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English Medium

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Coverage from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



MV Empress

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the India's first International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai.



Antardrishti

RBI GOVERNOR LAUNCHES FINANCIAL INCLUSION DASHBOARD

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched financial inclusion Dashboard 'Antardrishti'.



Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

Ministry of Culture has named Gita Press, Gorakhpur (UP), as an awardee of Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021



QS Rankings

2024

IIT Bombay

among top

150

universities

Globally

best in country

QS World University Rankings 2024

IIT Bombay only Indian Institute among the top 150(149<sup>th</sup> rank), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge topped in the list



The Global Gender Gap Index 2023 rankings

India

ranks

127<sup>th</sup>

and

Iceland Tops

Global Gender Gap Index 2023

India Ranked 127<sup>th</sup> out of 146 countries in the Index, Iceland Tops



Amit Agrawal

Amit Agrawal appointed as CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)



Indonesia Open 2023

Indian badminton players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy wins the Men's doubles title, defeated by Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik from Malaysia



ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> ICC World Test Championship 2021-23

Australia won the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 and defeated India by 209 runs in the finals. It was held at The Oval in London (UK).



French Open 2023

Novak Djokovic created history when he captured a record-breaking 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Slam title with a third French Open Men's Singles title. He surpassed Rafael Nadal's record, who has won a total of 22 Grand Slams.

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“The future depends on what you do today.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

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current  
Affairs  
JULY-2023



person of the month

**P.C. Mahalanobis**  
(1893-1972)

India celebrated National Statistics Day on June 29th, commemorating the birthday of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, renowned as the 'Plan Man' of India.

### About

- Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, a prominent scientist, and statistical pioneer, contributed significantly to the field of data collection, analysis, and planning for national development.
- He was born in Calcutta (now Kolkata). His grandfather Gurucharan was a social reformer and a follower of Debendranath Tagore, the father of Rabindranath Tagore.

### Major Contributions

- ★ In 1931, he founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta, with the aim of promoting research and education in statistics and related disciplines.
- ★ He also founded Sankhya, the first Indian statistical journal, in 1933.
- ★ In 1955, he was appointed as a member of the Planning Commission of India by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ★ He played a key role in designing India's strategy for industrialization and economic development in the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), also known as Mahalanobis Plan based on his own mathematical model that emphasized heavy industries and capital goods.
- ★ Also, his involvement in the establishment and shaping of Rabindranath Tagore's Visva Bharati University highlights his significant contributions beyond statistics.
- ★ In 1968, he was honored with the Padma Vibhushan.

As India grapples with the challenges of Big Data and the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence (AI), reflecting on Mahalanobis's approach can offer insights into addressing these issues effectively.

**IACE**

Gender parity in four key dimensions

- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment

127

India climbed eight places to rank 127 among 146 countries in the Gender Gap Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum.

Rank	Country	Score	Rank change
1	Iceland	0.912	-
2	Norway	0.879	+1
59	Bangladesh	0.722	+12
103	Bhutan	0.662	+23
107	China	0.678	-5
115	Sri Lanka	0.663	-5
116	Nepal	0.659	-20
127	India	0.643	+8
142	Pakistan	0.575	+3

# Global Gender Gap Report 2023

On June 20, 2023, 17th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 has been released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap and ranked 127th out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity at the Global Gender Gap Index 2023 whereas Iceland Topped the index followed by Norway and Finland at 2nd and 3rd rank. Thus India has improved by 1.4% points and 8 positions in 2023 compared with the 2022 edition. India was ranked 135th in the 2022 Index.

### • India's Ranking and Progress

- ✓ India has made significant progress, rising from 135th (in 2022) to 127th out of 146 countries in the report's 2023 edition, indicating an improvement in its ranking.
- ✓ India's neighbours Pakistan ranked at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103.
- ✓ The country has improved by 1.4 percentage points and eight positions since the last edition, marking a partial recovery towards its 2020 parity level.
- ✓ India had closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap.

### • Subindex Analysis for India

- ✓ India has attained parity in enrolment across all levels of education. However, it has reached only 36.7% parity on Economic Participation and Opportunity.

- ✓ There was an increase in parity in wages and income but the shares of women in senior positions and technical roles have dropped slightly since the 2022 edition.
- ✓ India has registered 25.3% parity on Political Empowerment, with women representing 15.1% of parliamentarians, the highest for India since the inaugural 2006 edition.
- ✓ In the case of the Health and Survival index with 95% parity, the sex ratio at birth improved by 1.9% points to 92.7%.

### India's Subindex Ranks

Sub Index	Rank	Score 0-1
Economic Participation and Opportunity	142	0.367
Educational Attainment	26	1
Health and Survival	142	0.95
Political Empowerment	59	0.253

### • Global Ranking and Progress

- ✓ **Iceland** has maintained its position as the most gender-equal country for the 14th consecutive year, with a gender gap score of 91.2%. It is the only country to have closed over 90% of its gender gap.
- ✓ Three other Nordic countries—Norway (87.9%), Finland (86.3%), and Sweden (81.5%)—join Iceland in the top five rankings, highlighting their strong commitment to gender equality.

### • Region-wise Performance

- ✓ The Global Gender Gap Report 2023 categorizes countries into eight regions: Eurasia and Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America, Southern Asia, and SubSaharan Africa.
- ✓ Gender parity in Europe (76.3%) surpasses the parity level in North America (75%) this year to rank first among regions.
- ✓ **South Asia**  
Southern Asia which ranked fifth out of eight regions achieved 63.4% gender parity, the second-lowest score of the eight regions.

### • Global Analysis

- ✓ The global gender gap score in 2023 stands at 68.4%, indicating a modest improvement of 0.3% points compared to the previous year.
- ✓ At the current rate of progress, it would take 131 years to achieve full gender parity, showing a significant slowdown in the overall rate of change.
- ✓ The gender gap in health and survival has closed by 96% globally.
- ✓ The political empowerment gender gap remains significant, with a closure rate of 22.1% globally and a projected timeline of 162 years to close the gap.
- ✓ The gender gap in educational attainment has closed by 95.2%, with significant progress made over the 2006-2023 period.
- ✓ The gender gap in educational attainment is projected to close in 16 years.
- ✓ The gender gap in economic participation and opportunity stands at 60.1% globally, highlighting the persistent challenges in achieving gender equality in the workforce.
- ✓ The gender gap in economic participation and opportunity is projected to close in 169 years.
- ✓ Out of the 117 countries with available data since 2017, 18 countries, India (44.4%) including Bolivia (50.4%), and France (42.3%), have achieved representation of women of over 40% in local governance.
- ✓ The overall progress in 2023 is partly due to the improvement in closing the educational attainment gap.

- ✓ Thus 117 out of the 146 indexed countries now have closed at least 95% of the gap under educational attainment.

### Indian Initiatives to reduce Gender Gap in Social, Economic and Political Life

**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** It ensures the protection, survival and education of the girl child.

**Mahila Shakti Kendra:** Aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment.

**Mahila Police Volunteers:** It envisages engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitates women in distress.

**Rashtriya Mahila Kosh:** It is an apex micro-finance organization that provides micro-credit at concessional terms to poor women for various livelihood and income generating activities.

**Sukanya Samridhi Yojna:** Under this scheme girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts.

**Female Entrepreneurship:** To promote female entrepreneurship, the Government has initiated Programmes like Stand-Up India and Mahila e-Haat (online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/NGOs), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESSDP).

**Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:** They have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks.

**Political Reservation:** Government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women.

### About Global Gender Gap Index

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to annually benchmark progress towards gender parity and compare countries' gender gaps across four key dimensions of Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. The Global Gender Gap Index measures scores on a 0 to 100 scale for each indicator and it is calculated as the ratio of the value of each indicator for women to the value for men. Croatia rejoins the 2023 index, whereas Guyana drops out.

World Economic Forum HQ: Cologny/Geneva

President – Børge Brende

# INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

## UNGA elected 5 new non-permanent member of UN Security Council

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected five countries **Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sierra Leone and Slovenia** as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2 year period beginning from January 2024 to December 2025.
- ✓ The newly elected 5 countries will replace the outgoing non-permanent members of **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, whose two-year terms end on 31st December 2023.
- ✓ The newly elected countries will join Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland as non-permanent members of UNSC.

### About UN Security Council

UNSC, established in 1946 under the UN Charter, is tasked to maintain international peace and security.

It has 15 members, 5 of which –The United States of America (USA), Russia, China, the United Kingdom (UK), and France are permanent members, who have a right to veto any resolution or decision.

The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for two years, which comprises all 193 UN Member States, half renewed each year, and are allocated by geographical distribution by region.

The presidency of the UNSC is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names.

President of UNSC for June 2023 – United Arab Emirate

### About United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Founded in– 1945

President – Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary (Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago will take charge in September 2023)

Headquarters– New York, United States of America (USA)

## World Bank launches its first road safety project in South Asia

- ✓ On 14th June 2023, The World Bank (WB) launched its first road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement with the government of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Road Safety Project (BRSP) was inaugurated at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✓ This project aims to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.
- ✓ The two National Highways, Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6), passing through the five divisions of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh, will be taken up for the implementation of this project.
- ✓ This project will improve road safety by providing facilities including improved engineering designs, signage and marking, pedestrian facilities, speed enforcement, and emergency care.



## India's Progress Recognized: Removed from UN Secretary-General's Report on Impact of Armed Conflict on Children

- ✓ India has been removed from the UN Secretary-General's annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, signaling the country's improved measures to protect children. The decision by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledges India's commitment to child protection and highlights the positive outcomes of its technical mission and a workshop on strengthening child protection. This development marks a significant milestone for India, which had been included in the report since 2010.



## UNGA adopts resolution introduced by India, to honour fallen peacekeepers

- ✓ On 14th June 2023, The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted draft resolution which was introduced by India to establish a memorial wall to honour fallen peacekeepers.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj revealed the draft resolution which titled as 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' at UN General Assembly hall, United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- ✓ It was adopted by consensus and the resolution was co-sponsored by nearly 190 UN Member State out of 193 UN Member states.
- ✓ It will be funded from voluntary contributions.
- ✓ The wall will be included in the ceremonies on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.
- ✓ The wall honors 3,500 peacekeepers who have lost lives in different missions of conflict areas across the globe.
- ✓ In 2014, India proposed a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to make June 21 International Yoga Day with supporting of 177 UN Member states and it was adopted within 75 days.

### Indian peacekeepers at UN

- ✓ With more than 6,000 military and police personnel deployed to Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East and Western Sahara India stands as the 3rd largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping.
- ✓ About 178 Indian peacekeepers have made sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions which is the largest till date.

## UN adopts BBNJ Treaty, the first-ever international treaty to protect high seas biodiversity

- ✓ On 19th June 2023, The United Nations(UN) adopted the first-ever legally binding international treaty, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ treaty), also known as the "High Seas

Treaty", to protect the high seas and preserve marine biodiversity in international waters.

- ✓ It is an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which came into force in 1994. It is about the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- ✓ The agreement was adopted during the "Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction" held from 19th to 20th June 2023 in UN headquarters, New York, USA.
- ✓ The treaty establishes the first-ever framework for governing practices like fishing, mining and oil extraction in international waters.

## Security Council Extends UN Political Mission in Sudan for 6 Months

- ✓ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has agreed to extend the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) – United Nations(UN)'s political mission in Sudan, for 6 months until the 3rd December 2023, as conflicts worsen in Sudan.
- ✓ Adopting resolution 2685 (2023), UNSC also requested the Secretary-General of UN to continue reporting on the implementation of the Mission's mandate every 90 days and decided to remain actively seized of the matter.
- ✓ UNITAMS was created in June 2020 to support Sudan's democratic transition after the fall of Omar al-Bashir government.
- ✓ The resolution reaffirms the Security Council's commitment to Sudan's sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity.

## China inks deal with Pakistan to set up nuclear power plant

- ✓ China and Pakistan have signed a significant agreement worth USD 4.8 billion to establish a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant. This deal reflects the deepening strategic cooperation between the two nations and comes as a welcome development for Pakistan. Pakistan is determined to

enhance its energy sector and overcome its economic difficulties by assuring the prompt initiation of the nuclear power plant project.

### **Pakistan bans Holi to save Islamic identity**

- ✓ Pakistan has recently implemented a ban on the celebration of Holi and other Hindu festivals across educational institutions in the country. The decision was made to protect what the government considers to be the eroding Islamic identity of the nation. The ban was issued by the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad following the emergence of a video on social media showing students at a university in Islamabad celebrating Holi.

### **China Blocks Proposal to Declare 26/11 Attacks Accused Sajid Mir as a Global Terrorist**

- ✓ China has once again blocked a proposal put forward by India and the United States at the United Nations Security Council to designate Sajid Mir, a Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, as a global terrorist. Sajid Mir is wanted for his involvement in the notorious 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. This move by China has raised concerns and further strained international efforts to combat terrorism effectively.
- ✓ Despite the joint efforts of India and the US, China prevented the proposal to blacklist Sajid Mir under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.
- ✓ Sajid Mir is one of India's most wanted terrorists, and the US has placed a \$5 million bounty on his head for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. The US State Department has acknowledged his significant involvement in planning, preparing, and executing the Mumbai attacks.

### **Canada launches 'digital nomad strategy' for foreign workers**

- ✓ Canada has taken a proactive approach to address its shortage of skilled workers, particularly in the tech industry. During Collision's tech conference in Toronto, the country's immigration minister announced the launch of a digital nomad strategy

aimed at attracting talented individuals from around the world.

- ✓ Under the digital nomad strategy, foreign workers are permitted to stay in Canada for up to six months. If they receive job offers during their stay, they have the opportunity to extend their time in the country. This initiative is designed to alleviate the shortage of skilled professionals in Canada's tech sector.
- ✓ To address the shortage of skilled workers from the United States, Canada's immigration minister announced a special initiative. Starting July 16, the government will establish an open work permit stream that allows 10,000 American H-1B visa holders to work in Canada. Additionally, this stream will provide study and work permits for the family members of these professionals.

### **Pakistan bans Holi to save Islamic identity**

- ✓ Pakistan has recently implemented a ban on the celebration of Holi and other Hindu festivals across educational institutions in the country. The decision was made to protect what the government considers to be the eroding Islamic identity of the nation. The ban was issued by the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad following the emergence of a video on social media showing students at a university in Islamabad celebrating Holi.

### **Estonia legalizes same-sex marriage, a first for Central Europe**

- ✓ Estonia's parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so. While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.
- ✓ The bill was introduced in October 2020, but due to COVID-19-related delays, it was not discussed until 2021. Currently, Estonia only recognizes registered partnerships, which do not offer the same level of legal protection as marriage.





## US decides to rejoin UNESCO

- ✓ UN cultural and scientific agency UNESCO announced that the United States plans to rejoin — and pay more than \$600 million in back dues.
- ✓ The United States has announced its plans to rejoin the UNESCO, after a decade-long dispute sparked by the inclusion of Palestine as a member.
- ✓ The return of the U.S., along with the payment of over \$600 million in back dues, is a significant financial boost for UNESCO's initiatives.
- ✓ Before leaving, the US contributed 22 per cent of the agency's overall funding.



### Why did US decided to rejoin the organisation?

- ✓ The decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

### US leaving UNESCO

#### Background

- ✓ The US and Israel stopped funding UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011.
- ✓ The Trump administration decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year.
- ✓ The United States had previously withdrawn from UNESCO in 1984 during the Cold War era.
- ✓ The country rejoined the organization in 2003 under the administration of President George W. Bush.

#### Reasons

- ✓ One of the main reasons was concerns over the organization's perceived anti-Israel bias.
- ✓ The U.S. government criticized UNESCO for its handling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its recognition of Palestine as a member state.
- ✓ Another factor was financial concerns.
- ✓ United States had been contributing a significant portion of UNESCO's budget.
- ✓ U.S. government had concerns about fiscal management and accountability within UNESCO.

- ✓ Furthermore, the decision to withdraw was also influenced by a broader scepticism towards multilateral institutions and a desire to reassess and prioritize U.S. engagement and funding in international organizations.

### About UNESCO

- ✓ UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ The constitution, which entered into force in 1946, called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture.
- ✓ The agency's permanent headquarters are in **Paris, France**.
- ✓ Parent Organisation - **United Nations Economic and Social Council**.
- ✓ **Audrey Azoulay** is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization.

## Kilauea volcano erupts on Hawaii's Big Island

- ✓ The US Geological Survey (USGS) has downgraded the safety alert for Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, following a new eruption. The alert level has been reduced from "WARNING" to "WATCH" as effusion rates have declined and no infrastructure is threatened. The previous warning has been lowered to a watch, as high effusion rates have decreased and no infrastructure is considered to be under threat. Aviation warnings have shifted from red to orange also.
- ✓ Kilauea is a volcano on the southeastern shore of Hawaii's Big Island. It formed about 100,000 years ago and is between 210,000 and 280,000 years old.
- ✓ Along with four other volcanoes, it comprises the island of Hawaii.
- ✓ Kilauea is the most active of the five and one of the most active in the world, with recent eruptions in 2021 and 2023.

## Ukraine's Nova Kakhovka Dam Disaster

- ✓ In recent events, the Nova Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine has suffered a catastrophic blow, leading to concerns of devastating flooding. Ukraine's military command has accused Russia of causing the explosion, given the dam's strategic significance. This article provides a brief overview of the Nova Kakhovka Dam, its importance, previous threats, and the ongoing situation.
- ✓ The Nova Kakhovka Dam is situated on the **Dnipro River** in southern Ukraine. Constructed in 1956 as part of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, it holds back a massive reservoir of water, estimated to contain 18 cubic kilometers, similar in volume to Utah's Great Salt Lake. The dam's destruction would have severe repercussions locally and affect Ukraine's broader war effort.

## UAE to Host World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged victorious in the bid to host the prestigious World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has chosen Abu Dhabi as the venue for this momentous event. The WCC, renowned as the world's largest gathering of conservationists, is expected to attract over 10,000 delegates from more than 160 countries. Taking place from October 10-21, 2025, the conference will serve as a critical platform for global environmentalists to address pressing challenges and formulate innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

## Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal visit to India; 7 MoUs Signed

- ✓ The Prime Minister of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda, was on a 4-day official visit to India from May 31 – June 3, 2023, at the invitation of the PM of India Narendra Modi for regular high-level exchanges between both nations in furtherance of India's Neighbourhood First policy.



- ✓ The Nepal PM held bilateral delegation-level talks with the Indian PM at Hyderabad House in New Delhi
- ✓ During the meet, India and Nepal witnessed the exchange of the seven documents in various fields including trade and commerce, cross – border petroleum pipeline, development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) and hydroelectric project.
- ✓ Both sides had reached an agreement on long-term power trade, under which India will import 10,000 MW from Nepal in the next 10 years. This is a major development in enhancing cooperation in this area based on the Joint Vision Statement that the two PM issued in April 2022.
- ✓ The Nepal PM also addressed the Nepal-India Business Summit in New Delhi jointly organized by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and interact with business leaders of both countries

## US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin's visit to India

- ✓ US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin was on a two-day visit to India from June 4 to 5, 2023, to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between both nations, especially in areas of transfer of critical technologies for codevelopment of military hardware.
- ✓ It is Defence Secretary Austin's second visit to India and his previous trip to India was held in March 2021.
- ✓ During the meeting between Rajnath Singh and Lloyd Austin both nations decided to launch negotiations for two crucial agreements related to the security of Supply Arrangement and a Reciprocal Defence Procurement in an effort to establish stable supply chains of arms and equipment.
- ✓ They also discussed General Electric's proposal to share technology with India for fighter jet engines and New Delhi's plan to procure 31 MQ-9B armed drones at a cost of over USD 3 billion from US's General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

## German Federal Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius's visit to India

- ✓ The Federal Minister of Defence of Germany, Boris Pistorius was on a 4-day official visit to India from June 5-8, 2023 for facilitating bilateral defence cooperation and exploring avenues for strategic partnership.
- ✓ Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and India's Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence hold talks to enhance bilateral defence cooperation, particularly industrial partnership.
- ✓ German defence major Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Indian Navy's (IN) P-75 India (P75I) Submarine Project in Mumbai, Maharashtra in the presence of German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius.

## Defence Minister of Vietnam General Phan Van Giang visit to India

- ✓ Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, General Phan Van Giang was on a 2 day visit to India from 18th to 19th June 2023. During his visit, he held bilateral talks with Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ During the meeting, the Indian side gifted an indigenously-built in-service missile corvette INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kirpan to Vietnam to enhance the capabilities of the Vietnam People's Navy.
- ✓ India will train Vietnamese personnel in submarine and fighter jet operations, cyber-security and electronic warfare, among other fields.

### About INS Kirpan

- ✓ The Navy commissioned INS Kirpan, a 1,350-tonne Khukri class missile corvette, on January 12, 1991.
- ✓ It has a length of 91 meters, a beam of 11 meters, and can reach speeds exceeding 25 knots.
- ✓ It is equipped with a medium-range gun, 30 mm close-range guns, chaff launchers, and surface-to-surface
- ✓ missiles, the ship is versatile and capable of various roles such as coastal and offshore patrol, coastal security, surface warfare, anti-piracy, and

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

## WHO has certified Belize as a malaria-free country.

- ✓ Belize has been certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO), becoming the second country in Central America to be granted malaria-free status.
- ✓ It has become the 43rd country to achieve malaria-free certification worldwide and the 25th country to eliminate malaria since 2000. The country has sustained its commitment to end malaria since the mid-1980s when thousands of malaria cases were recorded each year.
- ✓ Globally, increasingly more countries are approaching malaria elimination. According to the World Malaria Report 2022, 46 malaria-endemic countries have fewer than 10,000 indigenous malaria cases. WHO's E-2025 initiative has also identified 25 countries within reach of achieving zero cases of malaria between 2021-25.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for eliminating malaria in their territories. The certification follows a sustained, century-long effort to stamp out the disease by the two countries. Belize is the 3rd country to be certified this year.
- ✓ Belize is located on the northeast coast of Central America and south of the Yucatán Peninsula.

## Honduras requests entry to BRICS- led New development bank

- ✓ Honduras President Xiomara Castro formally requested the country's admission to the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) in a meeting with the bank's president, Dilma Rousseff.
- ✓ Headquartered in Shanghai, the New Development Bank was set up in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, collectively known as the BRICS countries.
- ✓ At present 9 members are there in NDB: Bangladesh Brazil China Egypt India Russia South Africa United Arab Emirates Uruguay.

## NATIONAL

### PM Narendra Modi visit to USA, Egypt.

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi made a 5-day visit to the United States of America from 20th to 24th June 2023, at the invitation of President of USA Joseph Robinette Biden Jr (Joe Biden) and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.



- ✓ So far, PM Modi has visited the USA 6 times (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019 & 2021) in his capacity as the PM of India. However, the June 2023 visit marks his first ever 'state visit' to the USA, which, as per diplomatic protocol, is the highest-ranked visit.
- ✓ In the USA, PM Narendra Modi was received by Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj.

#### Key Initiatives

- ✓ He led the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga 2023 (on June 21, 2023) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States and held bilateral talks with President Joe Biden in Washington, USA.
- ✓ During the visit to the US, World's leading aircraft engine maker, GE Aerospace signed an MoU with India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ PM Modi met with Sanjay Mehrotra, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Micron Technology Inc in Washington DC, USA and invited Micron to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India.
- ✓ Ahead of the PM's visit to the USA, The Union Cabinet of India has approved U.S. chipmaker Micron Technology's USD 2.75 billion plan to build a new semiconductor testing and packaging facility in Gujarat, India.
- ✓ During PM Modi's visit to the USA, India and USA signed agreements – Artemis Accords and Joint

Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2024, on cooperation in Space Research, which will take the bilateral relations to a new height.

