reduce plastic pollution by 80% by \_\_\_\_\_ (year) using existing technologies.
- 2028
  - 2040
  - 2035
  - 2026
  - 2030
33. Which state government has recently (in May '23) launched a farm loan interest waiver scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023'?
- Jharkhand
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Odisha
  - Maharashtra
  - Madhya Pradesh
34. In May 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation and directed banks to stop issuing it. The public needs to deposit and/or exchange the Rs 2,000 note in banks on or before \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.
- 30th November
  - 31st July
  - 30th September
  - 31st August
  - 31st October

35. Name the Insurance Company that has recently (in May '23) launched India's first small-cap fund in the ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan) segment.
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
  - Max Life Insurance
  - Bharti AXA Life Insurance
  - HDFC Life Insurance
  - ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
36. Name the company that has recently (in May '23) launched "Udyog Plus", an innovative one-stop business platform for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers.
- Tata Capital Financial Services
  - Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
  - Aditya Birla Capital
  - Muthoot Finance Ltd
  - Bajaj Finance Ltd
37. In May 2023, the 12 Public Sector Banks' (PSBs) cumulative profit reached Rs 1,04,649 crore in Financial Year (FY)23.  
In percentage terms, which bank had the highest net profit growth with 126% to Rs 2,602 crore?
- State Bank of India
  - Bank of Maharashtra
  - Bank of Baroda
  - UCO Bank
  - Bank of India
38. In May 2023, the board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the transfer of \_\_\_\_\_ as surplus to the Government for the year 2022-2023 at the 602nd meeting of the RBI's Central Board of Directors.
- Rs 72,890 crore
  - Rs 49,238 crore
  - Rs 52,389 crore
  - Rs 87,416 crore
  - Rs 64,230 crore
39. According to the report 'World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023', of the United Nations (UN) released in May 2023, India's economy is expected to grow by \_\_\_\_\_ in 2024.
- 6.7%
  - 6.5%
  - 5.9%
  - 6.2%
  - 5.7%
40. Who has recently (in May '23) became the first woman and non-secretary bureaucrat Chairperson of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?
- Sangeeta Verma
  - Ravneet Kaur
  - S. Jayashree
  - Poonam Kohali
  - Jyotsna Yadav
41. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS).
- Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha
  - Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari
  - Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
  - Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
  - Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar
42. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ has replaced Kiren Rijiju with the independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice & Kiren Rijiju was assigned with the portfolio of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ajay Kumar; Ministry of Planning
  - Arjun Ram Meghwa; Ministry of Earth Sciences
  - Ashwini Kumar Choubey; Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
  - Arjun Ram Meghwa; Ministry of Planning
  - Ajay Kumar; Ministry of Earth Sciences
43. S P Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State (MoS), took over as MoS of the \_\_\_\_\_ from the Ministry of Law and Justice in May 2023.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Ministry of Power
  - Ministry of Railways
  - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
44. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) honoured with the highest French Civilian award, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- T. V. Narendran
  - Natarajan Chandrasekaran
  - Banmali Agrawala
  - Shapoor Mistry
  - N. R. Narayana Murthy
45. Which of the following International Airports were recently (in May '23) won the Platinum Category award in the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific's Green Airports Recognition 2023?
- Indira Gandhi International Airport
  - Kempegowda International Airport
  - Mangaluru International Airport
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3
46. As of May 2023, India's defence production in the FY 2022-2023 was increased by more than 12% & crossed the mark of USD \_\_\_\_\_ for the first time.
- 20 billion
  - 10 billion
  - 25 billion
  - 12 billion
  - 15 billion