- ✓ As per the joint statement issued by PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden, the United States and India announced a USD 2 million grant program for artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.
- ✓ Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) started exporting world's 1st Nano liquid Urea invented & manufactured indigenously in India by IFFCO to USA through signing an agreement with California-based Kapoor Enterprises Inc.
- ✓ India has been inducted into the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), a US-led collaboration of 14 countries that aims to catalyse public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.
- ✓ During his visit President of USA, Joseph Robinette Biden Jr (Joe Biden) and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, PM Narendra Modi addressed the joint sitting of the US Congress. He has become the first Indian PM to address the joint meeting of the US Congress for the second time. PM Modi previously addressed the Congress in 2016.
- ✓ Boeing, an Aerospace and defense manufacturer in the United States, has announced a USD 100 million investment in infrastructure and programs to train pilots in India.
- ✓ The three US tech giants of Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, have committed and announced major capital investments and technological cooperation in India for the growth of Indian technology.
- ✓ To strengthen defence ties with India, the government of the USA has signed a formal framework agreement on naval ship repair with Larsen & Toubro, the Indian defense shipbuilder.
- ✓ According to the joint statement issued by India and USA, both nations commit to set up the first multi-billion investment fund to achieve net carbon zero and clean energy transition goals.

**Gifts exchanged between Modi and Joe Biden**

- ✓ On the State visit to the United States, PM Narendra Modi presented special gifts from India to US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.
- ✓ **The Ten Principal Upanishads:** PM Modi gifted Joe Biden with a rare first edition print of The Ten Principal Upanishads, recognising the leader's profound admiration for Irish poet William Butler Yeats.
- ✓ 'The Ten Principal Upanishads', is an English translation of the Hindu religious text by Irish poet Yeats and Shri Purohit Swami.
- ✓ **Sandalwood box:** He also presented a special sandalwood box to Joe Biden that has been handcrafted by a master craftsman from Jaipur, Rajasthan. The sandalwood sourced from Mysore, Karnataka has intricately carved flora and fauna patterns.
- ✓ The box also contains the idol of Lord Ganesha, a Hindu deity considered the destroyer of obstacles and the one who is worshipped first among all gods, and its silver form has been handcrafted by a family of fifth-generation silversmiths of Kolkata.
- ✓ **Green Diamond:** Apart from this, PM Narendra Modi gifted the Green Diamond to First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.
- ✓ **Features of Green Diamond**
  - The lab-grown 7.5-carat green diamond reflects earth-mined diamonds' chemical and optical properties.
  - The diamond is eco-friendly in nature, and it emits only 0.028 grams of carbon per carat and is certified by the Gemological Lab, IGI (International Gemological Institute).
  - As the diamond is crafted using sustainable resources like solar and wind power, it also embodies eco-friendliness.
- ✓ **Antique American Book Galley & Vintage Camera:** U.S. President Biden and First Lady Jill presented a handmade, antique American book galley from the early 20th Century as the official gift to Prime Minister Modi.
- ✓ They also reportedly gifted a vintage American camera, accompanied by an archival facsimile print of George Eastman's Patent of the first Kodak

camera, a hardcover book on American wildlife photography, and a signed, first edition copy of 'Collected Poems.'

**PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Egypt**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Egypt for 2 days from June 24 to 25, 2023 at the invitation of Egyptian President El-Sisi and his visit marks the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Egypt in 26 years.



- ✓ On June 24, 2023, PM Narendra Modi met Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly-led India Unit, a group of high-level Ministers constituted by El-Sisi to improve the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

**Order of the Nile award**

- ✓ The Egyptian President conferred the country's highest state honour "Order of the Nile" award to the Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ **About the Order of the Nile Award:** It is Egypt's highest state honour.
- ✓ Instituted in 1915, the 'Order of the Nile' is conferred upon Heads of state, Crown Princes, and Vice-Presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.
- ✓ The 'Order of the Nile' is a pure gold collar consisting of three-square gold units comprising Pharaonic symbols.
- ✓ The first unit resembles the idea of protecting the state against evils, the second one resembles prosperity and happiness brought by the Nile, and the third one refers to wealth and endurance.
- ✓ The three units are connected by a circular gold flower decorated with turquoise and ruby.
- ✓ Hanging from the collar is a hexagonal pendant decorated with flowers of the Pharaonic style and turquoise and ruby gems.
- ✓ In the middle of the pendant, there is a protruding symbol representing the Nile that brings together the North (represented by the Papyrus) and the South (represented by the Lotus).
- ✓ Those who receive the 'Order of the Nile' shall be saluted upon their death.

**Visit to Pyramids of Giza**

- ✓ During his visit to Egypt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the iconic pyramids of Giza, which is considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World.
- ✓ The Pyramid of Giza serves as the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu, the ruler under the Fourth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom. The Great Pyramid of Giza is considered to be the largest Egyptian pyramid.
- ✓ The iconic pyramids were built in the early 26th century BC over a period of 27 years. Notably, the Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest of the 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- ✓ India and Egypt signed agreements on a strategic partnership as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo (Egypt).
- ✓ The four agreements that were signed include the agreement over development in the history of the bilateral relationship.
- ✓ Three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between both nations in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law.

**Union Cabinet approved introduction of NRF Bill, 2023**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM Narendra Modi approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament.
- ✓ The approved Bill would enable the establishment of NRF which will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- ✓ After approval of the bill in the Parliament, it will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of Rs 50,000 crore during five years (2023-28).
- ✓ Purpose of NRF: It will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an

interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries

**Union Cabinet approved Continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme**

- ✓ Continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme was approved by the CCEA to ensure constant availability of urea to the farmers at the same price of Rs 242/ 45 kg bag excluding taxes and neem coating charges.
- ✓ Rs. 3,68,676.7 Crore have been committed for urea subsidy for three years (2022-23 to 2024-25). This is apart from recently approved Nutrient Based Subsidy of Rs 38,000 Crore for Kharif season for 2023-24.
- ✓ Current MRP of urea is Rs 242 per 45 kg bag of urea (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable), whereas the actual cost of the bag comes around Rs. 2200.
- ✓ The Scheme is wholly financed by the GoI through budgetary support and the continuation of the scheme will increase the indigenous production of Urea to reach self-sufficiency levels.
- ✓ GoI has also increased the fertilizer subsidy from Rs 73,067 Crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 2,54,799 Crore in 2022-23.
- ✓ GoI plans to commission 8 Nano urea plants with production capacity of 44 Crore bottles equaling to 195 LMT of conventional urea by FY26.
- ✓ In order to make India 'Atmanirbhar' in Urea by 2025-26, GoI is setting up and revival of 6 urea production units at Chambal Ferti Ltd. – Kota Rajasthan, Matix Ltd. Panagarh West Bengal, Ramagundam-Telangana, Gorakhpur-UP, Sindri-Jharkhand and Barauni-Bihar.
- ✓ Indigenous production of urea has increased from the level of 225 LMT during 2014-15, to 250 LMT during 2021-22. In 2022-23, production capacity has increased to 284 LMT.

**Union Cabinet approved assistance to promote organic Fertilizers**

- ✓ GoI has approved assistance of Rs. 1451.84 crore for Market Development Assistance (MDA) for

promoting Organic Fertilizers from Gobardhan Plants.

- ✓ The approved package also consists of innovative incentive mechanism for the restoration, nourishment, and betterment of the mother earth.
- ✓ PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother – Earth (PMPRANAM) would incentivize States/ Union Territories to promote alternate fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

### Union Cabinet approved FRP of Sugarcane

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM Narendra Modi approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2023-24 (October – September) at Rs 315/qtl for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.
- ✓ It has also been approved to provide a premium of Rs 3.07/qtl for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10.25%, & reduction in FRP by Rs 3.07/qtl for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.
- ✓ GoI also decided that there should not be any deduction in case of sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5%.
- ✓ Such farmers would get Rs.291.975/qtl for sugarcane in ensuing sugar season 2023-24 in place of Rs 282.125/qtl in current sugar season 2022-23.
- ✓ The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2023-24 is Rs.157/qtl. This FRP of Rs.315/qtl at a recovery rate of 10.25% is higher by 100.6% over production cost.
- ✓ The FRP for sugar season 2023-24 is 3.28% higher than current sugar season 2022-23.
- ✓ The FRP approved shall be applicable for purchase of sugarcane from the farmers in the sugar season 2023-24 (starting w.e.f. 1st October, 2023) by sugar mills.

### Union Cabinet approved third revival package for BSNL

- ✓ The cabinet has approved the third revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) with a total outlay of Rs 89,047.82 crore that includes allotment of 4G/5G spectrum through equity infusion.

- ✓ The authorized capital of BSNL was increased from Rs 1,50,000 crore to Rs. 2,10,000 crore.
- ✓ With the third revival package, BSNL will emerge as a stable telecom service provider focused on providing connectivity to remotest parts of India. With the above budget allotment, BSNL could provide pan-India 4G and 5G services, provide 4G coverage in rural and uncovered villages under various connectivity projects, fixed wireless access (FWA) services for highspeed Internet, and services/ spectrum for captive non-public network (CNP).

### Union Cabinet approved increase in MSP for Kharif crops

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24.
- ✓ As per Third Advance Estimates for FY23, total Foodgrain production in India is estimated at a record 330.5 million tonnes which is higher by 14.9 million tonnes as compared to the FY22. This is the highest increase in the last 5 years.
- ✓ The MSP for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24 was increased in line with the Union Budget 2018- 19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production, aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

#### Crops

- ✓ The margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of bajra (82%) followed by tur (58%), soybean (52%) and urad (51%) and for rest of the crops it is estimated to be at least 50%.

### Union Cabinet approved Continuation of 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme'

- ✓ The CCEA chaired by PM Narendra Modi also approved the continuation of the central sector plan 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme' with an estimated expenditure of Rs 2,980 crore with extension of time period from 2021-22 to 2025-26

co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

- ✓ **Purpose:** The exploration for Coal and Lignite is required to prove and estimate the availability of coal resources in India, which would help further in preparing detailed project reports to start coal mining.

### Cabinet approves CITIIS 2.0 from 2023 to 2027

- ✓ To further expand the Smart Cities Program, the Union cabinet approved the 'City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)' to 18 more cities which will run for a period of four years, from 2023 to 2027.
- ✓ CITIIS 2.0 is an initiative developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- ✓ The funding for CITIIS 2.0 will include a loan of Rs 1,760 crore (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW (EUR 100 million each) and a technical assistance grant of Rs 106 crore (EUR 12 million) from the EU.

### GoI Amended the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020

- ✓ Government of India (GoI) has introduced two changes to the prevailing power tariff system, through an amendment to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.
- ✓ The changes are introduction of Time of Day (ToD) Tariff, and rationalization of smart metering provisions. Under the ToD Tariff system, Tariff during solar hours (duration of eight hours in a day as specified by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the day shall be 10%-20% less than the normal tariff, while the tariff during peak hours will be **10 to 20 percent higher**.
- ✓ ToD tariff would be applicable for Commercial and Industrial consumers having Maximum demand of 10 KW and above, from 1st April, 2024 and for all other consumers except agricultural consumers, latest from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025.

### Union Minister Jitendra Singh Inaugurated 'Lavender Festival' in J&K

- ✓ Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of state (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology inaugurated the two-day "Lavender Festival" in Baderwah Valley of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ✓ While inaugurating the festival, Jitendra Singh stated that **Bhaderwah** has emerged as the Lavender capital of India and a prominent Agri-Start-up destination.
- ✓ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, has organised the event as part of its One Week One Lab Campaign.

### MoPSW launched 'SAGAR SAMRIDHI', an Online Dredging Monitoring System

- ✓ On 9th June 2023, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), launched "Sagar Samridhi – Waste to Wealth", an online dredging monitoring system as part of the 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the MoPSW.
- ✓ The system is developed by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), the technological arm of MoPSW, and it replaces the previous Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system.
- ✓ Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the 9 scientific missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC).

### Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launches New CSR Guidelines 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog'

- ✓ On 27th June 2023, The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog' the new guidelines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways in New Delhi, Delhi. The new guidelines empower ports to undertake CSR



activities directly by addressing local community issues.

- ✓ The rules would impact Projects and programmes involved in the activities listed in Section 70 of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021.

### MoHUA launched 8th edition Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023 –

- ✓ On 27th June 2023, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Field Assessment for the 8th edition Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan. SS 2023 survey is expected to engage with approximately 10 crore citizens and making it the world's largest annual urban cleanliness survey.
- ✓ Under SS 2023, around 3,000 assessors will take the field for assessment from 1 July 2023 and will evaluate over 4500 cities across 46 indicators. It is expected to be completed within a month.
- ✓ SS 2023 was rolled out on 24th May 2022 with telephonic feedback from citizens on various parameters of city cleanliness.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan was first launched in 2016 under the aegis of MoHUA as an assessment tool to analyse and compare the status of sanitation of Indian cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Urban).

### PM Modi inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave for Civil Servants

- ✓ On 11th June 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave aimed at strengthening the training infrastructure for Civil Servants across India at an event held at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Conclave was hosted by the Capacity Building Commission and is organised under the authority of the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building – 'Mission Karmayogi'.
- ✓ The training modules nurture the potential of officials as well as instil the whole of government approach and spirit of Jan Bhagidari (people's participation).

### MSDE Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated 'Project Gajapati to Gabon', Gabon's 1st AgriSEZ Project

- ✓ On June 14, 2023, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), inaugurated Project Gajapati to Gabon and flagged off Gabon's first Agriculture Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Project & Power Transformers (T&D) Project from New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The establishment of the Agriculture and Food Processing Special Economic Zone in Gabon will enhance food security and self-sufficiency in Gabon.

### MoS Krishan Pal inaugurated 'UTPRERAK'

- ✓ On June 26, 2023, the Union Minister of State (MoS) Krishan Pal inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) namely 'Unnat Takniki Pradarshan Kendra (UTPRERAK)'/ 'Advanced Industrial Technology Demonstration Centre (AITDC)' at the National Power Training Institute (NPTI), Badarpur in New Delhi (Delhi). The MoS also released the logo of the Centre and released the brochure on the Centre.
- ✓ It aims to promote Energy Conservation and sustainable development in India by improved access to modern energy efficiency services, Technology and knowledge base.

### PM Narendra Modi Pens Song 'Abundance in Millets' with Grammy winner Falu

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has collaborated with Falguni Shah (Falu), an Indian-American singersongwriter, who is also a Grammy Award winner for a special song named 'Abundance in Millets' to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger.
- ✓ The single track 'Abundance in Millets' which was performed by Falu along with her husband (singer)

Gaurav Shah was released on June 16, 2023, on every streaming platform.

- ✓ The song which highlights the benefits of millet was written in English and Hindi and made accessible to everybody.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off 5 Vande Bharat trains from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ On 27th June 2023, Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister (PM) of India flagged off 5 new Vande Bharat trains connecting important cities in different parts of India from Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (MP). This is for the first time so many Vande Bharat trains have been launched in one day.
- ✓ These trains will improve economic connectivity across India by connecting various regions in Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Among the 5 trains, 2 trains were physically flagged off and 3 in virtual mode. The 5 new trains increased the total number of Vande Bharat Express trains to 23.

#### 5 Vande Bharat trains

- Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal, MP)-Jabalpur, MP
- Khajuraho (Bhopal, MP)-Indore, MP
- Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Dharwad-Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Hatia (Ranchi, Jharkhand)-Patna, Bihar
- Madhya Pradesh got 2 Vande Bharat trains.
- ✓ The trains are designed to run at a speed of 110 kmph to 130 kmph, the average running speed on the ground ranges between 63 to 96 kmph.

### Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off MV Empress, India's 1st International Cruise from Chennai

- ✓ On 5th June, 2023, The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the India's maiden International Cruise Vessel – MV Empress – from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN). It is built at a cost of Rs.17.21 crores.
- ✓ The cruise service is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the first

Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022 between Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd to start domestic and international cruise service.

- ✓ The modern cruise terminal developed at Chennai Port is spread over an area of 2,880 square metres with the ability to host 3,000 passengers at a time.
- ✓ The cruise service will go to three ports in Sri Lanka, Hambantota, Trincomalee and Kankekanturi.

### Rajasthan tops in Wind Energy Adoption during FY 2022-23; Gujarat & TN stands 2nd & 3rd

- ✓ On the event organised as a part of the Global Wind Day 2023 (15th June 2023) in New Delhi, Delhi, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MoNRE) felicitated Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu (TN) for being the top achiever during the financial year(FY) 2022-2023.
- ✓ Rajasthan was honoured for achieving the highest wind capacity addition.
- ✓ Gujarat was honoured for achieving the highest wind capacity addition through open access.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was honoured for initiating the repowering of wind turbines.
- ✓ The MoNRE joined the global celebration of Global Wind Day 2023 by organising the 1-day event under the central theme – “Pawan – Urja: Powering the Future of India”.

### Jettwings Airways, Northeast's first Airlines gets Approval for Flight operations

- ✓ On 14th June 2023, Jettwings Airways, a Guwahati (Assam)-based airline received the No objection certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of civil Aviation (MoCA) to operate as ‘Schedule Commuter Air Transport Services’ in the North eastern regions of India and aims to begin its services from October 2023. With this, Jettwings becomes the first-ever company from the Northeast region to start airline operations in India.
- ✓ Jettwings Airways plans to offer regional connectivity to passengers under the Centre's

Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) to several destinations in the Northeast and eastern Indian regions initially.

### Footwear industry to comply with Quality Control Orders from July 1, 2023

- ✓ On June 14, 2023, the Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) interacted with the representatives from the Indian Footwear Industry in New Delhi, Delhi, and decided to implement 'Footwear Made from Leather and Other Materials (Quality Control) Order, 2022' on 24 footwear products (those made with rubber and polymeric material and other components) **from July 1, 2023**.
- ✓ For 5 standards which have been revised recently, it was also decided to give six more months time to small industries (annual turnover less than Rs 50 crore and investment of Rs 10 crore) for complying with the order and accordingly, it will come into force from **January 1, 2024**.
- ✓ ii. Micro units (with an annual turnover of less than Rs 5 crore) will get an additional year and should follow the new norms **from July 1, 2024**

### MeitY joins hands with IITs to promote R&D of Nanoelectronics

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has joined hands with IITs (Indian Institute of Technologies) to promote research, development of nanoelectronics.
- ✓ Several initiatives have been undertaken by MeitY in the last five years to promote the Research and Development (R&D) of nanoelectronics in India. The most important of these initiatives is the establishment of Nanoelectronics Centres of international standards at premier institutes.
- ✓ Indian Nanoelectronics Users Programme-Idea to Innovation (INUP-i2i) is a flagship programme initiated and funded by MeitY.
- ✓ It is being implemented at the Centre of Excellence in Nanoelectronics (CEN) at IISc, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Guwahati and has provided a great opportunity for the R&D community all over the country for accessing state

of the art nanofabrication facilities for undertaking research and skill development in Nanoelectronics.

### VAIBHAV Fellowship Programme announced to connect Indian STEM diaspora with Indian Higher Educational Institutions

- ✓ On 15th June 2023, The Government of India has launched VAIBHAV (Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik), a new fellowship programme to connect the Indian STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine) diaspora with Indian institutions.
- ✓ As a first step the Government is announcing VAIBHAV Fellowship Call-2023.
- ✓ The VAIBHAV programme will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ✓ The VAIBHAV Fellowship scheme will facilitate academic and research collaborations between Indian higher education institutions and leading institutions abroad.
- ✓ In 2020, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the VAIBHAV Summit, a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians on Gandhi Jayanti, (2nd October).

### GoI withdraws draft Live-stock and Live-stock Products [Importation and Exportation] Bill, 2023

- ✓ On 20th June 2023, the Government of India (GoI) withdrew the draft of the Live-stock and Live-stock Products [Importation and Exportation] Bill, 2023, based on the objections from the section of the people including animal activists and religious groups.
- ✓ This Bill was "re-enactment" of the present Live-stock importation Act (1898), and Live-stock Importation (Amendment) Act of 2001.
- ✓ On 7th June 2023, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) released the draft bill and invited suggestions and objections up to 17th June 2023.
- ✓ Animal activists opposed the move to include canines and felines in the list of livestock.

**About the Bill**

- ✓ The bill was aimed at framing measures for the regulation of the importation of livestock and livestock products as well as promotion and development of exports of livestock and livestock products.
- ✓ According to the bill, definition of live-stock includes all equines (donkeys, horses, mules, asses, hinnies), bovines (cattle, buffaloes, bullocks), caprines, ovines, swines, canines, felines, avian, laboratory animals, aquatic animals and except those prohibited in any other act.

**MNRE Extends Timeline for Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power projects Scheme by Two Years till 2026**

- ✓ On 16th June 2023, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) extended the deadline for 'Development of Solar Parks and Ultra-Mega Solar Power Projects' by two years i.e. till 2026.
- ✓ The previous deadline for this project was scheduled to end in March 2024.
- ✓ This project was implemented with the aim to reduce project cost per MegaWatt (MW) and higher transmission losses.

**Women and Child Development Ministry discontinued its autonomous bodies RMK & CSWB**

- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) discontinued its two autonomous bodies, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), as well as its internal division namely Food and Nutrition Board (FNB).
- ✓ This decision is a part of the Ministry of Finance's rationalization exercise to shut down departments and sections that no longer have relevance in the current scenario.

**About RMK**

- ✓ Launched in 1993 to extend collateral-free credit to women in the informal sector, it was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. In November 2020, the 'Rationalisation of Government Bodies' report by the Chief Economic Adviser (Then- Krishnamurthy Subramanian)

recommended its closure, citing the availability of alternative credit options like microcredit schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and PM Mudra Yojana. The move will help in avoiding duplicity.

**About CSWB**

- ✓ Formed in 1953 as a charitable company, it was one of the first efforts by the Indian government to build a body on the principle of voluntarism, and aims to function like a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). It was registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 to promote social welfare organizations, study their needs, and provide aid to Panchayati Raj institutions. It has been mostly inactive for some time now.

**GoI extends timeline for Loan/Completion of Ethanol Projects till September 30, 2023**

- ✓ Government of India (GoI) has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to 30 September 2023 in a move to strengthen ethanol production in India under the 'scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity'.
- ✓ The extended timeline for ethanol projects tends to boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange on account of crude oil imports and reduce air pollution.

**PM Modi launched 2 Schemes Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI Yojana to revive wetlands and mangroves**

- ✓ On World Environment Day 2023 (June 05, 2023), Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched two schemes named Amrit Dharohar Yojana and MISHTI Yojana (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), to revive wetlands and mangroves across India.

**About Amrit Dharohar Yojana**

- ✓ The scheme was launched to conserve the existing Ramsar sites and achieve sustainable ecosystem development through public participation over the

next three years, and make them as the centres of ecotourism and a source of green jobs for thousands of people.

#### **About MISHTI Yojana**

- ✓ In the Union Budget 2023-24, the Union govt announced the scheme MISHTI for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, wherever feasible, through convergence between MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) Fund and other sources.
- ✓ The scheme envisages to comprehensively explore the possible area for the development of mangroves covering nearly 540 sq km, spreading across 9 states and 4 union territories (UTs) over 5 years(2023- 2028), starting from FY24.
- ✓ Under the scheme, best practices on plantation techniques, management practices, conservation measures and resource mobilization would be shared through the public-private partnership route.

#### **IREDA participated in “Intersolar Europe 2023” exhibition in Germany**

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India(GoI) enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), participated in the three-day “Intersolar Europe 2023” exhibition held in Munich, Germany from 14th to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- ✓ The exhibition aimed to educate visitors on IREDA’s initiatives in financing renewable energy projects, promoting energy efficiency, and promoting the growth of renewable energy in India.
- ✓ The inauguration of the pavilion was carried out by Chief Managing Director(CMD), IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das.

#### **ITU approves Bharat 6G vision framework “IMT-2030”**

- ✓ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a United Nations (UN)’s agency for Telecom has approved the Bharat 6th Generation (6G) vision framework named “IMT(International Mobile Telecommunications)- 2030” at its 44th meeting of

the ITU-R WP 5D (ITU- Radiocommunication sector Working Party 5D) held in Geneva, Switzerland from June 12 to June 22, 2023.

#### **Global DPI Summit 2023 held in Pune; MoU signed between India & 4 Nations on sharing INDIA STACK**

- ✓ On June 12-13, 2023, the Global DPI Summit 2023 was held as the part of the side event of third meeting of G20 (Group of Twenty) Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the presence of Ministers from 9 countries namely Suriname, Armenia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago.
- ✓ **Theme:** Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Ease of Living, Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Governance.

#### **Signing of MoU between India and 4 Nations**

The event saw the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the four countries of Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, and Antigua and Barbuda on sharing INDIA STACK i.e. successful digital solutions implemented at population scale.

India Stack is a set of digital infrastructure components that enable the delivery of various digital services to Indian citizens by utilizing Aadhaar, eSign, Digilocker, and Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

#### **India, US launched INDUS-X for Technology and Defence Industry Cooperation**

On June 21, 2023, The Ministry of Defense (MoD), Government of India(GoI) and the Department of Defense (DoD), government of the United States of America(USA) officially launched the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) at an event held in Washington DC, USA to expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions.

## STATES

### Greater Chennai Police launched India's first 'Police Drone Unit' in Chennai

- ✓ On 29th June 2023, The Greater Chennai Police(GCP), a division of the Tamil Nadu(TN) Police, launched the 'Police Drone Unit', the first in India, for aerial surveillance in Chennai, TN. Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force C. Sylendra Babu inaugurated the Unit at Besant Avenue, Adyar, Chennai. The unit was established at a cost of Rs 3.6 crore.
- ✓ The unit, has a total of 9 drones under three categories – Quick Response Surveillance drones, heavy-lift multi-rotor drones, and Long Range Survey wing plane.
- ✓ These drones are equipped with built-in artificial intelligence (AI) facilities and can be operated upto 5- 10km from the ground station. The drones with thermal object imaging facilities will also help in night patrolling
- ✓ The drones are equipped with ANPR (automatic number plate registration) cameras which helps to check vehicles registration data.
- ✓ It will also help to monitor movements in isolated places and gatherings of anti-social elements

### Raja Parba Festival of Odisha: Celebration of Womanhood and Earth

- ✓ Raja Parba of Odisha, also known as Swing Festival, is an annual 3 day festival celebrated during the month of Asadha (usually starts on 14th June and ends on 16th June) dedicated to honouring Earth and celebrating womanhood.
- ✓ The festival also marks the beginning of monsoon. Raja Parba 2023 is celebrated from 14th June to 16th June 2023.
- ✓ Raja is the shorthand of the word Rajaswala, which means a menstruating woman.
- ✓ The first day is celebrated as Raja Sankranti or Pahili Raja, the second day is celebrated as Mithun Sankranti or Raja and the third day is celebrated as Bhudaha or Basi Raja (the day after raja).

- ✓ The fourth day is celebrated as Vasumati Sanana, signifies the end of the mensuration of the earth.

### Wihu Kuh festival of Tangsa Tribe showcases Arunachal Pradesh's vibrant culture

- ✓ Tangsa, the traditional tribal community of Arunachal Pradesh (AP) celebrated the annual festival 'Wihu Kuh' in June 2023.
- ✓ Wihu Kuh, translating to "paddy transplantation festival", marks the beginning of the agricultural season and a cultural exhibition that enclose the spirit of the Tangsa people.
- ✓ This festival is a time of labour and hope, it is also a period of happiness, as the tribe welcomes the prospect of an abundant harvest.
- ✓ **About Tangsa tribe:** Tangsa is a tribal community which is deeply rooted in their agricultural traditions, living mainly in the verdant hills of the Changlang district of AP.

### India's first, Hydrogen-Powered Trains to run from Jind district of Haryana

- ✓ Indian Railways is set to introduce its first hydrogen train, expected to start operating from Jind district in Haryana by March 2024. The first prototype of the hydrogen train is scheduled to run between the Jind-Sonipat (Haryana) Section of Northern Railway in the fiscal year 2023-2024.
- ✓ Hydrogen trains use hydrogen fuel cells instead of diesel engines, and those cells produce electricity by combining hydrogen and water, which generates electricity used to power the train's motor.
- ✓ India's first hydrogen plant is being established near the railway junction in Jind (Haryana) district, in order to support this initiative.
- ✓ The hydrogen plant is in its final phase of development and is expected to be completed by December 2023.
- ✓ Currently, trains in India run on diesel and electricity and it is claimed that hydrogen powered trains have been running only in Germany.

## 7 Handicrafts Products from Uttar Pradesh Get Geographical Indication Tag

- ✓ Geographical Indication Registry(Chennai, Tamil Nadu-TN) under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade(DIPIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoCI), has recognised 7 Handicrafts products from Uttar Pradesh with Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

### The 7 products are

- Amroha Dholak.
- Kalpi Handmade Paper.
- Baghpat Home Furnishings.
- Barabanki Handloom Product.
- Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip.
- Mainpuri Tarkashi.
- Sambhal Horn Craft.

- ✓ With the addition of these 7 new products, the total number of GI certified products in **India has risen to 465.**
- ✓ UP tops the list of state with highest number of GI-tagged handicrafts. Out of the 52 products to its credit 40 are crafts goods. Varanasi has a total of 23 GI products of which 18 belongs to handicraft products.

## Union Government sanctioned Rs 12,911 crore for the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Union government sanctioned Rs 12,911 crore to Andhra Pradesh for completing the first phase of the Polavaram Project, which also includes an additional Rs 2,000 crore for the construction of the diaphragm wall, which was washed away due to the Godavari floods.
- ✓ The Polavaram Irrigation Project is on the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village of Polavaram Mandal in Eluru district, where Godavari emerges out of the last range of the Eastern Ghats and enters the plains in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ This project interlinks Godavari and Krishna rivers by diverting 80 TMC of water to the Krishna river basin. The Water Resources Department of AP is

the Executing Agency for Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) on behalf of Govt. of India for the timely execution of the project.

## Madhya Pradesh Government adopts Cooperative Policy 2023

- ✓ On 14th June 2023, the cabinet meeting chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the Co-operative Policy 2023, with an aim to strengthen the cooperative movement and create jobs in the co-operative sector.
- ✓ Through this initiative, MP has become the first state to have implemented a cooperative policy.
- ✓ This policy focuses on the preparation and implementation of the public co-operative partnership (PCP) model, which means cooperative organisations would collaborate with government entities.

## Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launches Panchayat level Medicine shop scheme

- ✓ On 19th June 2023, Jharkhand Chief Minister (CM) Hemant Soren launched a 'panchayat-level medicine shop' scheme in Chatra district, Jharkhand, by handing over the licences to 21 educated youth of rural areas to operate medicine shops in panchayats. The scheme aims to ensure the availability of essential medicines in remote villages and to promote employment.
- ✓ Under this scheme, medical shops will be established in every village of Jharkhand and provide essential and compulsory medicines to the people.

## The IT department in Himachal Pradesh has been renamed as the Digital Technology Department.

- ✓ The Himachal Pradesh(HP) government has renamed its Department of Information Technology(IT) as the Department of Digital Technologies and Governance and the approval to this effect was given by the state cabinet of HP. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to have this nomenclature to transform the state into a digitally advanced state.

### MP CM inaugurated Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojna's fund transfer

- ✓ On 10th June 2023, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) inaugurated the 'Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana' by depositing an amount of Rs 1000 each in the accounts of 1.25 crore women of the state, during the event held in Garrison Ground, Jabalpur, MP.
- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh Government had plans to increase the assistance to Rs.3000 per month in future.
- ✓ On 5th March 2023, MP CM launched the Ladli Bahna Scheme to strengthen the economic status of the women and girls of MP.

### ADB to Fund USD 130 Million Loan for Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ On 8th June 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and The Government of India signed a USD 130 million loan for the Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition Project to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This agreement is based on the outcome of ADB's project readiness facility which demonstrated the subtropical horticulture production over 200 hectares and prepared the draft water user association (WUA) act and the draft state horticulture development strategy.

### ADB approves USD 295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar

- ✓ On June 22, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 295 million loan to improve transport connectivity in Bihar.
- ✓ The loan amount will be utilized towards the widening and upgradation of around 265 kilometres of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in Bihar.
- ✓ The Government is contributing USD 156.6 million for the same.

### World Bank Approves USD 391 Million in Financing for Assam and Tripura

- ✓ On 26th, June, 2023, World Bank approved USD 391 million in financing to improve healthcare services and economic opportunities in India's northeastern states of Assam and Tripura. The funding aims to enhance access to high-quality healthcare services and economic development in these regions of northeast India.
- ✓ The World Bank's support for these projects underscores its commitment to the development efforts of the Government of India in the northeast region.
- ✓ By improving healthcare access and promoting economic development, these initiatives will contribute to a better quality of life and increased productivity in Assam and Tripura.
- ✓ The Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project will receive USD 251 million to improve access to secondary healthcare services.
- ✓ The Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project will receive USD 140 million to promote socioeconomic development and improve the lives of tribal populations.

### World Bank Grants USD 300M Loan to Improve Education in Chhattisgarh

- ✓ On 27th June, 2023, The World Bank has approved a USD 300 million loan, with maturity of 18.5 years along with a grace period of 5 years, to enhance the quality of education in government-run schools in Chhattisgarh, India under the project CHALK (Chhattisgarh Accelerated Learning for a Knowledge Economy Operation) which aims to benefit 4 million students, particularly those from poor and vulnerable communities.
- ✓ The World Bank's USD 300 million loan for CHALK signifies a substantial investment in Chhattisgarh's education sector. CHALK will establish and operate 600 model composite schools from Grades 1 to 12, offering science and commerce programs at the senior secondary level.



## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### Tata AIA Revolutionizes Insurance Payments with WhatsApp and UPI Integration

- ✓ On 28th June, 2023, Tata AIA, the life insurance arm backed by Tata Group, has introduced a first of its kind feature in the insurance industry by enabling digital payments through WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI). This allows policyholders to make instant premium payments using these popular platforms, providing a hassle-free experience. This move showcases Tata AIA's commitment to leveraging technology and enhancing customer satisfaction.

### UST Joins Project Rosalind to Develop API Prototypes for CBDC

- ✓ On 28 June 2023, Digital Transformation Solutions Provider UST joined Project Rosalind, an initiative led by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Bank of England (BoE) to develop Application programming interface (API) prototypes for central bank digital currencies (CBDC).
- ✓ The project aims to explore the potential impact of CBDCs on various sectors and to develop a well-designed API layer that can enable interaction between a central bank ledger and private sector service providers for safe and efficient retail CBDC payments.
- ✓ Project Rosalind has advanced central bank innovation by exploring the role of API layers in supporting retail CBDC systems and facilitating safe and secure CBDC payments through various use cases.

### NASSCOM signed MoU with MIDAS & MAG to set up 1st launch pad in UK for Indian tech SMEs

- ✓ On 29th June 2023, The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the leading organisation representing India's technology industry, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MIDAS (Manchester's Inward Investment Agency) and MAG (Manchester

Airports Group) to establish first NASSCOM launch pad in the United Kingdom (UK) to promote innovation, investment, and technological exchange between Greater Manchester (UK), and India.

- ✓ Under this MoU, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) Indian tech companies seeking to establish their presence in Greater Manchester (the UK) will have the opportunity to access 180 days of rent-free office space within Manchester Airport's premises.

### World Bank unveils debt payment pause, IMF touts \$100 bn for poorest

- ✓ On 22nd June 2023, World Bank announced a new and expanded toolkit to support the countries towards crisispreparedness, response, and recovery during the "Summit for a New Global Financial Pact" held in Paris, France.

#### The tool kit includes

- Offering a pause in debt repayments for the most vulnerable countries in times of crisis or catastrophe.
- Redirecting financing – Giving countries new flexibility to quickly redirect a portion of their funds for emergency response.
- Linking crisis preparedness and financing – To allow more countries to build emergency systems and have quick-disbursing finance available in times of crisis.
- Backstopping development projects with private sector support. – This will enable businesses to sustain operations and protect jobs, building resilience and long-term sustainability.
- Building enhanced catastrophe insurance for providing resources without adding to the debt.
- ✓ During the summit, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced that IMF has reached its target of making USD 100 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs) available for vulnerable nations.

## SEBI introduces framework for Direct Mutual Fund Investment Platforms

- ✓ On June 13, 2023, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a regulatory framework for online investment (Execution Only) Platforms that facilitate investments in direct (commission-free) plans of schemes of mutual fund (MF) w.e.f. **September 01, 2023**.
- ✓ This brings clarity on obligations of such platforms, and also addresses investor concerns on associated risks and introduces grievance redressal mechanism.
- ✓ This introduction followed the public consultation and discussions in the MF Advisory Committee where it has been decided to prescribe a framework for Execution Only Platforms for transacting in direct plans of schemes of MF. In this regard, the SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992 have been amended.
- ✓ This circular by SEBI is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the SEBI Act, 1992 to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of the securities market.

## World Bank Approves USD 255.5 Million loan to Enhance Technical Education in India

- ✓ On June 26, 2023, one of the World Bank's institutions International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) granted a USD 255.5 million loan to India with a maturity period of 14 years, including a grace period of five years, to improve the quality of technical education and expand career opportunities for students.
- ✓ The project will span five years and benefit around 275 government-run technical institutions, reaching over 3.5 lakh students annually.
- ✓ The World Bank's support for India's technical education sector aims to equip students with the necessary skills for the evolving job market, promote gender equality, and foster research and innovation.

## IITMRP & RBIH Collaborates to Launch Voice Banking Solution

- ✓ IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP), not for profit company promoted by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN) and IITM Incubation Cell (IITMIC) have joined hands with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce voice-banking solutions to eliminate language barriers across India.
- ✓ The voice-based banking solution aims at conducting basic banking transactions through voice- controls in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and English, in the initial stage.
- ✓ Voice-banking will assist the illiterate and the visually impaired in their banking needs.
- ✓ IITMRP, IITMIC, and RBIH partnered with State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and IDFC First Bank for the 'Vaultor Voice' voice banking hackathon at IIT Madras Research Park. The event aimed to explore voice-based banking solutions, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and leading banks.

## IFC & NaBFID Signed MoU to Develop PPP Projects and Strengthen Infrastructure

- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a part of the World Bank Group, and National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on June 2, 2023, to develop a pipeline of investment-ready public-private partnership (PPP) projects in infrastructure across India.
- ✓ The MoU would support India's target of achieving a USD 5-trillion economy while fostering low-carbon and climate-resilient growth.
- ✓ The MoU was signed by Rajkiran Rai G, Managing Director, NaBFID and Thomas Lubeck, Manager, Asia Pacific Public-Private Partnership, Transaction Advisory Services, IFC.
- ✓ Under the MoU, IFC and NaBFID would collaborate and identify and develop PPP projects and provide comprehensive transaction advisory services.

- ✓ The PPP projects would be selected and implemented based on sustainability as well as climate adaptation and mitigation.

### Tata Steel signs MoU with Germany's SMS group to cut carbon emissions

- ✓ On 14th June 2023, Tata Steel Ltd, a part of Tata Group, and Germany's SMS group GmbH signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on decarbonisation of the steel making process. Under this MoU, Tata Steel and SMS Group will undertake technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt (electric-assisted syngas smelter) technology, developed by SMS group.
- ✓ The demonstration will be conducted at the 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant, with an aim to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) emission by more than 50% from blast furnace's baseline operation.
- ✓ EASyMelt is an ironmaking solution which can be implemented in existing integrated steel plants to accelerate decarbonisation.
- ✓ Tata steel aims to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2045.
- ✓ 9% of global carbon emissions is caused by Steel production, according to the World Steel Association
- ✓ India being the second-largest steel producer in the world after China. China is also the largest contributor to carbon emissions which is due to 'Blast Furnace Ovens' used in Chinese steel plants.

### L&T and BSNL Partner for Private 5G Network Solutions

- ✓ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Technology Services Limited (LTTS) has partnered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide private 5G(Fifth-generation) network solutions for global enterprises providing faster connection speed and lower latency.
- ✓ According to International Data Corporation (IDC), private 5G networks unlock companies Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and the Internet of Things (IoT) and is expected to grow beyond

USD 8 billion by 2026 at an annual growth rate of 35.7% from 2022.

### ADB launches India CPS for 2023-27; Focus on Employment Creation, Green Growth

- ✓ On May 23, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) rolled out its 'India Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2023-2027: Catalyze Robust, Climate resilient, and inclusive growth' to assist India in its efforts to achieve sustainable, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth for the next five years.
  - ✓ **Aim of CPS:** To support India to catalyze robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth. The CPS is well aligned with India's national development priorities to be achieved by 2047, when India marks 100 years of independence.
- 3pillars of CPS**
- ✓ **Pillar 1:** Accelerate Structure Transformation and Job creation through convergence of logistics–industry–urban–skilling programs, coupled with support for Micro, Small, And Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).
  - ✓ **Pillar 2:** Promote Climate Resilient Green Growth: Under this, climate-resilient growth will be promoted with customized engagements in climate change mitigation and adaptation through the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP), as well as integrating environment and disaster risk management.

- ✓ **Pillar3:** Deepen Social and Economic Inclusiveness: The social and economic inclusiveness will be improved by rebalancing ADB's portfolio more towards human development in health, social protection, and education; basic urban services; and agriculture and rural development.

#### Themes of CPS

Domestic Resource Mobilization  
 Gender equality and Social Inclusion  
 Digitalization, fintech, and innovation ecosystem support  
 Regional Cooperation and integration

### **Kiwi launches 'credit on UPI' platform to enable credit service on UPI**

- ✓ Kiwi, a ground-breaking credit card platform, has launched its all-inclusive 'Credit on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)' customer solution, thereby, transforming how credit cards are issued and utilized.
- ✓ Kiwi, the first app in India to receive certification from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will enable customers to experience "Credit on UPI" by issuing Rupay Cards in collaboration with banks.
- ✓ This allows users to securely make payments using either a credit card or bank account through their phones.
- ✓ It has set an ambitious goal to become the leading issuer of RuPay credit cards by 2026.
- ✓ RBI allowed linking of RuPay credit cards to the UPI platform in June 2022.

### **RBL Bank Introduces ACE Fixed Deposit Scheme, offering up to 8.50% Interest Rate**

- ✓ RBL bank Ltd introduced a new fixed deposit scheme named 'ACE Fixed Deposit scheme' with an interest of up to 8.50% to provide better saving options for its customers.
- ✓ The Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme is available for terms ranging from 12 months to 20 years, and the customers will have additional alternatives for banks and prizes under the new plan.
- ✓ The minimum deposit value of the FD scheme is Rs 50 lakh and maximum deposit value is Rs 2 crore.
- ✓ Eligibility – The scheme is available to both resident and non-resident Indians.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the bank is offering 20 bps higher rate of interest, over and above the regular callable deposits (Fixed Deposit with premature withdrawal). Moreover, senior citizens and super senior citizens getting 50 bps and 75 bps higher interest rate respectively.
- ✓ Senior Citizens/Super Senior Citizens rates are not applicable on Non-Resident Fixed Deposits (NRE/NRO).

### **BoB launches ICCW facility for cash withdrawals using UPI on its ATMs**

- ✓ On June 5, 2023, the Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility which would enable a customer to withdraw cash using UPI (Unified Payments Interface) from the bank's ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) without using the physical debit card.
- ✓ BoB became the 1st public sector bank (PSB) to launch the ICCW service.
- ✓ The ICCW facility would give customers a simple, convenient and secure way to withdraw cash without the use of a physical card.
- ✓ Customers of BoB and other participating issuer banks that use BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) UPI, BoB World UPI or any other UPI application enabled for ICCW on their mobile phone could withdraw cash from a BoB ATM.
- ✓ Withdrawal Limit: Only two transactions were allowed per account/day with a withdrawal limit of Rs 5,000 per transaction.

### **JPMorgan Partners with 6 Indian banks to trial blockchain-based USD settlement**

- ✓ JPMorgan Chase & Co, the largest bank by assets under management in the United States (US), has joined forces with six leading Indian banks to launch a pilot program designed to test a blockchain-based platform for the settlement of interbank US Dollar transactions.
- ✓ The 6 Indian banks to be joining in the pilot program to test the new blockchain-based platforms include HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank and JPMorgan's own banking subsidiary at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- ✓ Under the pilot, the six Indian banks will open on-chain Nostro accounts with JPMorgan's branch in Gift City.

### **In a first, IOB launches 'My Account My Name' for SB Account Holders**

- ✓ On June 12, 2023 the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched 'My Account My Name', a scheme to

enable its Savings Bank (SB) account customers to choose any easy to remember 7 Digit/Character Account Name as their saving account number.

- ✓ This first-of-its-kind scheme in the banking industry was launched by Ajay Kumar Srivastav, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IOB from IOB's central office in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).
- ✓ The scheme will be available in all 49 regional offices of IOB across India.
- ✓ Under this feature, The account name can be a combination of seven letters only or seven numbers only or seven alphanumeric — like AJIT007, PRADHAN or 2424707 and others.

### **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Launched new Deposit Scheme 'Vikas Ashadeep 400 days'**

- ✓ Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has introduced a new deposit scheme named 'Vikas Ashadeep 400 days'. The scheme was launched by Shreekant M Bhandiwad, Chairman of KVGB.
- ✓ The scheme is of a tenor of 400 days with an interest rate of 7.50% for senior citizens and 7% for the general public. Customers of the scheme could earn higher interest for a shorter period i.e. almost 13 months.
- ✓ A minimum of Rs 10,000 and a maximum of Rs 2 crore can be deposited under the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme is applicable to all segments of depositors, including senior citizens, and institutions.

### **PNB launches IVR-based UPI 123PAY to enable UPI Transactions without Internet**

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB), has become the first public sector bank to launch an Interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) solution, UPI 123PAY, in accordance with the Digital Payment Vision 2025 of a cashless and cardless society.
- ✓ Now the launch of offline IVR-based facility UPI 123PAY would enable the customers to make UPI-based transactions, at any time with any phone from

anywhere in India i.e. even if they do not have access to smartphones or internet connectivity.

- ✓ This function is also available for non-PNB customers. The UPI 123PAY will be multilingual and be available in the customer's preferred language.

### **Fino Payments Bank joins Hubble Money to introduce Spending Account**

- ✓ Fino Payments Bank Ltd. has partnered with Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based fintech company Hubble Money to introduce India's and world's first spending account aimed at helping customers manage their finances, track expenses, and earn rewards on purchases. This partnership is made under Fino Payments Bank's Fino 2.0 initiative to strengthen its digital offerings and enhance the overall customer experience.
- ✓ It will target GenZ and millennial customers, and cater to their aspirations and lifestyle changes.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank Launched 'Active Money' Facility to earn FD like interest up to 7%**

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) has launched a facility named 'Active Money' or Flexi Fixed Deposit, which provides Current/Savings Account holders with fixed deposit (FD)-like interest rates of up to 7% per annum. Process of Active Money Facility:
- ✓ Under the Active money facility, the surplus funds from the customers' Current/Savings Account are transferred in multiples of Rs 10,000 to a 180-day FD whenever the balance in Current/Savings Account crosses above a threshold (specified by the account variety).
- ✓ Then the money is again transferred automatically back to Current/Savings Account whenever there is a short fall in Current/Savings Account balance.
- ✓ Thus the facility enables the customer to earn Fixed Deposit interest up to 7% per annum for part of the balance lying idle and at the same time enjoy liquidity in Current/Savings Account.

## Axis Bank launches One-View – Multi-Bank Aggregator Feature on its Mobile App

- ✓ On June 21, 2023, Axis Bank launched its latest feature, 'One-View' on 'Axis Mobile', a banking Application of Axis Bank, to enable the users to manage their accounts across the different bank, including non-axis accounts.
- ✓ Axis Bank became the 1st private sector bank to launch a new-age banking feature using the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem to create a seamless banking experience for its customers.
- ✓ This feature enables customers to access multiple bank accounts on one single platform, and track their balances, transaction statements, and spends on a real-time basis.