47. Name the Indian Navy's indigenous guided missile destroyer that was recently (in May '23) carried out the engagement of a sea-skimming supersonic target with Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) missile.
- INS Surat
  - INS Vikrant
  - INS Vishal
  - INS Mormugao
  - INS Visakhapatnam
48. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 2023 Italian Open held at Rome in May 2023?
- A) Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev claimed his first-ever Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) title on the clay court by winning the Men's Singles title in the 2023 Italian Open.
- B) The 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan won the Women's singles title at the Italian Open 2023 by defeating Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine.
- C) Polish-Monegasque duo Jan Zieliński and Hugo Nys won the men's doubles title at the Italian Open 2023 defeating Robin Haase and Botić van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
49. In May 2023, Rattan Lal Kataria, a Member of Parliament (MP) of Lok Sabha, from Ambala (Haryana), passed away. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ time MP of the Lok Sabha from Ambala.
- Four
  - Three
  - Five
  - Two
  - Six
50. What was the theme of World Metrology Day 2023 that was observed across the globe on 20th May 2023?
- Measurements for Global Trade
  - Metrology in the Digital Era
  - The ocean, our climate and weather
  - Measurements supporting the global food system
  - The International System of Units Fundamentally Better
51. What was the theme of the 7th United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) 2023 that was observed across the globe on 15th to 21st May 2023?
- Saves Lives #SlowDown
  - StreetsforLife #Love30
  - Saves Lives #SpeakUp
  - #SaveKidsLives
  - StreetsforLife #RethinkMobility
52. What was the theme of United Nations (UN) International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 that was observed across the globe on 22nd May 2023?
- Our solutions are in nature
  - Building a shared future for all life
  - From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
  - We're part of the solution #ForNature
  - Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health
53. When was Anti-Terrorism Day 2023 observed across India to mark the death anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi in 1991?
- 20th May 2023
  - 18th May 2023
  - 21st May 2023
  - 19th May 2023
  - 22nd May 2023
54. In May 2023, Credit card payments for foreign travel will be brought under Reserve Bank's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to ensure that such expenses do not escape Tax Collection at Source (TCS). The Union Budget 2023 proposed a TCS for foreign outward remittance under LRS other than for Education and medical purposes of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent (%) applicable from July 1, 2023.
- 20
  - 10
  - 15
  - 30
  - 25
55. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ emerged as the most profitable firm after Reliance Industries in Financial Year (FY) 23.
- HDFC Bank
  - State Bank of India
  - ICICI Bank
  - Oil & Natural Gas Corporation
  - Tata Consultancy Services
56. In May 2023, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had a bilateral meeting with Masatsugu Asakawa, president of Asian Development Bank (ADB), on the sidelines of the ADB Annual Meetings, in South Korea. Where is the Headquarters of Asian Development Bank (ADB) located?
- Dhaka, Bangladesh
  - Jakarta, Indonesia
  - Shanghai, China
  - Mandaluyong, Philippines
  - Kathmandu, Nepal
57. Name the football club that has recently (in May '23) won their 27th LaLiga title.
- Sevilla FC
  - Athletic Bilbao
  - Real Madrid
  - Football Club Barcelona
  - Valencia CF

58. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) became the first Indian female golfer to enter the top 50 in the world rankings after her T5 place finish at the LPGA Founders Cup.
- Smriti Mehra
  - Aditi Ashok
  - Diksha Dagar
  - Anisha Padukone
  - Vani Kapoor
59. In February 2023, Sayantan Das became India's 81st Chess Grandmaster. He is the 11th Chess Grandmaster from \_\_\_\_\_ (state).
- Andhra Pradesh
  - Telangana
  - Karnataka
  - West Bengal
  - Odisha
60. Name the mountaineer who recently (in May '23) climbed Mount Everest for a record 27th time.
- Ang Rita Sherpa
  - Babu Chiri Sherpa
  - Nirmal Purja
  - Kami Rita Sherpa
  - Apa Sherpa
61. In May 2023, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari announced that India's first elevated 8-lane access control Dwarka expressway of \_\_\_\_\_ length was being built at a cost of Rs 9000 crore.
- 43.8 km
  - 24.9 km
  - 32.5 km
  - 17.2 km
  - 29.6 km
62. Who has recently (in May '23) won the second ever British Book Award for Freedom to Publish?
- Shehan Karunatilaka
  - Bernardine Evaristo
  - Salman Rushdie
  - Douglas Stuart
  - Anna Burns
63. In May 2023, a team of international astronomers discovered 62 new moons orbiting Saturn, bringing the total number of natural satellites to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 145
  - 100
  - 120
  - 152
  - 136
64. In May 2023, the Kapileshwar temple in \_\_\_\_\_ (state) is to be added to the protected monuments list of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- West Bengal
  - Kerala
  - Karnataka
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Odisha
65. Name the Indian Navy Ship (INS) that has recently (in May '23) brought ten medical pallets as high availability disaster recovery supplies for the people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar as part of Operation Karuna.
- INS Guldar
  - INS Airavat
  - INS Kesari
  - INS Gharial
  - INS Kumbhir
66. Which of the following countries will host the 23rd FIFA World Cup 2026?
- United States of America
  - Canada
  - Mexico
  - Both 1 & 2
  - All 1, 2 & 3
67. Which Department of GoI has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)?
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
  - Department of Consumer Affairs
  - Department of Personnel and Training
  - Department of Expenditure
  - Department of Commerce
68. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian cricketer to slam a hundred in Test cricket, Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket, One Day Internationals (ODI) cricket and IPL in the same calendar year.
- Shubman Gill
  - Suryakumar Yadav
  - Shikhar Dhawan
  - Virat Kohli
  - K.L. Rahul
69. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) become number one in World Athletics men's javelin ranking.
- Neeraj Chopra (India)
  - Alexandru Novac (Romania)
  - Anderson Peters (Germany)
  - Andrian Mardare (Moldova)
  - Jakub Vadlejch (Czechia)
70. According to the World Bank, which country has become the first country in the world to have annual remittances from abroad crossing the \$100-billion mark in 2022?
- United Kingdom
  - China
  - India
  - United States of America
  - Russia

71. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to make digital health cards for children.
- West Bengal
  - Bihar
  - Gujarat
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Madhya Pradesh
72. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the 1st Indian Airline to operate a commercial domestic flight with Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).
- SpiceJet
  - Go First
  - Akasa Air
  - IndiGo
  - Air Vistara
73. Which state government has recently (in May '23) launched India's 1st State Robotics Framework to promote the robotic ecosystem?
- Maharashtra
  - Gujarat
  - Karnataka
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Telangana
74. In May 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian State to implement the "Right to walk".
- Gujarat
  - Kerala
  - Punjab
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
75. Which ministry has recently (in May '23) collaborated with the MyGov to launch "YUVA PRATIBHA – Singing Talent Hunt"?
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
  - Ministry of Tourism
76. In May 2023, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) reduced the e-invoicing threshold for all business-to-business (B2B) transactions to \_\_\_\_\_ from Rs 10 crore with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023.
- Rs 5 crore
  - Rs 3 crore
  - Rs 4 crore
  - Rs 1 crore
  - Rs 2 crore
77. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) recent data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in May 2023?
- According to the data, 50% of the total villages in India achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G).
  - The top performing states in terms of percentage of ODF Plus villages among big states are Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%) Among small states are Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%)
  - Among UTs, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.
    - Only A
    - Only A & B
    - Only B & C
    - Only A & C
    - All A, B & C
78. In May 2023, the members of \_\_\_\_\_ (organisation) unanimously adopted India's proposal to support the development and adoption of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- BRICS
  - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
  - Shanghai Co-operation Organisation
  - BIMSTEC
  - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
79. In May 2023, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched its first-ever comprehensive framework, Accelerating anaemia reduction: a comprehensive framework for action to reduce the anaemia in women of reproductive age by \_\_\_\_\_ (Year).
- 2026
  - 2028
  - 2024
  - 2027
  - 2025
80. Which of the following social security schemes, along with Atal Pension Yojana have observed the 8th anniversary on 9th May 2023?
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
  - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
  - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3
81. In May 2023, India extended a USD \_\_\_\_\_ credit line for Sri Lanka by one year until March 2024.
- 3 billion
  - 5 billion
  - 2 billion
  - 4 billion
  - 1 billion