## Canara Bank Becomes 1st PSB to launch UPI payments to merchants via RuPay Credit Cards

- ✓ On June 26, 2023, Canara Bank became the first Public Sector Bank (PSB) in India to introduce the facility of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments to merchants through RuPay Credit Card, in association with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).
- ✓ This facility is made available at 'Canara ai1' Banking Super App of the Bank.
- ✓ Currently only Merchant Payments are allowed using this facility, and Person-to-Person, Card-to-Card, or Cash-Out Transactions will not be permitted for UPI payments from RuPay Credit Cards.
- ✓ This facility enables the bank customers to make UPI payments to merchants from their RuPay Credit Cards. They can also link their Canara Bank RuPay Credit Cards to their UPI IDs.

## Go Digit Gets IRDAI Approval to Carry Life Insurance Business in India

- ✓ On June 02, 2023, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted the Certificate of Registration (CoR) to Go Digit Life Insurance Limited (Go Digit) to carry out life insurance business in India.

- ✓ The approval brings the total number of insurers in the Indian life insurance segment to 26. ``Go Digit is backed by Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax Financial Holdings.
- ✓ Go Digit General Insurance is also proposing to come out with an Initial public offering(IPO) and has already filed papers with markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

## Microfinance Loan Portfolio increased by 22% in FY23

- ✓ According to the data released by MFIN (Microfinance Institutions Network), the Gross loan portfolio of the microfinance industry increased by 22% in FY23 to Rs 3.5 lakh crore, serving 6.6 crore unique borrowers.
- ✓ The number of active microfinance loan accounts increased by 14.6% to 13 crore as on March 2023.
- ✓ NBFC-MFIs (Non-Banking Finance Companies – Microfinance institutions) continued to be the largest provider of micro-credit in terms of loans outstanding, with their share of the total industry portfolio rising to 40% in FY23 from 35.2% in FY22.
- ✓ With a market share of 34% banks held the second place followed by small finance banks(SFB) at 16.6%.
- ✓ Other NBFCs accounted for 8.5% share and other MFIs accounted for 1%.

## LIC – launches close-ended 'Dhan Vridhhi' plan

- ✓ On June 23, 2023, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched the non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single-premium, close-ended life insurance plan, named 'Dhan Vridhhi' to offer a combination of protection and savings.
- ✓ The plan was being available for sale from June 23 to September 30, 2023. The plan provides financial support for the family in case of the unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.
- ✓ As the plan is being a single premium plan, there is no future premium obligation and no lapsation.
- ✓ The plan is available for 10, 15 or 18 years of term. The minimum age at entry varies from 90 days to 8 years.

## Fiscal Deficit target in FY23 Reduced to 6.36% of GDP: CGA Data

- ✓ According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit target in FY23 was reduced to 6.36% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) against 6.4% in the revised estimates (RE) due to lower- than-estimated revenue expenditure.
- ✓ Fiscal deficit for FY23 was at Rs 17.33 trillion, or 98.7% of the RE of Rs 17.55 trillion due to the reduction in higher tax, non-tax revenue collections and non-debt capital receipts.
- ✓ The net tax revenue in FY23 reached marginally higher (by 0.5%) at Rs 20.97 trillion than the RE of Rs 20.86 trillion.
- ✓ The non-tax revenues for FY23 were at Rs 2.86 trillion, or nearly 9.3% higher than the RE.
- ✓ In FY23, the Revenue expenditure got decreased to Rs 34.5 trillion, slightly lower than the RE of Rs 34.59 trillion. The capex increased to Rs 7.36 trillion from RE of Rs 7.27 trillion.
- ✓ The revenue deficit for FY23 was also contained at 3.9% of GDP against the RE of 4.1%.
- ✓ The lower revenue-expenditure-to-capital-expenditure ratio at decreased to 4.7 in FY23 compared with 5.4 in FY22.

## OECD Projects India's GDP Growth in FY24 at 6% & FY23 at 7.2%

- ✓ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Economic Outlook, has marginally increased India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for 2023-24 (FY24) to 6%, from its earlier projection of 5.9%.
- ✓ India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 was estimated at 7.2% due to higher-than-expected agriculture output and strong government spending.
- ✓ OECD estimates inflation in India in FY24 at 4.8%, slower than Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 5.2%.
- ✓ India's economic growth in FY25 projected to 7%, lower than its April projection of 7.1%. Inflation in FY25 is projected to be 4.4%, compared with the earlier estimation of 4.2%.

## S&P projects India's GDP at 6% for FY24, Fastest Growing in Asia Pacific

- ✓ On June 26, 2023, the S&P Global Ratings released its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific namely 'Economic Research: Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2023: Domestic Demand, Inflation Relief Support Asia's Outlook' stating India as the fastest growing economy among Asia Pacific nations.
  - ✓ In this, the S&P Global Rating retained its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at 6% for fiscal year 2023-2024.
  - ✓ GDP is projected to rise to 6.9% for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and rise to 7.1% in 2026-27.
  - ✓ India leads, with an average growth of 7% in 2024-2026.
  - ✓ India, Vietnam, and the Philippines continue to lead, with average growth of 6.7%, 6.6%, and 6.1% in 2023-2026.
- Inflation**
- ✓ Retail inflation is likely to soften to 5% in 2023 (FY2023-24) from 6.7% in 2022 (FY2022-23) citing normal monsoon and softer crude prices as primary reasons.
  - ✓ It will be 4.5% in 2024 (FY 2024-25) and 2025 (FY2025-26), and 4.8% in 2026 (FY 2026-27).
  - ✓ The update expected India's policy rate for 2023 at 6.25%, and 5.25% in 2024, 5% in 2025 and 2026.

## Tata Group to Establish India's 1st Lithium-ion Cell Manufacturing Gigafactory in Gujarat

- ✓ On 2nd June 2023, Tata Agaratas Energy Storage Solutions Private Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Group, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to establish a lithium- ion cell manufacturing giga factory in Sanand region, Gujarat.
- ✓ This giga-factory in Gujarat will produce the 1st ever lithium-ion cells in India. The plant is expected to start in less than 3 years
- ✓ The MoU was signed under the New Gujarat Electronics Policy 2022-2028, made under the guidance of Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel.

- ✓ This plant will have an estimated initial investment of around Rs.13,000 crore and will have a production capacity of 20 Gigawatt hours (GWh).
- ✓ The plant will help generate direct and indirect employment for some 13,000 individuals.
- ✓ The plant will help reduce Gujarat's dependence on China and South Korea, which currently supply battery cells to India

### UAE emerges as fourth largest investor in India in FY23

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become India's fourth largest investor in the fiscal year 2022-23 following the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries in May 1, 2022.
- ✓ In 2023, UAE's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India has risen to USD 3.35 Billion which is more than tripled from USD 1.03 Billion in 2021 to 22.
- ✓ The UAE was the fourth largest investor in India in 2022-23 compared to the seventh in 2021-22.
- ✓ Singapore was the largest investor in India with USD 17.2 billion investment in FY23, followed by Mauritius (USD 6.1 billion) and the US (USD 6 billion).

### Fitch Ratings Projected India's GDP growth in FY24 at 6.3%

- ✓ In June 2023, the Fitch Ratings has increased its forecast for India's GDP(Gross Domestic Product) growth by 0.3% points to 6.3% for the current fiscal year 2023–2024 (FY24) from its prior prediction of 6% due to near- term momentum and a stronger outturn in the first quarter of FY24.
- ✓ The GDP growth of the Indian economy was about 7.2% in FY23 and 9.1% in FY22.
- ✓ Growth projections for FY25 and FY26 are estimated at 6.5% each due to inflation having eased and the domestic economy has picked up.
- ✓ Fitch stated that the GDP growth for the months of January to March 2023 was higher than anticipated and that there has been a recovery in manufacturing following two consecutive quarterly contractions.
- ✓ In expenditure terms, GDP growth was driven by domestic demand and a boost from net trade.

### Bajaj Finserv signed an MoU with Maharashtra Govt to invest Rs 5000 crore in Pune

- ✓ On 3rd June 2023, Bajaj Finserv Limited, the non-banking financial company (NBFC), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra, to invest Rs 5000 crore for development projects in Pune (Maharashtra). This is the largest financial services investment in India.
- ✓ This is expected to create 40,000 jobs in Pune and develop Pune as a financial centre.
- ✓ Work on the project will commence in 2023 and envisions state-of-the-art connectivity and facilities for business.

### Paytm Signs MoU with Arunachal Pradesh to Develop Startup Environment

- ✓ On 22nd June 2023, Paytm Payment Services Limited (PSSL) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) to develop a startup environment for the youth in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ To support the business of young people, Paytm Incubation Centre will offer free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit and its product at a subsidised rate to early-stage firms.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in the presence of its CEO Tabe Haidar, at the APIIP, the first state-owned marquee incubator.

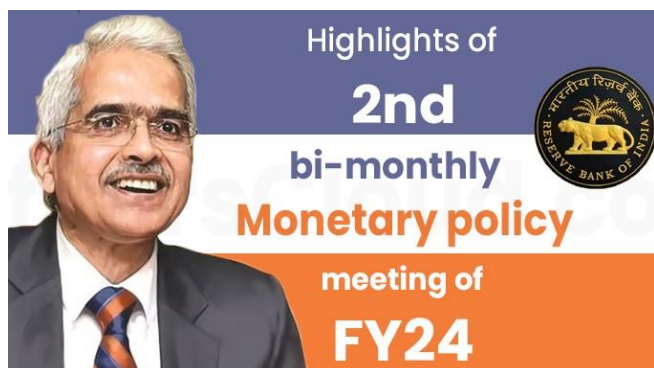
### Infosys signs USD 454 million deal with Danske Bank to accelerate its digital transformation

- ✓ On 26th June 2023, Infosys (Information Systems), India's No.2 Information Technology (IT) service provider has collaborated with Denmark's Danske Bank, by signing a deal valued at USD 454 million for 5 year period to accelerate its digital transformation.
- ✓ Infosys will help in digitalizing Danske Bank's business by adding cloud, data facilities and it will also acquire Danske Bank's IT centre in India in the financial year (FY) 2023-24.



## RBI UPDATES

### 2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy of FY24



- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on 6th, 7th and 8th June 2023 and released its second bi-monthly monetary policy statement for FY24 (Financial year 2023-2024).

#### Policy Rates

- ✓ The MPC has decided to keep the policy rates under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged (maintains status quo) with the stance remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation.

#### The Unchanged Policy rates are as follows

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

- ✓ 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.

#### Growth

- ✓ India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for FY24 was projected at 6.5% with 8 percent in Q1, 6.5 percent in Q2, 6 percent in Q3, and 5.7 percent in Q4.
- ✓ India's real GDP recorded a growth of 7.2% in FY23, stronger than the earlier estimation of 7.0%.
- ✓ Real GDP growth in Q4 FY23 accelerated to 6.1% (y-o-y) from 4.5% in Q3 FY23, supported by fixed investment and higher net exports.
- ✓ On the supply side, real gross value added (GVA) increased from 4.7% in Q3 FY23 to 6.5% in Q4 FY23, due to improvement in manufacturing activity.
- ✓ The 8 core industries' output expanded by 3.5% y-o-y in April 2023 as compared with 3.6% in March 2023.
- ✓ The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing rose to a 31-month high of 58.7 in May 2023.

#### Inflation

- ✓ Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.1 percent in FY24, with 4.6 percent in Q1, 5.2 percent in Q2, 5.4 percent in Q3, and 5.2 percent in Q4.
- ✓ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has set a target to bring down inflation to 4%.
- ✓ India's foreign exchange reserves were placed at USD 595.1 billion on June 2, 2023.
- ✓ The average daily absorption under the LAF increased to Rs 1.7 lakh crore during April-May 2023 from Rs 1.4 lakh crore in February-March 2023.

#### Extended PSL Targets for UCBs

- ✓ RBI has extended the phase-in time for achievement of the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Targets for Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs) by two years, i.e. from March 31, 2024 to March 31, 2026.
- ✓ RBI is set to provide suitable incentives to UCBs that have met the prescribed targets as on March 31, 2023.

- ✓ The PSL targets for UCBs were revised in 2020 to ensure a non-disruptive transition, a path provided till March 31, 2024, to achieve the revised targets.

#### **Banks to issue RuPay forex cards**

- ✓ RBI decided to allow the issuance of RuPay Prepaid Forex (Foreign Exchange) cards by banks in India for use at ATMs, PoS machines and online merchants overseas to expand payment options for Indians travelling abroad.

### **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Launched Financial Inclusion Dashboard Antardrishti**

- ✓ In June 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti'. 'Antardrishti' in Hindi means "Insight".

#### **About Antardrishti**

- ✓ Purpose: The dashboard provides the necessary insight to assess and track the development of financial inclusion by recording relevant data.
- ✓ The dashboard, presently intended for internal use in the RBI, will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach.
- ✓ The dashboard will assess the degree of financial exclusion at a local level across the nation.

#### **Financial Inclusion**

- ✓ Financial Inclusion aims to provide access to affordable and appropriate financial products and services like savings accounts, credit, insurance, and payment systems.
- ✓ RBI promotes financial inclusion through various policies, the launch of 'Antardrishti' is also a part of the efforts of RBI towards financial inclusion.

#### **Financial Inclusion (FI) Index:**

- ✓ RBI had constructed the Financial Inclusion (FI) Index in 2021, to measure the extent of financial inclusion.
  - FI index comprises 3 parameters, 'Access (35 weightage), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%).
- ✓ The FI-Index incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- ✓ Information on various aspects of financial inclusion will be collected under the index in a

single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.

### **RBI cancels Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank's licence; Allows to operate as NBFC**

- ✓ On 27 June 2023, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructed Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank (Dharwad, Karnataka), to operate solely as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), effectively revoking its banking licence granted on March 23, 1994.
- ✓ The central bank emphasised that the Bank must immediately cease all banking activities, including accepting deposits from non-members.
- ✓ Additionally, the bank is required to fulfil its obligations by repaying any outstanding deposits from non-members upon request, even after its reclassification as a non-banking institution.

### **RBI's First-Ever Penalty on Credit Bureaus for Non-compliance with Four Entities**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fined all Four credit bureaus, TransUnion CIBIL Limited, Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited, for not maintaining accurate borrower data following customer complaints.
- ✓ They have been subjected to monetary penalties by the RBI due to their non-compliance with the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, and Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.
- ✓ This is the first such concerted action by RBI towards Credit Bureaus.
- ✓ RBI slapped a fine of Rs.26 lakh on TransUnion CIBIL Limited, Rs.24.25 lakh on Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Rs 24.25 lakh on Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited, and Rs 25.75 lakh on CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### IUCAA delivered SUIT telescope to ISRO for the solar mission

- ✓ The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT), a space telescope developed by Pune's Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), was delivered to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its ADITYA-L1 solar mission.
- ✓ SUIT is set to be one of the seven payloads of ADITYA-L1, India's first mission to study the sun.
- ✓ The main purpose of the telescope is to study the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) emissions and capture high-resolution images of the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, in various UV wavelengths.
- ✓ The SUIT telescope will provide full disk images of the sun in the 2000 to 4000 Å (1 angstrom =  $10^{-10}$  m) wavelength range which has never been obtained so far.



### Skyroot successfully tested Raman-I Engine designed to use in Vikram-I rocket

- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace, Hyderabad (Telangana) based private Indian Space company, successfully conducted the Flight Qualification Test of the Raman-I Engine at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ 'Raman' is a series of engines or thrusters which uses the Earth storable hypergolic (MMH/N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) propellants for upper stage engine and attitude or reaction control in Skyroot's Vikram-1 launch vehicle (rocket).



- ✓ The Raman-I engine underwent a test firing at the LPSC of ISRO, marking Skyroot as the first Indian private company to launch a rocket with Vikram-S
- ✓ The indigenous Vikram-S (named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme) was launched in November 2022, from the ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking India's first privately developed rocket.

### SpaceX deployed Indonesian communications satellite 'SATRIA-1' in orbit

- ✓ On 18th June 2023, the SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation) successfully deployed a new Indonesian communications satellite named SATRIA-1 (Satellite of the Republic of Indonesia) to geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- ✓ SATRIA-1 will be operated for the Indonesian Government by the Indonesian company Pasifik Satelit Nusantara (PSN) into orbit.
- ✓ SATRIA-1 telecommunications satellite lifted off atop SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ SATRIA-1 is envisioned to boost connectivity inclusion in Indonesia, providing free internet connection to 150,000 public facilities, including schools, regional government offices and health facilities.

#### About SATRIA-1:

- ✓ iSATRIA-1 is a 4.6-metric ton (10,100-pound) spacecraft, which provides about 150 billion bits (gigabits, Gb) per second of communications, which is three times the capacity of the nine telecommunication satellites that Indonesia currently use.
- ✓ It will not provide internet service directly to individual users, instead, it will support education and health centres, and thousands of public WiFi access points where citizens can connect to the internet with computers and smartphones.

## India's Azista BST Aerospace launched its 1st satellite "AFR" on SpaceX Transporter-8 mission

- ✓ On 13th June 2023, Azista BST Aerospace (ABA), a Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based aerospace firm, launched its 1<sup>st</sup> satellite "ABA First Runner (AFR)" onboard the SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation)'s Falcon 9 rocket as part of the Transporter-8 Mission from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, the United States of America (USA).

## GalaxEye Space to launch world's 1st Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite 'Drishti'

- ✓ Galaxeye Space Solutions Pvt Ltd (Galaxeye Space), a space-tech startup incubated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, (Chennai, Tamil Nadu), is developing the world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite namely 'Drishti' incorporating a visible spectrum camera that allows synchronized imaging, capable of capturing multiple images simultaneously.
- ✓ The startup is going to launch "Drishti mission", its first satellite, in 2024.
- ✓ It will be India's first and the world's highest-resolution multi-sensor imaging satellite.
- ✓ Galaxeye was founded by a team of 5 students/alumni of IIT- Madras who were qualified as the only Asian Finalists at the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition 2019.

## Iran Unveils 1st Indigenously-made Hypersonic Missile "Fattah"

- ✓ On 6th June 2023, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran unveiled the first Indigenously-made Hypersonic ballistic missile, "Fattah" with a range of 1,400 kilometres (km).
- ✓ This missile was named by the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.
- ✓ 'Fattah' in Farsi (Persian) language means 'Conqueror/opener'.

### Features of 'Fattah'

- ✓ This missile is capable of moving at a speed of up to Mach 15 and it is capable of penetrating all defence shields.

- ✓ It uses solid propellants, allowing it to reach high speeds and perform various manoeuvres inside and outside the earth's atmosphere.
- ✓ It travels in a complex trajectory path which makes it difficult to intercept by others. It can also bypass the most advanced anti-ballistic missile systems of the United States of America (USA) and Israel.

## China Achieves New Record: Launches 41 Satellites into Space in Single Mission

- ✓ On June 15, 2023, China successfully launched 41 satellites into space using the Long March 2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre located in Shanxi province, China. This resulted in a new national record for the highest number of satellites deployed in a single mission.
- ✓ This mission marked the 476th flight of the Long March rocket series, and China's 24th rocket launch in 2023.
- ✓ The satellites launched were built by Changguang Satellite Technology, a State-owned enterprise in Northeast China's Jilin province.
- ✓ The primary purpose of these satellites is to provide commercial remote sensing services, conduct technology verification, and obtain high-definition images of the Earth.
- ✓ The images and data products generated will be used in a wide range of fields such as industrial analysis, regional survey, land resources mapping, mineral development and urban construction planning.
- ✓ Among the 41 satellites, 36 belong to the Jilin-1 series, representing China's first-ever self-developed commercial remote sensing satellite system launched in 2015.

## India carries out successful training launch of MRBM Agni-1 From Odisha

- ✓ On 1st June 2023, India carried out a successful training launch of a nuclear-capable Medium Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM), Agni-1 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- ✓ Agni-1 was fired as a user training launch by Strategic Forces Command (SCF), which controls,

manages and administers the nuclear forces in India.

- ✓ This test launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile.

### SpaceX Launches 22 second generation Starlink 'V2 Mini' satellites

- ✓ On 4th June 2023, SpaceX launched Falcon9, a two staged rocket carrying 22 second generation starlink satellites, known as "V2 Mini" to Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ This was the 3rd launch and landing for this Falcon 9 first stage booster, which previously launched Crew-6 and SES O3b mPOWER missions.
- ✓ The second generation Starlink satellites equipped with more powerful phased array antennas and the utilisation of E-band for backhaul, allows each satellite to provide approximately four times more connectivity than the earlier generations.
- ✓ By using the Starlink satellite network, SpaceX aims to create a low-latency, high-speed internet network throughout the world.

### French DGA test fired V-MaX Hypersonic Glider technology for the 1st time

- ✓ On 26th June 2023, Direction générale de l'armement (DGA– Directorate General of Armaments), the French Government Defense procurement and technology agency, successfully conducted its first test firing of a V- MaX (Véhicule Manoeuvrant Expérimental or experimental manoeuvring vehicle), a Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) to develop new missile technology capable of evading the most sophisticated air defences.
- ✓ A sounding rocket carrying the V-MaX HGV was launched from the Biscarosse missile test site on the Bay of Biscay, southwestern France.
- ✓ V-Max program was officially launched in 2019, and initial flight testing for the V-MaX launcher was scheduled for as early as 2021.

### IIT Kanpur successfully conducts Test Flight for Cloud Seeding/Artificial Rain

- ✓ On 21st June 2023, The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K), Uttar Pradesh (UP) successfully conducted a test flight/experiment for their cloud seeding project. It was a test of artificial rain through cloud seeding. The experiment was conducted with due approval from DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).
- ✓ Cloud seeding is the process of enhancing the chance of precipitation by using different chemical agents like silver iodide, dry ice, salt, and other elements.
- ✓ In the experiment, a Cessna aircraft of IIT-K was flown from the airstrip of the Flight Laboratory of IIT Kanpur with cloud-seeding attachments and came back to the Flight Lab airstrip, after successfully completing the test ride.

### DRDO successfully flight-tested "Agni Prime" Ballistic Missile off Odisha coast

- ✓ On 7th June 2023, Agni Prime or Agni-P, a New Generation Ballistic Missile was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system.

#### Agni Prime

- ✓ It is a 2 stage surface to surface, canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- ✓ It has a range between 1000 to 2000 km (Kilometre) and was test-fired for the first time in June 2021.
- ✓ It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles.
- ✓ Agni series of missiles includes the Prithvi short range ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft, which constitute the backbone of India's nuclear weapons delivery.

## DEFENCE

### Sixth edition of India-Maldives Naval Exercise 'Ekatha' held in Maldives

- ✓ The 6th edition of the annual Naval Exercise 'Ekatha' between India and Maldives was conducted from 4th June to 3rd July 2023, in Maldives to enhance interoperability in diving and special operations.
- ✓ The 5th edition was held in Maldives from September 5 to October 3, 2022.
- ✓ Indian Navy divers and Marine Commandos (MARCOS) went to Maldives to participate in the exercise along with Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

### 1st India-France-UAE Trilateral Maritime Exercise held in Gulf of Oman

- ✓ The First edition of the India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise was held in the Gulf of Oman from 7th to 8th June 2023.
- ✓ The Gulf of Oman borders Iran and Pakistan on the north, Oman on the south, and the UAE on the west.
- ✓ Indian Navy's INS (Indian Naval Ship) Tarkash (a second Talwar- class frigate commissioned in 2012), French Navy's French Ship (FS) Surcouf both with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft are participating in the exercise.

### 12th edition of "Ex Ekuverin bilateral Joint Military Exercise between India and Maldives held at Uttarakhand

- ✓ The 12th edition of "Ex Ekuverin", a bilateral joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from 11th June 2023 to 24th June 2023.

- ✓ Ekuverin is a bilateral exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.
- ✓ The focus of the exercise Ekuverin is to share best practices, increase coordination and cooperation between both the forces at tactical level.
- ✓ The two-week long exercise will see participation of a platoon strength contingent from both the Indian Army and Maldivian National Defence Force.

### Indian Army's Sapta Shakti Command Conducted "Sudarshan Shakti 2023" Exercise Along Western Border

- ✓ South Western (Sapta Shakti) Command of the Indian Army (IA) conducted a 4-day exercise "Sudarshan Shakti 2023" from 22nd to 25th May 2023 along the Western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.
- ✓ Exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023', was designed to validate operational preparedness of the Indian Army in a network-centric environment.
- ✓ The joint war exercise included the participation of various units from the Indian Army and other defence forces to test their readiness and capability in dealing with different scenarios.
- ✓ The exercise is considered a unique event in its scope and objective as it is aimed to counter electronic warfare.
- ✓ Shatrueet Brigade (50th Independent Para Brigade), which is a formation of the Indian army and the Western Command prominently took part in the exercise.

### Finland, Norway, and Sweden Hosts multinational Arctic Challenge Exercise 2023 from 29 May to 9 June 2023

- ✓ Finland, and Norway, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries, along with Sweden hosted the 6th multinational Arctic Challenge exercise 2023 (ACE 23), which is scheduled to be held from 29 May to 9 June 2023.

- ✓ **Objective:** To train participating forces to conduct dissimilar aircraft combat in large composite air operations safely and effectively.

#### **Participants**

- ✓ In addition to the hosts (Finland, Norway, and Sweden), the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and the United States of America (USA) are also participating in the ACE 23.

### **INS Satpura represented Indian Navy at Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo 2023 at Indonesia**

- ✓ Indian Naval ship (INS) Satpura participated in the 4th edition of Multilateral Naval Exercise “Komodo” (MNEK 2023) held in and around Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia from June 4 to 8 2023.
- ✓ INS Satpura participated in the exercise as part of the Indian Navy’s deployment to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries.
- ✓ INS Satpura also represented the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review (IFR) reviewed by President of Indonesia Joko Widodo on 5th June 2023.
- ✓ Indian Navy’s participation in the MNEK exercise series is a reaffirmation of India’s commitment to ‘Act East’ (Maritime Cooperation) in its attempt to ensure ‘Security and Growth for All in Region’ (SAGAR).

### **In Europe NATO begins its air drill - “Air Defender 23”**

- ✓ On 12th June 2023, North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO) began its German(host) led air force deployment “Air Defender 23” exercise in Europe.
- ✓ The exercise is scheduled to be held from 12th-23rd June 2023 and includes 250 military aircraft from 25 NATO and partner countries including Japan and Sweden.
- ✓ The exercise will focus on keeping up the United States (US) presence in Europe and providing training on a larger scale. The exercise intends to boost interoperability and preparedness to protect

against drones and cruise missiles in the case of an attack within NATO territory.

- ✓ Training missions would take place over the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and Southern Germany.
- ✓ “Air Defender” was conceived in 2018 to respond to the Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine
- ✓ NATO’s Article Five, an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

### **Ex Khaan Quest 2023: India participates in Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise in Mongolia**

- ✓ On June 19, 2023, the 19th edition of Multinational Peacekeeping Joint Exercise, Ex Khaan Quest 2023, was inaugurated by the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Ukhnaagiin Khurelsuk at the Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ✓ The Indian Army(IA) represented by a contingent from the Garhwal Rifles participated in the exercise.
- ✓ ‘Ex Khaan Quest 2023’ is scheduled from June 19 to July 2, 2023
- ✓ •The exercise co-sponsored by MAF and United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) features participation from military contingents and observers from 26 countries, including Indian Army (IA). The Lao People’s Democratic Republic participated for the first time and the Republic of Türkiye with a full team.

### **Indian Army conducted Exercise Agneyastra 1 in eastern Ladakh**

- ✓ Indian Army’s Northern Command conducted “Exercise Agneyastra 1” on 19th June 2023, in eastern Ladakh to showcase India’s fire power supremacy. Agneyastra means firearms in Hindi.
- ✓ Artillery platforms of the Indian army such as the newly-inducted Korean K-9 Vajra-T 155mm/52 calibre self- propelled howitzer (SPH), FH-77 Bofors 155mm/39 calibre towed howitzer and mortars were a part of the Exercise Agneyastra-1.
- ✓ Anti-tank missiles and Carl Gustav rocket launchers also participated in the exercise Agneyastra 1.

## IAF conducted Exercise “Ranvijay” with focus on integrated operations

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise ‘Ranvijay’ with a focus on integration, in which day and night operations were carried out by combat aircraft including Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft as part of integrated wargames to enhance the skills of fighter pilots.
- ✓ Exercise Ranvijay was carried out in UB Hills and Central Air Command (CAC) Area of Responsibility (AOR) from 16-23 June 2023.
- ✓ The exercise was carried out in different air bases of the CAC headquartered in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- ✓ As a part of the Government of India’s efforts to integrate the forces, different IAF commands carried out wargames and aerial drills to enhance cooperation with the other 2 services.

## Indian Army signed its 2nd Procurement Contract with Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd for “Tactical LAN Radio systems”

- ✓ On 9th June 2023, the Indian Army signed a contract with Astrome Technologies Private Limited, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based start-up company to procure the indigenously-developed “Tactical LAN (Local area network) Radio” for reliable and interference-free communication in remote and difficult terrain.
- ✓ It is the second procurement contract that the Indian Army has signed in order to furthering its commitment to the “Make in India” Campaign through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).
- ✓ Tactical LAN Radio is a state-of-the-art high bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment designed to provide reliable and fail-safe communication.

## MoD Approved Deal to Acquire MQ-9 Reaper Drone from the USA

- ✓ The Defence Acquisition Council(DAC), the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence(MoD), has approved the deal to acquire

the MQ-9 Reaper (Predator B) drones from the United States of America(USA).

- ✓ The final decision on the deal is set to be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security(CCS).
- ✓ The deal was approved during the meeting of DAC headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- During the meeting DAC has also approved other “Made in India” defence deals.
- ✓ All the high value acquisitions requires final approval from the CCS.

### About the Deal:

Lead agency of the deal: Indian Navy(IN).

The deal involves the acquisition of 15 drones for the Indian Navy for surveillance operations in its area of responsibilities.

## Indian Navy successfully engaged an Underwater Target using indigenously developed HeavyWeight Torpedo

- ✓ On 6th June 2023, The Indian Navy and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully engaged an underwater target with an indigenously developed heavyweight Torpedo, named **Varunastra**.
- ✓ It is a significant milestone in the Indian Navy’s & DRDO’s quest for accurate delivery of ordnance on target in the underwater domain.
- ✓ This is the second sea-level test in two weeks. It showcases the country’s commitment to future-proof combat readiness through Aatma Nirbharta (self-reliance).
- ✓ ‘Varunastra’, the advanced Heavy-Weight anti-submarine Torpedo, was inducted by the Indian Navy in 2016 and is developed by the Indian Navy and the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).

## Indian Navy partners with QNu Labs to Procure Quantum Encryption Systems

- ✓ QNu Labs Private Limited (QNu Labs), a leading quantum technology startup company, partners with the Indian Navy for the procurement and deployment of Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) based systems.



- ✓ With this collaboration, Indian Navy becomes India's 1st agency to procure large-scale Quantum based encryption systems.
- ✓ The procurement order for the QKD systems was signed by the Indian Navy in May 2023.
- ✓ Indian Navy will procure and deploy QKD systems in a Hub & Spoke configuration across multiple locations, with QNu Labs as the partner of choice for delivering and integrating these state-of-the-art systems.
- ✓ The procurement of QKD-based Hub & Spoke systems is a strategic move that underscores the Indian Navy's determination to stay at the forefront of emerging security technologies.

### **1st ACTCM Barge of the series of LSAM 15 (Yard 125) delivered to Indian Navy at NAD (Karanja), Mumbai**

- ✓ On 9th June 2023, the first Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge of the series LSAM 15 (Yard 125) has been delivered to the Indian Navy (IN) at the Naval Armament Depot (NAD), Karanja, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The Contract for the construction of 11 ACTCM Barge was concluded with M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane(Maharashtra), a Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME), in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives of the Government of India.
- ✓ ACTCM Barge, Yard 15(LSAM 15) was launched by Indian Navy's Captain Prashant Saxena AWPS Mumbai, Maharashtra on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane.

### **GRSE Launched two Warships INS Anjadip & Sanshodhak; Foundation laid for the 7th ASW-SWC Ship**

- ✓ On June 13, 2023, two warships of INS (Indian Naval Ship) 'Anjadip', the 3rd of eight indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), and INS 'Sanshodhak', the 4th and last in the series of Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project, were launched by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) at shipbuilding facility of

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ GRSE is now building eight ASWSWCs and four SVLs for the Indian Navy and the Ships are at various stages of completion.
- ✓ INS Anjadip was launched by Priya Pandit, wife of Vice Admiral R B Pandit, Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Forces Command. It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ INS 'Sanshodhak', the fourth and last in the series of Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project, being built by L&T/ GRSE for Indian Navy was launched on 13 June 2023 at Kattupalli, Chennai. The chief guest of the Launching Ceremony was VAdm Adhir Arora, Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India.

### **Indian Navy Launches Julley Ladakh outreach programme to engage with youngsters and civil society**

- ✓ Indian Navy Launched "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh), an outreach programme to Ladakh with an aim to increase awareness about the naval service and to engage with youth and civil society members.
- ✓ Vice Chief of Navy Staff, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh flagged off 5000km Motorcycle Expedition from New Delhi on 15th June and it will reach Leh on 28th June passing through the states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

### **DRDO, Indian Navy demonstrate transfer of command and control of Tapas UAV**

- ✓ On 16th June 2023, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy collaborated successfully and demonstrated the transfer of command and control capabilities of the TAPAS 201 unmanned aerial vehicle(UAV). The TAPAS took off at 7.35 a.m. from a remote ground station to onboard Indian Naval Ship (INS) Subhadra, 148 km from the Karwar naval base, Karnataka.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Mary Kom Named Global Indian Icon of 2023 at 5th UK-India Awards 2023

- ✓ On 29th June 2023, Former Rajya Sabha member and India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, Mary Kom (40 years old) has been honoured with the India Global Forum (IGF) United Kingdom(UK) Special



Award: **Global Indian Icon of the Year award (2023)** at the 5th annual UK -India Awards (2023) held in Fairmont Windsor Park, Windsor, UK.

- ✓ She received the award from Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami and shared her remarkable 20-year journey filled with dedication and unwavering commitment to the sport of boxing.
- ✓ The event was organised by India Global Forum (IGF) as a part of the UK-India Week 2023 held from 26th to 30th June 2023.

#### About UK-India Awards

- ✓ UK -India Awards honours and recognises the outstanding contributions of those who drive the UK-India partnership, including leaders in business, professional services, government, culture and social impact.

### UK PM Rishi Sunak honoured 101 years old Sikh WWII veteran Rajindar Singh Dhatt with UK Points of Lights Award

- ✓ On 28th June 2023, Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister (PM) of the United Kingdom (UK) honoured Retired British Indian Sikh Soldier Rajindar Singh Dhatt (aged 101) with UK Points of Light award at India Global Forum's (IGF) annual UK-India Week 2023 reception at 10 Downing Street, London, United Kingdom.



- ✓ He was awarded for his service in the British Indian Army and coordinating "Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association" to help bring together British Indian war veterans.

#### About UK Points of Light

- ✓ The UK Points of Light award honours exceptional individuals whose contribution is making a difference in their communities and whose stories might inspire others to find innovative solutions to social concerns in their own communities and beyond.

### President Droupadi Murmu presented Distinguished Service Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony-II

- ✓ On 27th June 2023, Droupadi Murmu, President of India-the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, conferred 85 Distinguished Service Awards to serving and retired Indian Armed Forces and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel for distinguished service of an exceptional order during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-II) held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The 85 Distinguished Service Awards includes 52 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSMs), one Bar to AVSM, three Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSMs) and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSMs).



### The Academy to honour Angela Bassett, Mel Brooks & Carol Littleton with Honorary Awards at the 14th Governors Awards

- ✓ On 26th June 2023, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences(The Academy) announced that American actress Angela Bassett, American Actor Mel Brooks and American film editor Carol Littleton will be honoured with the Honorary Awards(Oscar®).



- ✓ The academy also announced that Michelle Satter, the founding senior director of the Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program – which focuses on the cultural impact of supporting independent storytellers, will be honoured with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award(Oscar®).
- ✓ The winners of these awards were voted on by the Board of Directors of the Academy.

#### **About Honorary Award**

- ✓ The Honorary Award is presented to honour the extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement, exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences, or for outstanding service to the Academy.

### **Five trailblazers win 1st UNESCO–AI Fozan International Prize for the Promotion of Young Scientists**

- ✓ The 1st edition of UNESCO–AI Fozan International Prize 2023 was conferred upon five exceptional young scientists from Argentina,



Cameroon, China, Egypt and Serbia during a ceremony at UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) headquarters in Paris, France.

#### **The winners**

- ✓ **Dr Federico Ariel (40 years old, Argentina):** He established the basis for the use of RNAs (Ribonucleic acid) to deliver information to plants that avoids recourse to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).
- ✓ **Professor Abdon Atangana (37 years old, Cameroon):** He has made significant contributions to mathematics, specifically in fractional calculus, differential equations, and mathematical modeling. These have practical applications in solving real-life problems like disease spread, heat transfer, groundwater flow, and weather patterns.
- ✓ **Professor Qiaomei Fu (39 years old, China):** She retrieved ancient DNA from human remains and sediments, constructing an evolutionary map of Eurasian populations, particularly East Asian,

spanning 100,000 years. These findings unveils unique human diversity and shape our understanding of human genetic composition and traits.

- ✓ **Dr Hesham Omran (38 years old, Egypt):** He has led the development of a toolbox that revolutionizes the creation of efficient semiconductor chips which will save significant time in creating efficient chips for electronic devices like computers, phones, and electric vehicles.
- ✓ **Dr Jelena Vladic (37 years old, Serbia):** She has developed innovative ecological extraction processes to obtain products from aromatic and medicinal plants and add value to food and agricultural waste. Moreover, she has used microalgae from wastewater treatment to extract bioactive compounds.

#### **About UNESCO–AI Fozan International Prize**

- ✓ It was established by UNESCO in 2021 in partnership with the AI–Fozan Foundation in Saudi Arabia for the Promotion of Young Scientists in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It recognizes the achievements of young people (less than 40 years old at the time of the application deadline), particularly girls and women, that are conducive to socio-economic transformation and development on a global scale in science.
- ✓ It is awarded every two years to five laureates from the five geographic regions of UNESCO (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean) It is also on the lines of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **IOC honoured WHO DG Tedros Ghebreyesus with Olympic Order**

- ✓ On 20th June 2023, The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach presented the Olympic Order to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus in an award ceremony held at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland.



- ✓ During the event, IOC also honoured The World Health Organisation (WHO) with the Olympic Cup for 2021 in recognition of its exceptional contribution to the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

#### About Olympic Order

- ✓ i.The Olympic Order is awarded to a person who has done outstanding services to the Olympic cause, either through his own personal achievement or his contribution to the development of sport.
- ✓ Olympic Order already awarded to great personalities including Fanny Blankers-Koen, Jean-Claude Killy, Bertrand Piccard, Jesse Owens, Steffi Graf, Alberto Tomba, Indira Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

### **'When Climate Change Turns Violent' , Indian Documentary Wins WHO Award at HAFF Festival**

- ✓ On 7th June 2023, An Indian documentary film titled "When Climate Change Turns Violent" has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival (HAFF) held at the World Health Organisation (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Vandita Sariya from Rajasthan had directed the film which deals with gender-based violence & climate change that runs for 4.32 minutes.She is the only Indian winner among the the winners.
- ✓ Two movies from the WHO South-East Asia Region were recognized and received awards at 2023 Health for All Film Festival (HAFF).

### **Star Alliance wins World's Best Airline Alliance at the Skytrax 2023 World Airline Awards**

- ✓ On June 20 2023, at the Skytrax 2023 World Airline Awards in Paris Air Show 2023, Paris, France, Star Alliance is named the World's Best Airline Alliance Award for Singapore Airlines for the 5th year, and the Star Alliance Lounge at Los Angeles(LA) International Airport wins the top award as the Best Alliance Lounge for the 7th year.
- ✓ Theo Panagiotoulis, CEO of Star Alliance received the awards at Paris Air Show 2023.

- ✓ Tata-owned Vistara bagged the 16th position at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2023 and shines as only Indian airline to feature in top 20 best airline list, while Indigo ranks 43rd, it retained the lead position as the best low-cost airline in India as well as South Asia.

#### About Star Alliance

- ✓ The Star Alliance network which was established in 1997, is a global group of 26 airlines, including Air India, Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines and South African Airlines.

### **Gita Press, Gorakhpur to receive Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021**

- ✓ The Ministry of Culture has named Gita Press, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), a publishing house, as an awardee of Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 in recognition of the work done by the institution in community service. This decision has been taken after due deliberations by the jury headed by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi,but the Gorakhpur-based publisher would not accept the ₹1 crore cash component of the award in tune with its "principle to not accept any kind of donations".



- ✓ Gita Press is one of the largest publishers of religious texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Ramayana and the Upanishads.
- ✓ Gandhi Peace Prize for 2020 was awarded to 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Bangladesh) for his contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.

#### About Gandhi Peace Prize

- ✓ Instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, it is an annual award carrying an amount of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite handicraft or handloom item. It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.

## Salman Rushdie awarded the 2023 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

✓ Salman Rushdie, an Indian born British-American writer was awarded the 2023 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his literary work and for his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant threat to his life.



- ✓ The award ceremony will take place on 22nd October 2023 in the Church of St. Paul in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- ✓ The 2022 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade was awarded to Serhiy Zhadan, an Ukrainian author and musician.
- ✓ Salman Ahmed Rushdie, born on 19th June 1947 in Bombay (now Mumbai, Maharashtra), is the author of novels, short stories, travel literature, essays and journalistic pieces. His works have been translated into over 40 languages.

### About the Peace Prize

- ✓ Since 1950, the German Publishers and Booksellers Association, the professional organisation of publishers and booksellers in the Federal Republic of Germany, has been awarding the Peace Prize of the German Book Trader.

## Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presents National Water Awards 2022 in New Delhi; MP tops in Best State Category

- ✓ On June 17, 2023, Vice President (VP) of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, conferred the 4th National Water Awards, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi on 41 winners in 11 categories for their exemplary work in the field of water conservation and management.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (MP) tops the Best State category which is followed by Odisha at 2nd position and Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Bihar at 3rd position jointly.
- ✓ The award ceremony was organised by the Department of Water Resources, River

Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS). The event started with the traditional 'Jal Kalash' ceremony.

### The list of winners

<b>Best State</b>
1 Madhya Pradesh (MP)
2 Odisha
3 AP and Bihar.
<b>Best District</b>
1 Ganjam District, Odisha
2 Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu (TN)
3 Adilabad District, Telangana
<b>Best Village Panchayat</b>
1 Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Telangana
2 Kadavur Village Panchayat, Karur district, Tamil Nadu and Manickal Village Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala
3.Kadegaon Village Panchayat, Jalna district, Maharashtra and Mawkyrdep Village Panchayat, Bhoi Rymbong Block, Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya.
<b>Best Urban Local Body</b>
1 Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh,
2 Indore Municipal Corporation, Indore, MP
3 Surat Municipal Corporation, Surat, Gujarat and Malkapur Municipal Council, Karad, Satara, Maharashtra
<b>Best Media</b>
1 Advance Water Digest Private Limited Gurugram, Haryana
2.Centre For Environment And Sustainable Development, Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir and Regional News Unit, All India Radio, Guwahati, Assam
3 Network Eighteen, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
<b>Best School</b>
Jamiyatpura Primary School, Mehsana, Gujarat
2 KGBV School, Chagalamarri, Nandyal, AP
3 Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS), Baori, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
<b>Best Institution for Campus usage</b>

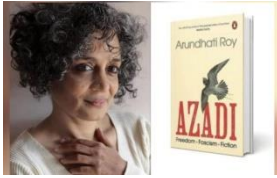
1 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Reasi, Jammu and Kashmir

2 Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, Telangana

3 Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, Punjab

### Arundhati Roy Awarded the European Essay Prize 2023

- ✓ Indian writer Arundhati Roy was awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement by the Charles Veillon Foundation for the French translation of her compilation of essays titled "Azadi" (2021). Roy will receive a prize money of CHF 20,000 (roughly Rs 18 lakh) at an award event on September 12 in Lausanne, Switzerland.



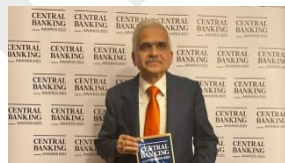
- ✓ Roy's first novel, The God of Small Things, won the Booker Prize in 1997.

#### About European Essay Prize

- ✓ European Essay Prize awarded by the Charles Veillon Foundation since 1975, to honour a book or the work of an author, to nourishing and spreading the evolution of thought. The aim of the award is to draw attention to authors whose work get witness to and offer a fertile commentary on current societies, their practices, and ideologies

### RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das honoured with Governor of the Year award at Central Banking Awards 2023

- ✓ On June 14 2023, Shaktikanta Das, the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been honoured with the title the "Governor of the Year" at the Central Banking Awards 2023 in London, for his role during Covid-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the fight against inflation.
- ✓ He is the second RBI governor to be honoured with the award after Raghuram Rajan, who received the title in 2015.



### Sahitya Akademi announced winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar Awards 2023

- ✓ On 22nd June 2023, the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture chaired by Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi declared a list of 22 recipients of its Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 20 winners of its Yuva Puraskar for the year 2023.



- ✓ The works were selected on the basis of recommendations made by the Jury of 3 members each in concerned language in accordance with rules and procedure laid down for the purpose.
- ✓ **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023:** It is an annual award established in 2010 for the most outstanding book by an Indian author, first published in any of the languages recognized by the Akademi during the five years prior to the year, immediately preceding the year of the award, i.e. books published between 2017 and 2021 are considered.
- ✓ The Akademi announced 22 winners in the category and the award will be given for 1 Stories, 7 Short stories, 7 Novels, 1 Poetry and Stories, 1 Play, 1 Memoir and 4 Poetry. There is no award in Kashmiri language for 2023 and the award in the Manipuri language will be declared later.
- ✓ **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2023:** It is an annual award established in 2011 to recognise young writers of the age 35 years and below in Indian languages.
- ✓ The Akademi announced 20 winners in the category and the award will be given for 9 Short Stories, 7 Poetry, 1 Plays, 1 Criticism, 1 Historical, 1 Novel. Awards in Manipuri, Maithili and Sanskrit languages will be declared later.

# SPORTS

## Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023: India won 202 medals

- ✓ The Indian team won 202 medals (including 76 Gold, 75 Silver, 51 Bronze) in Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 held in Berlin, Germany from 17th June 2023 to 25th June 2023.
- ✓ The Berlin 2023, the 16th edition Special Olympics World Games Berlin witnessed the participation of 7000 special Olympic Athletes
- ✓ Special Olympics is a sports event conducted every two years, alternating with Summer and Winter Games for the people with intellectual disabilities. For the first time since its inception, the Special Olympics were staged in Germany.
- ✓ **2023 Mascot:** Named as 'Unity', it represents the emotions the athletes feel about the World Games: joy, togetherness, pride, and excitement. 2023 **Motto:** 'unbeatable together'.
- ✓ The next edition of the Special Olympics 'Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024' will be held from 27th February 2024 to 2nd March 2024 in Calgary, Canada.
- ✓ **Special Olympics Founder** – Eunice Kennedy Shriver

## England all-rounder Moeen Ali awarded Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- ✓ England all-rounder Moeen Ali has been awarded OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his services to the game of cricket. This honor was bestowed upon him as part of the Queen's birthday honours, specifically on the momentous occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. He represented England for 225 matches across all the three formats.

### About the Order of the British Empire (OBE):

The Order of the British Empire was established by King George V in 1917 to honour those who had served in a non-combative role and expanded the Order to reward contributions to the Arts, Sciences, Charitable work and Public Service.

## Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched IOA 'Bharat in Paris' campaign

- ✓ On 23rd June 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur flagged off Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) "Bharat in Paris" campaign with a short marathon of 7 km at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The "Bharat in Paris campaign" aims to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics games.
- ✓ The campaign aims to combine sports and sustainability exhibiting India's inclusivity towards today's youth, spirit of sportsmanship and sustainability for an eco-friendly environment.