- 82.** Name the company that has recently (in May '23) become the 1st firm to receive the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence in the agritech space.
- Annapurna Finance
  - Veritas Finance Private Limited
  - Ora Finance Private Limited
  - Laxmi India Finance Private Limited
  - Fino Finance Private Limited
- 83.** In May 2023, the World Bank approved a loan of USD \_\_\_\_\_ for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in India for Animal Health System Support for One Health Program.(AHSSOH).
- 50 million
  - 82 million
  - 79 million
  - 100 million
  - 70 million
- 84.** In May 2023, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the banks are set to commence a '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district within 100 days. The banks will commence the campaign on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.
- 1st October
  - 1st September
  - 1st August
  - 1st June
  - 1st July
- 85.** In May 2023, Fitch Ratings lowered India's 2023-24 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to \_\_\_\_\_ from 6.2%.
- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| a) 5.7% | b) 5.9% |
| c) 5.6  | d) 6%   |
| e) 5.8% |         |
- 86.** As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in May 2023, which country emerged as the 3rd largest export destination for India in Financial Year 2023-23 (FY23) after the United States (US) and United Arab Emirates (UAE)?
- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| a) Netherlands | b) United Kingdom |
| c) Bangladesh  | d) Germany        |
| e) China       |                   |
- 87.** Who has recently (in May '23) crowned as the King of the United Kingdom (UK) at Westminster Abbey in London, the UK?
- George VI
  - William
  - Harry
  - Charles III
  - Andrew
- 88.** Who was recently (in May '23) appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter?
- Linda Yaccarino
  - Dick Costolo
  - Evan Williams
  - Bret Taylor
  - Patrick Pichette
- 89.** Who was recently (in May '23) appointed as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?
- Rishi Kumar Shukla
  - Praveen Sood
  - Alok Kumar Verma
  - Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
  - Anil Sinha
- 90.** Who has recently (in May '23) received the 13th edition of the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award from former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind?
- Yogi Adityanath (CM of Uttar Pradesh)
  - Shivraj Singh Chouhan (CM of Madhya Pradesh)
  - Eknath Shinde (CM of Maharashtra)
  - Naveen Patnaik (CM of Odisha)
  - Bhupendra Patel (CM of Gujarat)
- 91.** Name the Badminton legends who have recently (in May '23) been elected to the BWF Hall of Fame for 2023 by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- Lee Chong Wei and Axelsen Viktor
  - Axelsen Viktor and Naraoka Kodai
  - Lin Dan and Lee Chong Wei
  - Axelsen Viktor and Christie Jonatan
  - Lin Dan and Axelsen Viktor
- 92.** In May 2023, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) secured the \_\_\_\_\_ position among 66 ministries in the 'Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) assessment for the Third Quarter (Q3) of FY23'.
- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| a) 3rd | b) 5th |
| c) 2nd | d) 4th |
| e) 1st |        |
- 93.** Which edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was recently (in May '23) conducted in the Andaman Sea by the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN)?
- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| a) 33rd | b) 35th |
| c) 32nd | d) 34th |
| e) 36th |         |
- 94.** Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS) that was recently (in May '23) decommissioned by the Indian Navy (IN) in Kochi after 36 years of Service.
- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) INS Kumbhir | b) INS Kesari |
| c) INS Magar   | d) INS Guldar |
| e) INS Shardul |               |



95. Name the personality who has recently (in May '23) become India's 82nd GrandMaster (GM) by defeating GM Hans Niemann from United States of America (USA) in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023.
- Sayantan Das
  - Vuppala Praneeth
  - Vignesh NR
  - Pranesh
  - Koustav Chatterjee
96. Who authored the book, "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life"?
- Vikram Seth
  - Arundhati Roy
  - Ruskin Bond
  - Aravind Adiga
  - Kiran Desai
97. When was the Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War Day 2023 observed across the globe by the United Nations (UN)?
- 4th & 5th May 2023
  - 5th & 6th May 2023
  - 6th & 7th May 2023
  - 7th & 8th May 2023
  - 8th & 9th May 2023
98. Name the Union Minister who has recently (in May '23) launched the mobile app 'Meri LiFE (My life)' to track the progress being made on Mission LiFE.
- Bhupender Yadav (Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)
  - Amit Shah (Union Minister of Home Affairs)
  - Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Union Minister of External Affairs)
  - Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare)
  - Giriraj Singh (Union Minister of Rural Development)
99. In May 2023, a government panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recommended that India should ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheeler vehicles by \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- 2027
  - 2025
  - 2028
  - 2024
  - 2026
100. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently (in May '23) increased its gold reserves by \_\_\_\_\_ to 794.64 metric tonnes in the fiscal year (March 31), 2023.
- 3.5%
  - 3.9%
  - 4.5%
  - 4.0%
  - 4.2%

**Answers**

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

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