### Paris Olympic 2024:

- ✓ Paris Olympics 2024 is scheduled to be held from 26 July 2024 to 11 August 2024 in Paris, France.
- ✓ **Paris 2024 Mascot:** Olympic Phryge – based on the traditional small Phrygian hats that the mascots are shaped. The name and design were chosen to represent symbolic figures of the French Republic as well as emblems of liberty.
- ✓ **Official Slogan:** Games Wide Open (French: Ouvrons Grand les Jeux).

## Asia Cup 2023 to be held in Hybrid Model in Pakistan & Sri Lanka

- ✓ On 15th June 2023, The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the 16th edition of Asia Cup (Men's Asia Cup 2023) will be held in hybrid mode in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from 31st August 2023 to 17th September 2023.
- ✓ For the first time since 2008, Pakistan will host a multi-nation cricket competition at home.
- ✓ Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup 2022 held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) by defeating Pakistan in the finals.
- ✓ Asia Cup 2023 was initially allotted to Pakistan and scheduled to be held in September 2023.
- ✓ In October 2022, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that India will not travel to Pakistan.

- ✓ Therefore, ACC announced that Asia Cup 2023 will be held in Hybrid mode in which Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will remain the event host with Sri Lanka as the neutral venue. 4 matches of the Asia Cup 2023 will be played in Pakistan while Sri Lanka will host 9 games of the event.

### Egypt won SDAT WSF Squash World Cup 2023 in Chennai

- ✓ On 17th June 2023, The defending champion Egypt won the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) World Squash Federation (WSF) Squash World Cup 2023 by defeating Malaysia in the finals.
- ✓ SDAT WSF Squash World Cup 2023, the 4th edition of Squash World Cup, was held at the Express Avenue Mall, Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 13-17th June 2023.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu(TN) Chief Minister(CM) M.K. Stalin presented the golden cup to Egypt.
- ✓ Egypt won the 3rd edition Squash world cup 2011 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ SDAT WSF Squash World Cup 2023 was sponsored by the Tamil Nadu(TN) Government and supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport (MoYAS), Government of India.
- ✓ From now onwards, it will be held every 2 years. The next World Cup will be in 2025.

### Indian Football Team defeated Lebanon to win Hero Intercontinental Cup 2023

- ✓ On June 18, 2023, Indian Men's Football Team (also known as Blue Tigers) captained by Sunil Chhetri won the Hero Intercontinental Cup 2023 title by defeating Lebanon team captained by Hassan Maatouk (2-0) in the finals at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ Hero Intercontinental Cup 2023, the 3rd edition of the Intercontinental Cup, was held from 9th to 18th June 2023 in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ This marks India's 2nd Intercontinental Cup title. India previously won the inaugural edition in 2018.



This marks also mark's India's first victory against Lebanon since 1977. India and Lebanon played eight matches against each other from 1977 to 2023.

### Max Verstappen of Red Bull Wins Canadian Grand Prix 2023

- ✓ Dutch-Belgium racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Formula 1 (F1) Canadian Grand Prix 2023 (Pirelli Grand Prix Du Canada 2023) title, 9th round of the F1 2023 championships, at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- ✓ Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso finished 2nd and Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton finished 3rd in the Canadian Grand Prix 2023. This marks Red Bull's 100th win in Formula 1 events since its inception in 2004.

### Indonesia Open 2023: Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy Won Men's Doubles

- ✓ Indian badminton players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (World no 5) won the Men's doubles title at the Kapal Api Group Indonesia Open 2023 (Indonesia Open 2023) by defeating 2022 world champions Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik (World no 3) from Malaysia.
- ✓ This was Satwik-Chirag's first ever men's doubles title at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 1000 event and they also became the 1<sup>st</sup> doubles pair from India to win a title at Super 1000 event.
- ✓ Previously, Saina Nehwal (2009, 2010 & 2012) and Kidambi Srikanth (2017) won the Singles title in the Indonesia Open.
- ✓ Indonesia Open, was held from 13-18th June 2023 in Gelora Bung Karno Sports complex in Jakarta, Indonesia.



#### Men's Singles Title

- ✓ 2022 world champion Viktor Axelsen (World no1) of Denmark, won the men's singles title at Indonesia 2023, defeating Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (World no 2) from Indonesia.



- ✓ This marks Viktor Axelsen's 3rd consecutive Men's singles title at the Indonesia Open. He previously won the title in 2021 and 2022.

#### Women's Singles

- ✓ Tokyo 2022 Olympics gold medallist Chen Yufei(China) won the Women's Singles Title defeating Rio 2016 Olympics champion Carolina Marin(Spain).

#### Women's doubles

- ✓ Baek Ha Na and Lee So Hee of South Korea won the Women's Doubles Title defeating Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota.

#### Mixed Doubles

- ✓ Tokyo 2022 Olympic silver medallists Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong of China won mixed doubles defeating Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino(Japan)

### **Hockey: 2023 Women's Junior Asia Cup: India beats S.Korea to win maiden title**

- ✓ Indian Women's Junior Hockey Team won the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title by defeating four-time champions Republic of Korea (South Korea) in the finals held in Kakamigahara, Japan.
- ✓ This marks India's first-ever Women's Junior Asia Cup title.
- ✓ Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, the 8th edition of the women's international under-21(U-21) field hockey championship of Asia, was held in Kakamigahara, Japan from 2nd to 11th June 2023.
- ✓ South Korea and Japan won the Silver and Bronze Medals respectively in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023.
- ✓ With the results India, Korea and Japan have qualified for the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup 2023 which is scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 29 November to 10th December 2023.

### **Paris Diamond League 2023: India's Murali Sreeshankar finishes 3rd in Long Jump**

- ✓ On 9th June 2023, the 24-year-old Indian long jumper and Commonwealth Games silver medallist Murali Sreeshankar secured third place in Long

Jump (Mens) at the Paris Diamond League 2023 held in Stade Charléty, Paris, France, achieving a best jump of 8.09m in his 3rd attempt.

- ✓ This was Sreeshankar's second appearance in the Diamond League.
- ✓ With this bronze medal, he became the third Indian after Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and discus thrower Vikas Gowda to finish on the podium in the Diamond League.
- ✓ India's national record in men's long jump belongs to Jeswin Aldrin, who hit 8.42m earlier this year.

### **Australia won 2nd ICC World Test Championship 2021-23 by defeating India**

- ✓ The Australia men's cricket team captained by Pat Cummins defeated Indian men's cricket team captained by Rohit Sharma by 209 runs in the finals to win the 2nd edition of International Cricket Council (ICC)



World Test Championship (WTC) 2021-23.

- ✓ The finals of the ICC WTC 2021-2023 was held at The Oval, London, the United Kingdom.
- ✓ ICC WTC 2021-2023 started on 4th August 2021 and finished with the Final on 7-11 June 2023.
- ✓ Australia batter Travis Head was adjudged the Player of the Match (Finals) for scoring 163 runs off 174 balls in 1st innings.
- ✓ India's defeat in the ICC WTC final became the fourth defeat in an ICC tournament final since 2014. It includes India lost the final of the T20 World Cup to Sri Lanka in 2014, the Champions Trophy final to Pakistan in 2017, and the WTC final in 2021 to New Zealand.
- ✓ Virat Kohli becomes India's highest run-scorer in the World Test Championship (WTC) 2021-23 cycle with 932 runs in 17 matches.
- ✓ World Test Championship (WTC) Final match played with Duke Ball. This ball is preferred for the test matches in England and the West Indies. It is

Manufactured by British Cricket Balls Limited and these are hand- stitched and more durable than other ball types.

- ✓ The 1st edition ICC World Test Championship was won by New Zealand by defeating India by eight wickets.

#### **About ICC World Test Championship**

- ✓ The ICC World Test Championship is a two-year tournament with 9 teams competing for two spots in the WTC Final.
- ✓ Teams were ranked based on percentage of WTC points won in eligible Test matches. Each team played six WTC series – three at home and three away. Each test match has 12 points for a win, 4 for a draw, and 6 for a tie.
- ✓ The teams competing in the ICC WTC 2021-23 cycle are India, Australia, Bangladesh, England, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and New Zealand.

#### **BEST PERFORMANCES in ICC WTC 2021-23**

**Most runs:** Joe Root (England) 1915 runs in 22 matches.

**Most wickets:** Nathan Lyon (Australia) 88 wickets in 20 matches.

#### **Australia's ICC Titles:**

- ✓ Australia became the first and only team to win all four major ICC events. This is the 9th time Australia have taken an ICC Trophy.
  - ICC One Day International (ODI) World Cup - 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2015
  - ICC Champions trophy – 2006 and 2009.
  - T20 International World Cup – 2021
  - ICC World Test Championship 2021-23
- ✓ ICC Chairman– **Greg Barclay**
- ✓ Headquarters- Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

### **Magnus Carlsen wins 2023 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland**

- ✓ Former World Chess Champion, Grandmaster(GM) Magnus Carlsen (Worlds No. 1) from Norway won the title at Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland 2023, the 2nd event of the 2023 Grand Chess Tour(GCT), held at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland from 19th to 26th May 2023. He received a cash prize of USD 40000.

### **Novak Djokovic won his 23rd Grand Slam title at French Open 2023**

- ✓ Novak Djokovic, Serbian professional tennis player, won his 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Slam title (Men's singles category) in the French Open 2023



- also known as 2023 Roland-Garros, held at Court Philippe- Chatrier in Stade Roland Garros, Paris, France.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic defeated Casper Ruud of Norway in the final of the French Open 2023 in straight sets 7 (7) -6 (1), 6-3, 7- 5 to win his 3rd Roland-Garros (French Open) title.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic, the winner of Men's Single at the French Open, received the "La Coupe des Mousquetaires(Musketeers' cup)" trophy. He was also awarded prize money amounting to 2.3 million Euro, an increase of 4.55% from 12 months ago.
- ✓ With this win, Djokovic surpassed Rafael Nadal, a Spanish tennis player, to become the most successful male tennis player – with the most major singles trophies – in the history of men's tennis. Rafael Nadal has won a total of 22 Grand Slams.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic has won a total of 23 Grand Slam titles which includes 3 French Open (2016, 2021, 2023), 10 Australian Open(2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023), 7 Wimbledon (2011, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022) and 3 US Open (2011, 2015, 2018).
- ✓ He is also the only male player to win all 4 grand slam titles at least 3 times. He is the only player to win all 9 ATP Masters 1000 events since the start of series in 1990, doing so multiple times for a record total of 38 titles.
- ✓ French Open 2023, the 127th edition of the French Open, was held from 22nd May to 11th June 2023. The 2023 French Open, the 2nd Grand Slam tennis tournament of 2023, was played on outdoor clay courts.

**French Open Trophies**

- men's singles – Musketeers' cup
- women's singles – Suzanne-Lenglen cup
- men's doubles – Jacques-Brugnon cup
- women's doubles Simonne-Mathieu cup
- mixed doubles – Marcel-Bernard cup

**Women's Singles**

- ✓ World's No.1, Iga Świątek(22 years old), a Polish tennis player won the Women's Singles title at the French Open 2023 by defeating Karolína Muchová, the Czech tennis player.



- ✓ This marks her 3rd French Open title(2020, 2022, 2023) and 4th Grand Slam title which includes 3 french open and 1 US Open (2022). She also became the youngest to win 4 major titles since Serena Williams in 2002.
- ✓ She has also become the first woman to win back-to-back French Open titles since Belgium's Justine Henin (2005, 2006, 2007).

- ✓ She received the "Coupe Suzanne Lenglen (Suzanne-Lenglen cup), the French Open trophy of Women's Singles and a cash prize of 2.3 million Euro.

**Men's Doubles**

- ✓ The American-Croatian team Austin Krajicek(United States of America-USA) and Ivan Dodig(Croatia) won their first-ever Men's Doubles title at the French Open 2023 defeating Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen of Belgium.
- ✓ With this win, Austin Krajicek reached the No. 1 position in the Pepperstone Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Doubles Rankings for the first time.

**women's doubles**

- ✓ Hsieh Su-Wei of Taiwan and Wang Xinyu of China won the Women's doubles title at French Open 2023 by defeating 10th-seeded Leylah Fernandez of Canada and Taylor Townsend of the USA.
- ✓ This mark's the first grand slam doubles title of Hsieh and Wang as a team.

**Mixed doubles**

- ✓ Japan's Miyu Kato and Germany's Tim Puetz won the 2023 French Open Mixed Doubles title defeating Bianca Andreescu of Canada & Michael Venus of New Zealand.
- ✓ This mark's the first-ever Grand Slam title for both Kato and Puetz.

**Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Oman: India won the title defeating Pakistan**

- ✓ On 1st June 2023, India won the Dhofar Municipality Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 defeating Pakistan in the finals held in Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman. This marks India's 4th Men's Junior Asia Cup title.
- ✓ The tournament organised by the Asian Hockey Federation and hosted by Oman Hockey Association was held from 23rd May 2023 to 1st June 2023 in Salalah, Oman.
- ✓ Uttam Singh, Captain of the Indian Team, was awarded the Player of the Match(final).
- ✓ With this win, India became the most successful team with maximum titles(4). India has previously won the title in 2004, 2008 and 2015. Pakistan is the 2nd most successful team with 3 titles (1988, 1992 & 1996).

**Khelo India University Games 2022 Held in UP: Panjab University tops Medal Tally**

- ✓ Panjab University (Chandigarh) won the overall championship of the 3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG 2022) held in Uttar Pradesh (UP) from 25th May to 3rd June 2023. Panjab University topped the medal tally of KIUG 2022 with a total of 69 medals (26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze).
- ✓ Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab – 68 medals (24 gold, 27 silver and 17 bronze) and Jain University, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 32 medals (16 gold, 10 silver and 6 bronze medals) were ranked in 2nd and 3rd place.
- ✓ Khelo India University Games (KIUG) is a national-level multi- sport event held in India for athletes from universities across India.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Rajya Sabha MP Hardwar Dubey passes away at 74

- ✓ On 26th June 2023, Hardwar Dubey, Member of Parliament (MP) – Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh (UP), passed away at the age of 74 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and was a sitting MP Rajya Sabha from UP since November 2020.



### Nobel Laureate, Goodenough, the American Co-inventor of Lithium-ion Batteries Passed Away

- ✓ On 25th June 2023, John Bannister Goodenough(100), the American co-inventor of Lithium-ion batteries and a co-winner of 2019 Nobel prize for Chemistry, passed away. He was born on 25th July 1922 in Jena, Germany.
- ✓ Goodenough also played a significant role in the development of Random Access Memory (RAM) for computers. In 1979 Goodenough and his collaborators developed a battery with a cathode of lithium ions having the potential of 4 volts between layers of cobalt oxide.



### Renowned Doordarshan anchor, Gitanjali Aiyar passes away

- ✓ Gitanjali Aiyar, one of India's first English news presenters on national broadcaster Doordarshan(DD), passed away. She was born on 29th January 1947. She worked with DD for over 3 decades since 1971 and was awarded the best anchor 4 times. She was also honoured with Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989.
- ✓ In 2002, she switched to corporate communications, government liaison and marketing.



- ✓ She has also worked with the Taj and Oberoi group of hotels and worked as a consultant at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ She also worked as the Head of the Major Donors department World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India.

### Padma Shri Awardee and veteran Actress Sulochana Latkar Passed Away at 94

- ✓ On 4th June 2023, Padma Shri Awardee and veteran Actress Sulochana Latkar passed away at the age of 94 due to prolonged respiratory illness in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born as Nagabai on July 30, 1928 in Khadaklat village in Belgaum, Karnataka.

### Padma Shri awardee & Sanskrit Scholar Ved Kumari Ghai passed away

- ✓ On 30th May 2023, Ved Kumari Ghai, Veteran Sanskrit Scholar and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at her residence in Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir(J&K). She was born on December 16, 1931 in Pratap Garh Mohallah, Jammu, J&K.

### Kerala's first 'Ashoka Chakra' winner Havildar Alby D'Cruz passes away

Alby D'Cruz, one of Kerala's proud Defence personnel who always maintained a low profile despite being the first Keralaite to be conferred the Ashoka Chakra, passed away. It was way back in 1962, he received the Asoka Chakra (Class III) from the country's first president Rajendra Prasad. Since 1967, this award has been called 'Shaurya Chakra'.

### Ghanaian writer and feminist Ama Ata Aidoo passes away at 81

Ama Ata Aidoo, the iconic Ghanaian writer whose classics The Dilemma of a Ghost and Changes were taught to children in West African schools for decades, has died aged 81. The death of the playwright and poet who was famous for her feminist ideals was announced on Wednesday in a short statement by her family.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Gol Extends Brajendra Navnit's Tenure As India's Ambassador To WTO

- ✓ On 28th June 2023, the Government of India (GoI) extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by 9 months beyond 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and upto 31st March 2024 or until further orders.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, has approved the proposal of the Department of Commerce for an extension in the tenure of the foreign deputation of Brajendra Navnit



### Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General of India

- ✓ Tushar Mehta, the incumbent Solicitor General of India, has been reappointed for a three-year term by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC). Mehta's reappointment, along with six other law officers, was announced after their previous terms in the Supreme Court concluded. The ACC's decision reflects the government's trust in their capabilities to handle the extensive legal matters faced by the country.
- ✓ In addition to Tushar Mehta, six other law officers have been granted extensions as Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) in the Supreme Court, however their duration of terms are yet to be issued. These ASGs include Vikramjeet Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, Suryaprakash V Raju, N Venkatraman, and Aishwarya Bhati. The ACC's decision to extend their terms underscores the importance of their expertise and contributions to the defense of the government's interests in complex legal matters.



### UN chief appoints Xu of China as deputy head of UNDP

- ✓ United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Haoliang Xu of China as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Xu will succeed Usha Rao-Monari of India, to whom the Secretary-General has expressed his appreciation for her service and commitment during her tenure as Associate Administrator.
- ✓ Mr. Xu has been serving as the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP since 2019. His extensive background also includes his time as the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, a position he held between 2013 and 2019.



### Rohit Jawa appoints as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever

- ✓ Rohit Jawa took charges as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL). Jawa has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired on Monday after the company's annual general meeting. Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, from the close of business hours on June 26. Mehta was at the helm for almost a decade and was with the company for more than 30 years.
- ✓ Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London. He had started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988 and has a proven track record of sustained business results across India, South East Asia, and North Asia. Mehta had taken over as the MD & CEO of HUL in October 2013.



## Indian-Origin Satellite Industry Expert Aarti Holla-Maini Appointed as Director of UNOOSA

- ✓ Aarti Holla-Maini, a highly accomplished expert in the satellite industry of Indian origin, has been selected by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna. Her appointment follows the tenure of Simonetta Di Pippo from Italy. The primary objective of UNOOSA is to promote global collaboration in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space, as well as the effective application of space science and technology to foster sustainable economic and social progress.



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## DBS Bank India appoints Rajat Verma as Managing Director

- ✓ DBS Bank India has appointed Rajat Verma as managing director and head of institutional banking in India. The current head of institutional banking Niraj Mittal has recently moved to a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia. The bank said Mittal will focus on growing the DBS franchise there, including improving linkages with South-East Asia and South Asia.
- ✓ Verma was, till recently, with HSBC India where he was managing director and country head of commercial banking in India. The statement said Verma brings a wealth of knowledge and deep industry expertise to DBS. He holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, and a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering.



## SheAtWork founder Ruby Sinha appointed president of BRICS CCI women vertical

- ✓ Ruby Sinha has been appointed as the president of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Women's Vertical (BRICS CCI WE) for a three-year term. Sinha, the founder of SheAtWork and Kommune Brand Communications, will assume the role. BRICS



Chamber of Commerce and Industry is dedicated to fostering trade, commerce, and entrepreneurship among the BRICS nations and other friendly countries. Sinha succeeds Shabana Nasim, who has transitioned to the position of Executive Director of BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE.

- ✓ The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization which promotes commerce and industry in the BRICS nations. The Chamber, founded in 2012 with the efforts of eminent professionals and entrepreneur, is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization.

## Hasmukh Adhia appointed as Chairman of GIFT City

- ✓ Hasmukh Adhia, a senior retired bureaucrat and former Union Finance Secretary & Revenue Secretary, has been named as the Chairman of GIFT City Ltd. This organization is responsible for the development of Gujarat International Finance-Tec City, India's first smart city located in Gandhinagar. Hasmukh Adhia takes over the role of Chairman from Sudhir Mankad, the former chief secretary of Gujarat.
- ✓ In addition to his role as Chairman of GIFT City, Hasmukh Adhia has been appointed as Director and Chairman of the boards of Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC), both state public sector undertakings. These appointments, effective immediately, are non-executive chairman positions according to regulatory filings.
- ✓ GIFT City, or Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, is a central business district under construction in Gandhinagar district in Gujarat, India. It is India's first operational greenfield smart city and international financial services center, which the Government of Gujarat promoted as a greenfield project.



## Alibaba named Eddie Wu as new CEO

- ✓ Alibaba Group Holding, a Chinese e-commerce company that has been facing challenges in market share and growth recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, is undergoing leadership changes. Daniel Zhang, the chief executive who has been with the company for eight years, will be replaced by Joseph Tsai, the executive vice chairman, who will assume the role of chairman of the board. Eddie Wu, the chairman of Alibaba's core Taobao and Tmall online commerce divisions, will take over as the chief executive of the company, which has a market value of \$240 billion.
- ✓ Alibaba is a prominent Chinese multinational conglomerate specializing in e-commerce, technology, and various other sectors. Founded in 1999 by Jack Ma and a group of entrepreneurs, Alibaba has grown into one of the world's largest and most influential companies.



## Swaminathan Janakiraman named as new RBI deputy governor

- ✓ On 20th June 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman, Managing Director (MD) (Corporate Banking and Subsidiaries) of the State Bank of India (SBI) to the post of Deputy Governor (DG) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman is for a period of three years from the date of joining the post or until further orders. He will succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, whose 5 years tenure ends on June 22nd 2023.
- ✓ Mahesh Kumar Jain was first appointed as a DG in June 2018 for 3 years, then he was re-appointed in June 2021 for a further 2-year period.
- ✓ The current 4 Deputy governors of RBI are Janakiraman, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, and T. Rabi Sankar.



## RBI approved Appointment of A P Hota as Federal Bank's Part-Time Chairman

- ✓ On June 26, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of AP Hota, independent director, as part-time chairman of the Federal Bank with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026.

## Jhulan Goswami, Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan Joins MCC World Cricket Committee

- ✓ Jhulan Goswami, former Indian woman cricketer, Heather Knight, captain of the England women's cricket team and Eoin Morgan, former England Men's cricketer have joined the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) World Cricket Committee (WCC).
- ✓ The trio has joined the committee ahead of its upcoming meeting at Lord's cricket ground in London, the United Kingdom (UK), known as the Home of Cricket, which is owned by the MCC.
- ✓ MCC World Cricket committee is an independent body of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from across the world.



## Kyriakos Mitsotakis wins second term as Greek PM

- ✓ On 25th June 2023, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, leader of Greece's centre-right New Democracy (ND-Nea Demokratia) party, won the national election and secured a 2nd four-year term as the Prime Minister (PM) of Greece.
- ✓ He was sworn in as the PM of Greece on 26th June 2023 by the Archbishop of Athens, head of the Church of Greece.
- ✓ Kyriakos Mitsotakis served as the PM of Greece for the first term from July 2019 to May 2023. He has been serving as the President of the ND party since 2016.



## Marcel Ciolacu Appointed as New Prime Minister of Romania; Nicolae Ciucă Resigned

- ✓ On 15th June 2023, Ion-Marcel Ciolacu(55 years old), leader of Romania's Social Democratic Party (PSD- Partidul Social Democrat) sworn in as the new Prime Minister(PM) of Romania at the Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest, Romania.
- ✓ Nicolae Ciucă, leader of the National Liberal Party (PNL), who has been serving as the PM of Romania since 2021 resigned from the post on 12th June 2023.
- ✓ On 13th June 2023, Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, appointed incumbent Justice Minister Catalin Predoiu as interim PM of Romania.



## IPS officer Ravi Sinha selected as new chief of RAW

- ✓ Ravi Sinha, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Sinha will take over from Samant Kumar Goel, who is completing his four-year term on June 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sinha's appointment as Secretary of RAW for a period of two years.
- ✓ Ravi Sinha, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch of the Chhattisgarh cadre, is presently serving as the Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. With over two decades of experience, Sinha has been associated with the intelligence agency for a significant period. Prior to his promotion, he held the position of heading the operational wing of RAW. Sinha has gained extensive experience through his work in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast of India, as well as other countries.
- ✓ Samant Kumar Goel was appointed as the chief of RAW for a period of two years in June 2019. He was subsequently granted two one-year extensions, first in 2021 and then in June 2022.



## NEC Corp's Aalok Kumar joins ADB advisory group on digital tech

- ✓ Aalok Kumar, the Corporate Officer and Senior Vice President, Head of Global Smart City Business at NEC Corporation, and President and CEO of NEC Corporation India, has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development, effective May 1, 2023.
- ✓ The group is composed of eight members, including renowned industry leaders and academics, and is dedicated to increasing the utilisation of ICT technology in ADB activities for developing countries.



## Gopichand Hinduja takes charges as Group chairman

- ✓ Gopichand Hinduja, 83, has taken over as the Chairman of the Hinduja Group after the recent demise of his brother Srichand P Hinduja. Earlier, Gopichand Hinduja was the co-chairman and was overseeing the diverse global business empire that straddles across sectors such as automotive, IT, media and entertainment, infrastructure, oil and speciality chemicals, power and real estate. Gopichand Hinduja is a strong leader with a wealth of experience. He is well-positioned to lead the Hinduja Group into the future and to continue to build on the group's success.
- ✓ Gopichand Hinduja is a well-respected businessman and philanthropist. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Trade and Competitiveness and is a trustee of the Hinduja Foundation, which supports a number of charitable causes in India and around the world. Gopichand Hinduja has been associated with the Hinduja Group since its inception in 1914. He has held a number of senior positions within the group, including Co-Chairman and Chairman of the Hinduja Automotive Limited.





## Amit Agrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA

- ✓ Senior IAS officers Amit Agrawal and Subodh Kumar Singh have been appointed as CEO Unique Identification Authority of India and director general of the National Testing Agency, respectively, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India.



## Anantharaman is new TransUnion Cibil chairman

- ✓ V Anantharaman, a seasoned banker with extensive experience in the banking industry, has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of credit bureau TransUnion CIBIL. Anantharaman has held leadership positions in corporate and investment banking teams at renowned international firms such as Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of America.
- ✓ Anantharaman holds a post-graduate diploma in business management from XLRI and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Jadavpur University. He has also served as a senior advisor to British International Investment (formerly CDC), which is the UK's Development Finance Institution.



## Janardan Prasad appointed new Director-General of Geological Survey of India

- ✓ Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director General of the Geological Survey of India

(GSI). Prasad has taken charge of the 174-year-old institution, succeeding Dr S Raju who has been the Director General since 2020.



- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, has its headquarters in the city, with six regional offices in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata.

## Dennis Francis elected 78th UNGA president.

- ✓ The 193 UN Member States, elected a veteran diplomat from Trinidad and Tobago, Dennis Francis as the President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. Francis, who has had a nearly 40-year-career, will take the helm of the UN's main policy-making body, starting in September. He was elected by acclamation during a ceremony in the iconic General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York. The General Assembly consists of all 193 UN Member States, all of which have an equal vote.
- ✓ The current General Assembly President, Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, noted that his successor would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the post. With 100 days remaining in his administration, Kőrösi said he will continue to promote the use of science for a sustainability transformation, namely in preparations for the SDG Summit during the High-Level Week of the General Assembly in September.



## Nirmala Lakshman named as new Chairperson of The Hindu Group

- ✓ Ms. Nirmala Lakshman has been appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL) for a term of three years. She succeeds Ms. Malini Parthasarathy, who stepped down as Chairperson at the Board's meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023 upon nearing the completion of her three-year term.



## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### MoS for Panchayati Raj Kapil Moreshwar Patil released Report on Panchayat Development Index

- ✓ On 28th June 2023, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj(MoPR) released the Report on Panchayat Development Index(PDI) during the National Workshop on PDI held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ PDI was formulated to evaluate different indicators responsible for ensuring targeted development in villages.
- ✓ PDI Report comes with 144 local targets, 577 local indicators and 688 data points on 9 themes of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs), which aggregates the 17 Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) of the United Nations.
- ✓ The 9 themes include poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages, healthy villages, child-friendly villages, water-sufficient villages, clean and green villages, villages with self-sufficient infrastructure, socially just and socially secured villages, village with good governance, and women-friendly village.
- ✓ On a pilot basis, data from 4 districts (Pune, Sangli, Satara and Solapur) of Maharashtra were compiled.
- ✓ The PDI ranks panchayats on the basis of scores and categorises them into different grades
- ✓ Panchayats with scores above 90% will be categorised as A+, 75 to 90% will be grade A, 60-75% will be grade B, 40-60% will be grade C and below 40% will be grade D.
- ✓ Based on the pilot index, 70% of the panchayats in the 4 districts of Maharashtra are in Category C, while 27% are in B.
- ✓ Around 36% of panchayats fall in grade D and around 53% fall under grade D, in the case of water sufficiency.
- ✓ 30% of panchayats are in grade B in being clean and green villages, and 30% in grade C when it comes to being women-friendly.
- ✓

### 2023 Global Competitiveness Index

- ✓ On 20th June 2023, The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) published 35th edition of the World Competitiveness Index 2023 which ranks India at 40th position. The top 3 positions in the ranking were claimed by Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland.
- ✓ The data published explores multiple factors that affect the prosperity of 64 economies.



### India in the World Competitiveness Index 2023

- ✓ India dropped 3 places to rank 40 which is an improvement from the 43rd position secured in 2019-2021
- ✓ The key factors that contributed to India's ranking were exchange rate stability, compensation levels and advancements in pollution control.
- ✓ The report outlined the issues that India is projected to encounter in 2023- maintaining high GDP(Gross domestic product) growth, managing financial market volatility and controlling inflation and fiscal deficit.
- ✓ The report states that Indian government's efficiency has increased but still lagging in business efficiency infrastructure and economic performance.

### Highlights

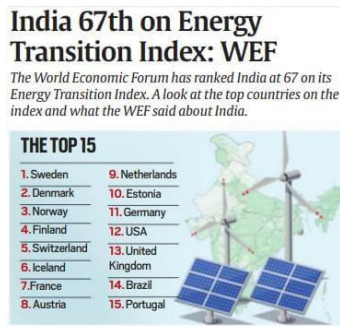
- ✓ Denmark's top position is based on its consistent achievements in all four competitiveness factors.
- ✓ Ireland made the most impressive overall improvement as it leapt from 11th place to second.
- ✓ Switzerland retained the third place due to its strong performance in all factors of competitiveness. It ranks first in government efficiency and infrastructure
- ✓ The rest of the top 10 (6 to 10) are Taiwan(China), Hong Kong SAR(Special Administrative Region), Sweden, USA, UAE.
- ✓ European economies dominated the top 10 rankings. Six South American countries occupied

the bottom 10 positions in the index, with Venezuela ranking last at 64th place.

- ✓ Kuwait is the latest economy to join the ranking, making its debut in 2023.

### WEF's Energy Transition Index 2023: India ranked 67th; Sweden Tops

- ✓ According to the World Economic Forum(WEF) report titled “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023”, published in collaboration with Accenture, India is ranked 67th on the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2023.



- ✓ The report also stated that India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum

accelerating across the ETI's equitable, secure and sustainable dimensions.

- ✓ ETI 2023, the list of 120 countries, is topped by Sweden with an ETI score 78.5 followed by Denmark (76.1) and Norway (73.7) in 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- ✓ The global average ETI scores increased by 10% since 2014 but showed only marginal growth in the past 3 years. The 2023 global average is 56.3%.

### QS World University Rankings 2024: IIT Bombay only Indian Institute among the top 150

- ✓ According to the QS World University Rankings 2024 by Quacquarelli Symonds(QS) released on



27th June 2023, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B), Mumbai, Maharashtra, is the

only Indian Institute featured among the top 150 Universities.

- ✓ IIT-B ranked 149th globally, has emerged as the best higher education Institute in India.

- ✓ The global list is topped by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, United States of America(USA) for the 12th time (2012 and from 2014 to 2024).
- ✓ MIT is followed by the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, the United Kingdom (UK) in 2nd place and the University of Oxford, Oxford, UK in 3rd place.
- ✓ Apart from IIT-B, IIT Delhi (IITD) is the only Indian university among the top 200 in the 2024 ranking.
- ✓ The rank of IISc Bengaluru dropped from 155 in 2023 to 225 in 2024 while IIT-Madras has dropped from 250 in 2023 to 285 in 2024 and IIT-Delhi has dropped from 174 to 192 in 2023.
- ✓ The University of Delhi, ranked 407th, and Anna University, ranked 427th, have made their debut among the top 500 universities on the list.
- ✓ A total of 13 Indian universities have ranked lower than the 2023 edition, while the ranks of 13 institutes remained unchanged.

### About QS World University Rankings 2024

- ✓ QS World University Rankings 2024, the 20th edition of the ranking, features 1,500 institutions across 104 locations and is the only ranking of its kind to emphasise employability and sustainability.
- ✓ For the 2024 ranking, QS has introduced 3 new metrics: Sustainability, Employment Outcomes and International Research Network in addition to the weighting of certain existing indicators, academic reputation, employer Reputation, and faculty-student ratio.

### Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023: Bengaluru ranked 20th & Silicon Valley Topped the Global List

- ✓ According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 (GSER 2023) released by policy advisory and research firm Startup Genome, Indian ecosystems continue to rise, with Bengaluru (Karnataka) startup ecosystem has positioned to the 20th spot, moving two places from 2022.
- ✓ Mumbai (Maharashtra) moved up five places to 31<sup>st</sup> position and Delhi moved up two places to 24<sup>th</sup>

position respectively in the Global Startup Ecosystem list 2023.

- ✓ Among the emerging ecosystems, Pune (Maharashtra) has moved into the 31-40 range in 2023, from 51–60 in 2022.
- ✓ Silicon Valley(United States) remaining at the top ecosystem in the GSER 2023 followed by New York City(United States) and London(United Kingdom) tied at 2nd position. They are maintaining the top three position from 2020.
- ✓ Los Angeles (United States) and Tel Aviv(Israel) were at 4th and 5th position, whereas Boston(United States) and Beijing were at the 6th and 7th position respectively.

### India's Harish Bhat ranked 10th on Forbes World's Most Influential CMOs List 2023; Walmart's William White Tops

- ✓ According to The Forbes World's Most Influential CMOs (Chief Marketing Officers). List: 2023, Harish Bhat, Brand Custodian of the Tata Group, was ranked among the top 10 most influential CMOs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.
- ✓ In the 2023 list, Harish Bhat is ranked 10th and previously in 2022, he was ranked 9th.
- ✓ The 2023 list, the 11th edition of Forbes' top 50 CMO list, is topped by William White, CMO of Walmart(United States of America-USA) followed by Marcel Marcondes, global CMO of Anheuser-Busch InBev (Belgium) at 2nd spot and Conny Braams, Chief Digital and Commercial Officer of Unilever (England).

### Global Liveability Index 2023: Austria's Vienna ranked world's most liveable city

- ✓ According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2023 released on June 21, 2023, Vienna, the capital of Austria, has topped the index as the world's most liveable city. Vienna has secured the top spot for the second



consecutive year excelling in all the categories of the index.

- ✓ Copenhagen (Denmark) ranked second while Melbourne and Sydney of Australia ranked 3rd and 4th in the index.
- ✓ EIU's index ranks 173 cities across five categories: stability, healthcare, education, culture and the environment, and infrastructure.
- ✓ The average liveability score has increased from 73.2 in 2022 to 76.2 (out of 100) in 2023. This is the highest score in 15 years due to improvements made by developing countries and as lives return to normal after COVID-19, education, health and cultural facilities are improving.
- ✓ .The top 10 spots of the index include three cities in Canada, two in Switzerland, and two in Asia. Most of the top 50, are in rich countries.
- ✓ Living conditions remain worst in Damascus (the capital of Syria) and it ranks 173 as the least liveable city in the world for the second consecutive year due to social unrest, terrorism and conflict.
- ✓ **Ranking of Indian cities:** 5 cities from India have been featured on the EIU's Global Liveability index 2023.
  - New Delhi (Delhi) 141st rank.
  - Mumbai (Maharashtra) 141st rank.
  - Chennai (Tamil Nadu) 144th rank.
  - Ahmedabad (Gujarat) 147th rank.
  - Bengaluru (Karnataka) 148th rank.

### India to lose 6,500 millionaires in 2023, Dubai and Singapore top choice: Henley's Report

- ✓ According to the Henley and partners' annual report of Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2023, published on June 13, 2023, India may lose (net outflow) at least 6,500 High-Networth Individuals (HNWIs) in 2023 making India the second-highest outflow of HNWIs globally, after China (which has a net outflow of 13,500 HNWIs).
- ✓ India will be followed by the United Kingdom-UK (3,200) and Russia (3,000) in third and fourth places, respectively.
- ✓ The 2022 edition projected the departure of 7,500 HNWIs from India that year.

## Reliance climbed 8 spots and ranked 45 on Forbes 2023 The Global 2000 list

- ✓ On 13th June, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) climbed eight spots to the 45th rank, the highest for an Indian company in the 2023 edition of the Global 2000 list of public companies published by Forbes'.
- ✓ Reliance held the 53rd position in the 2022 edition of the Global 2000.
- ✓ RIL ranked 45 ahead of well-known names like Germany's BMW Group, Switzerland's Nestle, China's Alibaba Group, the United State of America's (USA) Procter & Gamble and Japan's Sony.
- ✓ JPMorgan, America's biggest bank is at the top of the list for the first time since 2011; Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabian Oil Company in the 2nd followed by 3 state-owned banks of China (ICBC, China Construction Bank and Agricultural Bank of China).

## THE Asia University Rankings 2023: IISc tops Indian Institutes; China's Tsinghua University tops the overall list

- ✓ According to Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2023, released on 22nd June 2023, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru (Karnataka) has emerged as the highest ranked Indian Institute. IISc is ranked 48th on the overall list.
- ✓ The list is topped by China's Tsinghua University, followed by the Peking University of China in the 2nd position and Singapore's National University of Singapore (NUS) in the 3rd position for the 4th year in a row.
- ✓ The 2023 ranking, the 11th edition of THE Asia University Rankings, ranks 669 Universities (up from 616 in 2022) from 31 countries or regions.
- ✓ Notably, IISc 2023 position at 48th is the lowest rank since 2015, when it first entered the ranking at the 34th spot. It was ranked 42nd in 2022.

## Tata Group retains 1st Position as India's Most Valuable Brand: INDIA 100 2023 Brand Finance Report

- ✓ The brand valuation firm Brand Finance released its INDIA 100 2023: The annual report on the most valuable and strongest Indian brands- June 2023 report in which the Tata Group has retained its 1st position as India's most valuable brand at USD (United States Dollar) 26,381 Million in 2023. It has shown a growth at 10.3% as compared to 2022.
- ✓ This is the first time that an Indian brand has breached the brand value mark of USD 25 billion.
- ✓ Tata Group is the only Indian brand to feature in the top 100 of the Brand Finance Global 500 2023 (gaining 7 ranks in 2023), the annual ranking of the world's top 500 most valuable brands released in January 2023.

## Global Slavery Index 2023: With 11 Million Forced Labourers India tops among the G20 Nations

- ✓ According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an assessment of modern slavery conditions in 160 countries, released by Australia-based Rights group Walk Free Foundation in May 2023, Globally, around 50 million (49.6 million) people were living in conditions of modern slavery in 2021, a 25% rise over the last five years.
- ✓ Among the G20 nations, India tops the list with 11 million people working as forced labourers, followed by China, Russia, Indonesia, Türkiye and the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ 2/3 of people in modern slavery were in India, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Türkiye, Bangladesh and the USA.
- ✓ Asia and Pacific region has the largest number of modern slavery with 29.3 million people.

## India to overtake China in Oil Demand Growth by 2027: IEA Report

- ✓ According to the 'Oil 2023' Analysis and forecast to 2028 report released by International Energy Agency (IEA), India will surpass China as the main driver of global oil demand growth by 2027 as consumption expands in fast-growing developing economies and contracts in the developed world.

## DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme&Details
June 1st	Global Day of Parents 2023	The first ever Global Day of Parents was observed on 1st June 2013.
June 2nd	International Sex Workers' Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Access to Justice"
June 3rd	World Bicycle Day 2023	The first UN designated World Bicycle Day was observed on 3rd June 2018
June 5th	World Environment Day (WED)2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Solutions to Plastic Pollution". <b>Campaign:</b> #BeatPlasticPollution 5th June 2023 marks the observance of the 50th World Environment Day. The WED 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands. June 5th marks the inaugural day of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, the first world conference to make the environment a major issue, held in Stockholm, Sweden from 5 to 16 June 1972.
June 6th	UN Russian Language Day 2023	The day marks the birth anniversary of the great Russian poet, playwright, and novelist, Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin (A.S. Pushkin) (1799 – 1837), the founder of modern Russian literature. • Every year, Russia celebrates June 6th as "Pushkin Day".
June 7th	World Food Safety Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Food standards save lives" <b>Slogan:</b> "Food safety is everyone's business" • 7th June 2023 marks the observance of the 5th World Food Safety Day.
June 8th	World Oceans Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Planet Ocean: tides are changing". The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/111 on 5th December 2008 and proclaimed the 8th June of every year, starting from 2009, as World Oceans Day.
June 8th	World Brain Tumour Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Protect yourself- keep away from stress." <b>Symbol:</b> The Gray ribbon is the official symbol of raising awareness for Brain Tumour and Brain Cancers.
June 9th	World Accreditation Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade".
June 12th	World Day Against Child Labour 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!" The first-ever World Day Against Child Labour was observed on 12th June 2002. The World Day Against Child Labour was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO), an UN Agency.
June 13th	International Albinism Awareness Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> "Inclusion is Strength"
June 14th	World Blood Donor Day 2023	<b>Theme/ Slogan:</b> "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often." In 2004, the WHO initiated and established the observance of World Blood Donor Day on 14th June to mark the birth Anniversary of Karl Landsteiner (1868-1943), Austrian-American immunologist. Karl Landsteiner was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1930 for his discovery of human blood groups.

June 15th	Global wind day 2023	-----
June 15th	ASEAN Dengue Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> ASEAN’s Commitment to Fight against Dengue. In 2023, ADD will be commemorated at the 6th Asia Dengue Summit (ADS) 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand from 15 to 16 June 2023, under the theme “Road Map to Zero Dengue Death”.
June 15th	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses”.
June 16th	International Day of Family Remittances 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction.”.
June 17th	World Crocodile Day 2023	-----
June 19th	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2023	-----
June 19th	National Reading Day 2023	National Reading Day is annually observed across India on 19th June to mark the death anniversary of Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker(PN Panicker), who is fondly known as the Father of the Library Movement in Kerala.
June 20th	World Refugee Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Hope away from home“.
June 21st	International Yoga Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” – ‘Yoga for ‘The World is One Family’ Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, attended the Yoga program at the UN Headquarters. The 9th International Day of Yoga is organised by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in collaboration with the UN Secretariat at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.
June 21st	World Hydrographic Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Hydrography – Underpinning the Digital Twin of the Ocean”
June 21st	World Music Day 2023	-----
June 23rd	United Nations Public Service Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Innovative Public Service Delivery: Ensuring No One Is Left Behind.”
June 23rd	International Olympic Day 2023	<b>Theme :</b> ‘Let’s Move’ <b>Hashtags:</b> #Letsmove and #OlympicDay
June 26th	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2023	
June 26th	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	<b>Theme:</b> ‘People first: Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention’.
June 27th	MSME Day 2023	
June 29th	National Statistics Day 2023	<b>Theme:</b> Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” The day marks the celebration of the birth anniversary of Professor (late) Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (PC Mahalanobis), known as the “Father of Indian Statistics” and recognises his notable contributions in the fields of statistics and economic planning.
June 30th	International Day of Parliamentarism 2023	<b>Theme:</b> “Parliaments for the Planet”. The day marks the anniversary of the foundation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the global organization of national parliaments, founded on 30th June 1889.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR
“India’s Finance Ministers”	<b>A.K. Bhattacharya</b>
‘A Life Well Spent — Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service’	<b>Satish Chandra</b>
“Amrutkaal ki Ore”	<b>Shivanand Dwivedi and K K Upadhyay</b>
“The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho”	<b>Paterson Joseph</b> , British actor and writer
“Azadi”	<b>Arundhati Roy</b> , a renowned Indian writer

## COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	Details
<b>EPFO</b> formed 3 committees to frame Draft Schemes for PF, Pension and Insurance	The three schemes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee’s Provident Fund Scheme (EPFS) for provident fund</li> <li>• Employee’s Pension Scheme (EPS) for pension</li> <li>• Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLIS) for insurance</li> </ul> <b>Chanramauli Chakraborty</b> , Additional Central provident fund Commissioner (ACC) (HeadquartersHQ) Legal, will be the overall co-ordinator for all three committees.
Government of India constitutes Peace Committee in Manipur	The Central government has constituted a peace committee in Manipur under the chairmanship of <b>Governor Anusuiya Uikey</b> .

## APPS & WEB PORTAL

APPS & WEB PORTAL	Launched by
Unified Registration Portal For <b>GOBARDhan</b>	<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b> , Union Minister of Jal Shakti, launched the Unified Registration Portal for Biogas/ Compressed Bio Gas (CBG)/ Bio CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) plants under Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan) scheme.
<b>PM SVANidhi</b> Mobile app	Union Minister <b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b> , Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the mobile app “PMSVANidhi” for street vendors to ease their loan application process under the PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme.
‘ <b>Knowledge Sharing Platform</b> ’	<b>The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</b> launched a ‘Knowledge Sharing Platform’ hosted on the NHAI website to promote inclusive development of national highways.
<b>Dugdh Sankalan Sathi</b> Mobile App	Union Minister <b>Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey</b> , Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) unveiled the ‘Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App’ or ‘Milk Collection Partner Mobile App’ from Mussoorie, Uttarakhand for the Indian Dairy Industry.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- In June 2023, Union Minister of Mines, Pralhad Joshi released the first-ever report on “Critical Minerals for India”.  
How many essential minerals were identified by the report (as of June ‘23)?  
a) 20  
b) 30  
c) 50  
d) 40  
e) 60
- According to the “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023” report published by World Economic Forum(WEF) & Accenture in June 2023, India is ranked \_\_\_\_\_ on the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2023, while Sweden topped the Index with an ETI score 78.5.  
a) 60th  
b) 67th  
c) 59th  
d) 74th  
e) 56th
- According to the 35th edition of the World Competitiveness Index 2023 published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in June 2023, India ranked at \_\_\_\_\_ position, while \_\_\_\_\_ (country) secured 1st rank in the Index.  
a) 39th; Ireland  
b) 43rd; Denmark  
c) 40th; Ireland  
d) 43rd; Switzerland  
e) 40th; Denmark
- Name the combi insurance solution that has been recently (in June ‘23) launched by the ICICI Lombard General Insurance and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.  
a) iSampoorn  
b) i Pru Heart  
c) iProtect  
d) iShield  
e) iSanchay
- Which country has recently conducted its 1st test firing of a V-MaX a Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) to develop new missile technology?  
a) United Kingdom  
b) United States of America  
c) Russia  
d) France  
e) China
- Which state government has recently (in June ‘23) signed an MoU with Micron to set up a USD 2.75 billion semiconductor assembly and test facility?  
a) Odisha  
b) Andhra Pradesh  
c) Madhya Pradesh  
d) West Bengal  
e) Gujarat
- Name the Government agency that has recently (in June ‘23) organised “Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir” in New Delhi, Delhi.  
a) Defence Research and Development Organisation  
b) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre  
c) Indian Space Research Organisation  
d) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research  
e) Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research
- Which of the following points is/are correct with respect to the new guidelines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ‘Sagar Samajik Sahayyog’ released in June 2023?  
A) The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal launched ‘Sagar Samajik Sahayyog’ the new guidelines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways in New Delhi, Delhi.  
B) A CSR Committee will be formed in each major port headed by the Deputy Chairperson of the Major Port and shall have two other Members.  
C) Under the CSR funding guidelines, Ports with an annual turnover exceeding of less than Rs 100 crores will spend 3-5% of their net annual profit towards CSR initiatives.  
a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
- Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to the United States of America (USA) and Egypt in June 2023?  
A) During the PM visit to the USA, Boeing in the United States, has announced a USD 100 million

- investment in infrastructure and programs to train pilots in India.
- B) The three US tech giants of Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, have committed and announced major capital investments and technological cooperation in India for the growth of Indian technology.
- C) During PM visit to Egypt, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, conferred the country's highest state honour "Order of the Nile" award on PM Narendra Modi.
- a) Only A                                 b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C                             d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
10. According to the QS World University Rankings 2024 by Quacquarelli Symonds(QS) released in June 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ is the only Indian Institute featured among the top 150 Universities, while Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA has tops the list for the 12th time.
- a) Indian Institute of Science(IISc) Bengaluru  
b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay  
c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi  
d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur  
e) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
11. According to the RBI data titled 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (Q4) of 2022-23' released in June 2023, India's current account deficit (CAD) declined sequentially to USD 1.3 billion \_\_\_\_\_ of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the Q4 (January-March) of FY23.
- a) -0.4%                                     b) -0.2%  
c) -0.1%                                     d) -0.5%  
e) -0.3%
12. Which company has recently (in June '23) partnered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide private 5G (Fifth-generation) network solutions?
- a) Cummins India Limited  
b) Engineers India Limited  
c) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Technology Services Limited  
d) Everest Industries Limited  
e) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
13. Name the company that has recently (in June '23) appointed Rohit Jawa as new Managing Director(MD) & Chief executive officer (CEO).
- a) ITC Limited  
b) Britannia Industries  
c) Dabur Ltd  
d) Hindustan Unilever Limited  
e) Godrej Consumer Products Limited
14. Name the company that has recently (in June '23) signed an MoU with Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to develop geospatial solutions for the Indian agriculture ecosystem.
- a) Pixxel Space India Private Limited  
b) Airnetz Aviation Private Limited  
c) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited  
d) Boeing India Private Limited  
e) Dhruva Space Private Limited
15. Name the Bank that has recently (in June '23) became India's first Public Sector Bank (PSB) to introduce the facility of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments to merchants through RuPay Credit Card.
- a) Canara Bank  
b) Punjab National Bank  
c) Bank of Baroda  
d) Indian Bank  
e) Union Bank of India
16. Name the exercise that was recently (in June '23) conducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) with a focus on integration.
- a) Exercise Gaganshakti  
b) Exercise Indra V  
c) Exercise Ranvijay  
d) Exercise Thunderbolt  
e) Exercise Vayu Shakti
17. According to the 2023 World Drug Report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in June 2023, globally around \_\_\_\_\_ people used drugs in 2021.
- a) 150 million  
b) 296 million  
c) 324 million  
d) 520 million  
e) 432 million
18. The World Bank has recently (in June '23) granted a USD \_\_\_\_\_ loan to improve the quality of technical education and expand career opportunities for students in India.
- a) 321.4 million  
b) 420.8 million  
c) 255.5 million  
d) 130.2 million  
e) 290.4 million
19. Who authored the book, "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills"?
- a) Sagarika Ghose  
b) Shereen Bhan  
c) Kasturi Ray  
d) Rana Ayyub  
e) Sucheta Dalal

20. What was the theme of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2023 that was observed across the globe on 26th June 2023?
- Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives
  - Better Knowledge for Better Care.
  - People first: Stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention
  - Health for Justice. Justice for Health
  - Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crisis
21. Which state has recently launched the facial recognition system for Inner Line Permits (ILP) system?
- Arunachal Pradesh
  - Nagaland
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Manipur
  - Mizoram
22. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has recently (in May '23) decided to extend the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission from June 2023 to \_\_\_\_\_.
- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) August 2024 | b) April 2024 |
| c) June 2024   | d) May 2024   |
| e) July 2024   |               |
23. Indian Railways has recently (in June '23) announced a plan to introduce India's first hydrogen train, expected to start operating from \_\_\_\_\_ (district) by March 2024.
- Jind (Haryana)
  - Amravati (Maharashtra)
  - Jamnagar (Gujarat)
  - Balangir (Odisha)
  - Burdwan (West Bengal)
24. Name the close-ended life insurance plan that has recently (in June '23) launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer a combination of protection and savings.
- Jeevan Azad
  - Jeevan Anand
  - Dhan Sanchay
  - Dhan Vridhhi
  - Bima Jyoti\
25. Which insurance company has recently (in June '23) launched 'Nishchit Pension Plan', a comprehensive retirement solution?
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
  - Max Life Insurance
  - SBI Life Insurance
  - HDFC Life Insurance
  - Bajaj Allianz life Insurance
26. Name the city that has created a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people for a yoga session at one place on International Yoga Day (21st June 2023)?
- Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Surat, Gujarat
  - Nagpur, Maharashtra
  - Hyderabad, Telangana
27. Which state has recently (in May '23) established Didi Libraries to promote reading habits among village children?
- Uttarakhand
  - Haryana
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar
28. Name the life insurance company that has recently (in June '23) introduced Industry's 1<sup>st</sup> digital payments via WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI).
- Tata AIA Life Insurance
  - ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
  - Max Life Insurance
  - Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
  - HDFC Life Insurance
29. Name the personality who has been recently (in June '23) honoured with the India Global Forum (IGF) United Kingdom (UK) Special Award: Global Indian Icon of the Year award (2023) at the 5th annual UK - India Awards (2023).
- Mary Kom
  - PV Sindhu
  - Lovlina Borgohain
  - Neeraj Chopra
  - Shubman Gill
30. In which city, India's first 'Police Drone Unit' for aerial surveillance was launched in June 2023?
- Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
  - Nagpur, Maharashtra
  - Meerut, Uttar Pradesh
  - Indore, Madhya Pradesh
  - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
31. In June 2023, Indian men's kabaddi team defeated \_\_\_\_\_ (country) Kabaddi team to win the 9th edition Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023.
- Japan
  - Iran
  - South Korea
  - Taiwan
  - Hong Kong

32. When was World Social Media Day 2023 observed with the theme of 'Uniting the Digital World'?
- 26th June 2023
  - 29th June 2023
  - 27th June 2023
  - 30th June 2023
  - 28th June 2023
33. Name the country that has recently (in June '23) announced a new open work-permit stream to allow 10,000 H-1B visa holders in the United States.
- Brazil
  - Mexico
  - Canada
  - Argentina
  - Chile
34. Name the Exercise that has recently (in June '23) conducted by the Northern Command of the Indian Army in eastern Ladakh.
- Vostok 1
  - PANEX 1
  - Agneyastra 1
  - EKuverin 1
  - Kurukshetra 1
35. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual Global Gender Gap Report 2023, released in June 2023, India ranked \_\_\_\_\_ out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity at the Global Gender Gap Index 2023 while \_\_\_\_\_ (country) Topped the index.
- 127th; Norway
  - 130th; Finland
  - 127th; Iceland
  - 130th; Norway
  - 117th; Iceland
36. Name the personality who has recently (in June '23) appointed as the Chairman of Gujarat International Finance Tec-city co. ltd. (GIFT City Ltd) by replacing Sudhir Mankad.
- Hasmukh Adhia
  - Tapan Ray
  - Sanjeev Kumar
  - Anjali Bansal
  - Rajkumar Beniwal
37. Indian Badminton doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have recently (in June '23) secured world Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Rank) in the Men's Doubles BWF Ranking after their maiden Super 1000 title at the Indonesia Open.
- 4
  - 6
  - 5
  - 3
  - 2
38. In June 2023, India participated in the 19th edition of Multinational Peacekeeping Joint Exercise, Ex Khaan Quest 2023 held in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kyrgyzstan
  - Mongolia
  - Bangladesh
  - Seychelles
  - Kazakhstan
39. Name the personality who has been recently (in June '23) awarded with the 2023 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.
- Anis Ahmed Rushdie
  - Bharati Mukherjee
  - Rachel Eliza Griffiths
  - Salman Rushdie
  - Marianne Wiggins
40. Who has been recently (in June '23) appointed as the Deputy Governor (DG) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?
- Swati Gupta
  - B. Venugopal
  - Alok Kumar Choudhary
  - Ashwini Kumar Tewari
  - Swaminathan Janakiraman
41. Name the company that has recently (in June '23) delivered India's 1st Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle (ALSV) to the Indian armed forces.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited
  - Mahindra Defence Systems
  - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
  - Lockheed Martin India Private Limited
  - Bharat Electronics Limited
42. Which country has recently (in June '23) won the SDAT WSF Squash World Cup 2023 held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu?
- Australia
  - Japan
  - Malaysia
  - China
  - Egypt
43. Who authored the book, India's Finance Ministers- From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)?
- Rajiv Kumar
  - Jagdish Bhagwati
  - Kaushik Basu
  - Ashok Bhattacharya
  - C. Rangarajan
44. Name the Small Finance Bank (SFB) that has recently (in June '23) won the Best CRM Implementation Award.
- Suryoday SFB
  - Capital SFB
  - Equitas SFB
  - Ujjivan SFB
  - Utkarsh SFB

45. What is the mascot of the European Championship 2024(UEFA Euro 2024), to be held in Germany?
- a) Teddy Bear                      b) Rabbit  
c) Gfreidi                              d) Kinas  
e) Super Victor
46. In June 2023, the Indian Railways (IR) and the United States Agency for International Development(USAID) signed an MoU to combat climate change and achieve Indian Railways' target of net-zero carbon emissions by \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- a) 2030                                  b) 2025  
c) 2027                                  d) 2029  
e) 2028
47. According to the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2023, released in June 2023, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru (Karnataka) ranked \_\_\_\_\_ on the overall list and emerged as the highest ranked Indian Institute, while \_\_\_\_\_ topped the list.
- a) 36th; Tsinghua University (China)  
b) 48th; Peking University (China)  
c) 36th; University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)  
d) 48th; Tsinghua University (China)  
e) 50th; Peking University (China)
48. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2023 released in June 2023, New Delhi (Delhi) & Mumbai (Maharashtra), India secured a \_\_\_\_\_ rank in the list, while \_\_\_\_\_ top the list as World's Most Liveable City for the second consecutive year.
- a) 100th; Copenhagen, Denmark  
b) 141st; Vienna, Austria  
c) 96th; Copenhagen, Denmark  
d) 141st; Melbourne, Australia  
e) 100th; Vienna, Austria
49. Name the organisation that has recently (in June '23) approved a USD 295 million loan to improve transport connectivity in Bihar.
- a) World Bank  
b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
c) Asian Development Bank  
d) International Monetary Fund  
e) United Nations Development Programme
50. Which of the following Indian companies has/have been recently (in June '23) featured on the "TIME 100 Most Influential Companies of 2023", the TIME Magazine's annual list under the 'pioneer' category?
- a) National Payments Corporation of India  
b) Meesho  
c) Nykaa  
d) Both 1 & 2  
e) Both 1 & 3
51. Which company has recently (in June '23) conducted the Flight Qualification Test of the Raman-I Engine, intended for roll attitude control in the Vikram-I rocket in Bengaluru, Karnataka?
- a) Garuda Aerospace  
b) Tata Elxsi  
c) Agnikul Cosmos  
d) Dhruva Space  
e) Skyroot Aerospace
52. Which state will get India's first GigaFactory for manufacturing lithium-ion cells?
- a) West Bengal  
b) Karnataka  
c) Tamil Nadu  
d) Uttar Pradesh  
e) Gujarat
53. Which Bank has recently (in June '23) launched electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)?
- a) Union Bank of India  
b) Bank of India  
c) State Bank of India  
d) Bank of Baroda  
e) Central Bank of India
54. In June 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the 1st private sector bank to launch One View, a new-age banking feature using the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem.
- a) Axis Bank  
b) HDFC Bank  
c) ICICI Bank  
d) YES Bank  
e) IndusInd Bank
55. According to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), which of the following countries will host the 16th edition of Men's Asia Cup 2023 in Hybrid Mode from 31st August 2023 to 17th September 2023?
- a) Bangladesh  
b) Pakistan  
c) Sri Lanka  
d) Both 1 & 2  
e) Both 2 & 3
56. The Book 'Guts amidst Bloodbath' is the autobiography of \_\_\_\_\_ (Indian Cricketer Player).
- a) Kapil Dev  
b) Aunshuman Gaekwad  
c) Roger Binny  
d) Karsan Ghavri  
e) Dilip Vengsarkar

57. Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has recently (in May '23) partnered with Google to establish the Centre for Responsible Artificial Intelligence (CeRAI)?
- IIT Kharagpur
  - IIT Delhi
  - IIT Bombay
  - IIT Madras
  - IIT Kanpur
58. In which state, the Wihu Kuh festival celebrated by the Tangsa, a tribal community, in June 2023?
- Tripura
  - Manipur
  - Arunachal Pradesh
  - Assam
  - Meghalaya
59. According to the 'Food Outlook Biannual Report On Global Food Markets' released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in June, 2023, the global food bill was expected to rise to \_\_\_\_\_ in 2023, up 1.5% from 2022.
- USD 5.10 trillion
  - USD 4.19 trillion
  - USD 3.86 trillion
  - USD 1.98 trillion
  - USD 2.21 trillion
60. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 4th National Water Awards, 2022 conferred in June 2023?
- A) Madhya Pradesh (MP) tops the Best State category which is followed by Odisha at 2nd position.
- B) Ganjam District, Odisha tops the Best District category followed by Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- C) Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Telangana tops the Best Village Panchayat.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
61. In June 2023, the Ministry of Culture has named \_\_\_\_\_ as an awardee of Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021.
- Gita Press, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Ekal Abhiyan Trust, Kolkata (West Bengal)
  - Bharat India Press, Noida (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Akshaya Patra Foundation, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
  - Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
62. In June 2023, Indian Men's Football Team won the Hero Intercontinental Cup 2023 title by defeating \_\_\_\_\_ (country) team in the finals held in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Mongolia
  - Lebanon
  - Vanuatu
  - North Korea
  - Tonga
63. In which state Rath Yatra festival is being celebrated in June 2023?
- Uttar Pradesh
  - Jharkhand
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - West Bengal
  - Odisha
64. Name the bank that has recently (in June '23) paid a dividend of more than Rs. 5,740 crore for FY23 to the Government of India.
- Bank of Baroda
  - Bank of India
  - Bank of Maharashtra
  - Indian Bank
  - State Bank of India
65. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Government of India – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027' signed in June 2023?
- A) A 'Government of India – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027' (GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027) was signed between the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and the United Nations (UN) office in India.
- B) The implementation, monitoring and reporting of GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 will be co-led by the Government of India and the United Nations, India through a Joint Steering Committee.
- C) The formulation of the GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 was led by NITI Aayog.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
66. Which defence sector has recently (in June '23) launched "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh) outreach programme to engage with youngsters and civil society?
- Indian Navy
  - National Security Guard
  - Indian Air Force
  - Border Security Force
  - Indian Army

67. Which of the following countries has/have recently (in June '23) finalised the draft of a tripartite power trade agreement with India to create greater energy connectivity?
- Nepal
  - Bangladesh
  - Bhutan
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3
68. Name the company that has recently (in June '23) introduced UPI Software Development Kit (SDK) for its merchants.
- Paytm
  - BharatPe
  - PhonePe
  - Freecharge
  - Razorpay
69. Who was recently (in June '23) awarded with the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement?
- Jhumpa Lahiri
  - Anita Desai
  - Preeti Shenoy
  - Arundhati Roy
  - Kiran Desai
70. In June 2023, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) joined the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) 'Sports for Climate Action Framework'.  
Who is the current (as of June '23) President of FIH?
- Juan Calzado
  - Leandro Negre
  - Tayyab Ikram
  - Narinder Dhruv Batra
  - Frantz Reichel
71. Name the operation that was conducted by the Indian Navy and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to combat drug trafficking aboard ships coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Operation Python
  - Operation Talwar
  - Operation Cactus
  - Operation Trident
  - Operation Samudragupt
72. Which of the following countries will host the FIFA World Cup 2026?
- United States
  - Mexico
  - Canada
  - Both 1 & 2
  - All 1, 2 & 3
73. Name the new fellowship programme that was recently (in June '23) launched by The Government of India to connect the Indian STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine) diaspora with Indian institutions.
- India Fellow Program
  - LAMP Fellowship Programme
  - Teach for India Fellowship Programme
  - VAIBHAV Fellowship Programme
  - Gandhi Fellowship Program
74. Which state's startup, Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ), has recently (in June '23) been selected for the United Nations (UN) Accelerator Programme hosted by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)?
- Andhra Pradesh
  - Telangana
  - Karnataka
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Kerala
75. Name the bank that has recently (in June '23) launched a facility named 'Active Money' or Flexi Fixed Deposit, which provides Current/Savings Account holders with fixed deposit (FD)- like interest rates of up to 7% per annum.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
  - YES Bank
  - Axis Bank
  - ICICI Bank
  - HDFC Bank
76. Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has recently (in June '23) been re-elected as \_\_\_\_\_'s Prime Minister.
- Kuwait
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Jordan
  - Yemen
  - Saudi Arabia
77. Who recently (in June '23) took the post of the Chairman of Hinduja Group?
- Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja
  - Gopichand Hinduja
  - Srichand P. Hinduja
  - Prakash P. Hinduja
  - Ashok P. Hinduja
78. Which of the following countries has recently (in June '23) launched 41 satellites into space in a single mission using Long March 2D rocket?
- Japan
  - South Korea
  - China
  - United States of America
  - Russia

- 79.** Legendary Actress Glenda Jackson has recently (in June '23) passed away in London on 15th June 2023. She had won academy awards (Oscar award) for 'Women in Love' in 1971 and 'A Touch of Class' in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) 1978                                      b) 1984  
c) 1986                                      d) 1974  
e) 1994
- 80.** The Defence Acquisition Council(DAC) has recently (in June '23) approved the deal to acquire the MQ-9 Reaper (Predator B) drones from \_\_\_\_\_ (country).
- a) Russia  
b) France  
c) Japan  
d) Australia  
e) United States of America
- 81.** In which state Raja Parba 2023, also known as Swing Festival is being celebrated from 14<sup>th</sup> June to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023?
- a) Odisha  
b) Gujarat  
c) West Bengal  
d) Maharashtra  
e) Madhya Pradesh
- 82.** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has recently (in June '23) approved a draft resolution to establish a new memorial wall to honour fallen peacekeepers. The resolution was proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ (country).
- a) Bangladesh  
b) Israel  
c) Ukraine  
d) India  
e) Iran
- 83.** According to the 'Oil 2023' Analysis and forecast to 2028 report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in June 2023, India will surpass \_\_\_\_\_ as the main driver of global oil demand growth by 2027.
- a) United States of America  
b) China  
c) Russia  
d) United Arab Emirates  
e) Japan
- 84.** Name the personality who has been recently (in June '23) awarded with the Order of the British Empire (OBE).
- a) Adil Rashid                                      b) Moeen Ali  
c) Alastair Cook                                      d) Ben Duckett  
e) Ben Foakes
- 85.** Name the author of the book, 'A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service'.
- a) Abhay Kumar  
b) Kavalam Madhava Panikkar  
c) Satish Chandra  
d) Chinmaya Gharekhan  
e) Smita Purushottam
- 86.** When was Global Wind Day 2023 observed across the globe?
- a) 11th June 2023  
b) 14th June 2023  
c) 12th June 2023  
d) 15th June 2023  
e) 13th June 2023
- 87.** Which of the following states/UT has recently (in June '23) announced a monthly pension scheme of Rs 10,000 for Padma awardees?
- a) Himachal Pradesh  
b) Haryana  
c) Delhi  
d) Maharashtra  
e) Punjab
- 88.** Name the Indian Naval ship (INS) that has recently (in June '23) participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Multilateral Naval Exercise "Komodo" (MNEK 2023) held in Indonesia.
- a) INS Shivalik  
b) INS Vikramaditya  
c) INS Vikrant  
d) INS Satpura  
e) INS Trikand
- 89.** In June 2023, North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO) began its air force deployment "Air Defender 23" Exercise in Europe. Which country is hosting the "Air Defender 23" Exercise from 12th to 23rd June 2023?
- a) Norway  
b) Germany  
c) Sweden  
d) Poland  
e) Denmark
- 90.** Name the financial inclusion dashboard that has recently (in June '23) launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das.
- a) Antarchitavan  
b) Antargyan  
c) Antardrishti  
d) Jyotidrishti  
e) Antarbodh



91. Name the Payments Bank that has recently (in June '23) partnered with Hubble Money to introduce the world's first spending account.
- Fino Payments Bank
  - India Post Payment Bank
  - Airtel Payment Bank
  - Paytm Payment Bank
  - Jio Payment Bank
92. According to the data released by MFIN (Microfinance Institutions Network) in June 2023, the Gross loan portfolio of the microfinance industry increased by \_\_\_\_\_ in FY23 to Rs 3.5 lakh crore, serving 6.6 crore unique borrowers.
- 28%
  - 44%
  - 22%
  - 40%
  - 32%
93. In June 2023, the book, 'Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom', was authored by \_\_\_\_\_, won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023.
- Sanjeev Sanyal
  - Srinath Raghavan
  - Sanjay Subrahmanyam
  - Aanchal Malhotra
  - Ramchandra Guha
94. Name the Bank that has recently (in June '23) launched the 'My Account My Name' scheme for Savings Bank (SB) account customers for the first time.
- Axis Bank
  - ICICI Bank
  - Indian Overseas Bank
  - HDFC Bank
  - State Bank of India
95. In the 2023 edition of the Global 2000 list of public companies published by Forbes in June 2023, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) climbed eight spots & ranked \_\_\_\_\_ in the list, while \_\_\_\_\_, is ranked 1st in the list for the first time since 2011.
- 45th; BMW Group
  - 55th; Saudi Aramco
  - 45th; JPMorgan
  - 32nd; Saudi Aramco
  - 55th; JPMorgan
96. Indian Women's Junior Hockey Team defeated four-time champions \_\_\_\_\_ (country) to win their 1st Women's Junior Asia Cup (2023) title in June 2023.
- South Korea
  - Japan
  - China
  - Indonesia
  - Uzbekistan
97. On 13th June 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian stock to touch the rupee one lakh per share mark.
- Vedanta Limited
  - Hyundai Motor Limited
  - Tata Motors Limited
  - Madras Rubber Factory
  - Eicher Motors Limited
98. Which of the following policy rates is 'wrongly matched' with respect to the 2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy statement for FY24 released by RBI in June 2023?
- Policy Repo Rate - 6.50%
  - Reverse Repo Rate - 3.35%
  - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate - 6.25%
  - Bank Rate - 6.25%
  - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.75%
99. In June 2023, United Arab Emirates (UAE) became India's \_\_\_\_\_ largest investor in the fiscal year 2022-23.
- 2nd
  - 4th
  - 6th
  - 5th
  - 3rd
100. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the French Open 2023 held at Paris in June 2023?
- A) Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won his 23rd Grand Slam title (Men's singles category) by defeating Casper Ruud (Norway) in the French Open 2023 also known as 2023 Roland-Garros.
- B) With this win, Novak Djokovic became the most successful male tennis player with the most major singles trophies in the history of men's tennis by surpassing Rafael Nadal, a Spanish tennis player record 22nd Grand Slam title.
- C) Iga Świątek (Poland) won the Women's Singles title at the French Open 2023 by defeating Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic) and claimed her 3rd French Open title and 4th Grand Slam title.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C

**Answers**

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

# SSC CGL-2022లో కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగాలు సాధించిన కొంతమంది మా విద్యార్థులు



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