

# IACE

Indian Academy of Competitive Exams

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English Medium

Digest AUGUST - 2023

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

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



Chandrayaan-3

India's third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, was successfully launched onboard a Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, AP.



International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

India launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah) on Earth.



HDFC Bank

India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank, has achieved a significant milestone by entering the \$100 billion market capitalization club as the world's 7<sup>th</sup> largest lender.



### WORLD HINDU CONGRESS

24-26 November, 2023  
Bangkok, Thailand

Seven Thematic Parallel Conferences  
Economy • Education • Media • Politician • Women • Youth • Organizational

'3rd World Hindu Congress 2023'

The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the third World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Bangkok in November 2023 With the theme "Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah".



Rakesh Pal

Rakesh Pal appointed as 25<sup>th</sup> Director General of Indian Coast Guard. He succeeds Virender Singh Pathania



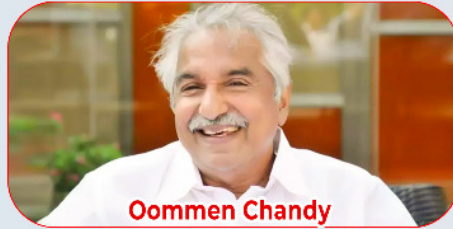
"Nomadic Elephant-2023"

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Mongolia joint military exercise "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23" was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.



Henley Passport Index 2023

India is ranked 80<sup>th</sup>, along with Senegal and Togo, with visa-free access to 57 countries. Singapore topped the list, with visa-free access to 192 countries.



Oommen Chandy

The former Chief Minister of Kerala, Oommen Chandy, passed away at the age of 79.



Wimbledon 2023

Carlos Alcaraz (Spain), the World No. 1 tennis player, won the men's singles title, defeated by Novak Djokovic (Serbia), and Marketa Vondrousova (Czechia) won the Women's Singles title, defeated by Ons Jabeur (Tunisia).

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SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR MORE RESULTS...

Do not allow yourselves to be disheartened by any failure as long as you have done your best.

- Mother Teresa

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**Current  
Affairs  
August-2023**



person of the month

**Bal Gangadhar Tilak**

(23 July 1856 - 1 August 1920)

Recently, the Prime Minister of India paid tributes to Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his Jayanti on 23rd July 2023.

### About

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, born on 23rd July 1856, was a freedom fighter, lawyer, and educationist known as Lokmanya Tilak.
- Tilak emphasized the need for self-rule or swarajya and popularized the slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!"
- Tilak passed away on 1st August 1920, leaving behind a significant contribution to India's freedom movement.

### Major Contributions

- ★ Tilak founded the Deccan Education Society in 1884, he also established the Fergusson College in 1885.
- ★ Tilak joined the Indian National Congress in 1890 and played a significant role in the Surat Split in 1907, advocating complete independence or swarajya.
- ★ Tilak founded the All-India Home Rule League in April 1916, aiming for Hindu-Muslim unity through the Lucknow Pact in 1916.
- ★ Known for his newspapers Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English) and authored books like Gita Rhasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas.
- ★ He propagated the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement to promote Indian self-reliance.
- ★ Indian Home Rule Movement: It was a movement in British India along the lines of the Irish Home Rule movement. Starting in 1916, it is believed to have set the stage for the independence movement under the leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak for the educated English-speaking upper-class Indians.

Between 1908 and 1914, Tilak spent 6 years in Mandalay Prison for defending the actions of revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.

**IACE**

**India's third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, was successfully launched onboard a Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) rocket from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 2.35 pm on July 14.**

**CHANDRAYAAN-3**

**100 km Circular Lunar Orbit**  
Lunar Orbit Insertion  
EBNs  
Integrated Module Phase  
Lunar Transfer Trajectory

**Take of from Sriharikota**

**LVM3-M4 Vehicle**  
Height 43.5 m  
Lift-off Mass 642 t

**Mission life 1 Lunar day (14 Earth days)**

**Mass 1,749.86 kg including Rover**

**Lander Module & Rover**  
**Propulsion module**

**RAMBHA-LP Langmuir Probe**  
To measure the near surface plasma (ions and electrons) density and its changes with time.

**ChaSTE Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment**  
To carry out the measurements of thermal properties of lunar surface near polar region.

**ILSA Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity**  
To measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle

**Rover Payloads**

**APXS Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer**  
To derive the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance our understanding of lunar surface.

**LIBS Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy**  
To determine the elemental composition (Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, Fe) of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.

**Propulsion Module Payload**

**SHAPE Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth**  
An experimental payload to study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the habitable planet Earth in the near-infrared (NIR) wavelength range (1-1.7 μm).

India's third moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, was successfully launched onboard a Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) rocket from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 2.35 pm on July 14. This is India's second attempt at soft-landing robotic instruments on the lunar surface after the previous attempt, Chandrayaan-2, failed in 2019.

• **Highlights of Chandrayaan-3**

- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for Inter planetary missions.
- ✓ The lander (Vikram) and rover payloads (Pragyan) of Chandrayaan-3 remain the same as the Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- ✓ The scientific payloads on the lander aim to study various aspects of the lunar environment. These payloads include studying lunar quakes, thermal properties of the lunar surface, changes in plasma near the surface, and accurately measuring the distance between Earth and the moon.
- ✓ The propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 features a new experiment called Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE).

- ✓ SHAPE aims to search for smaller planets with potential habitability by analyzing reflected light.
- ✓ **Objectives of Chandrayaan-3**
  - To demonstrate Safe and Soft Landing on Lunar Surface
  - To demonstrate Rover roving on the moon and
  - To conduct in-situ scientific experiments.
- ✓ Chandrayaan 3's landing process involves three stages: Earth orbit manoeuvres, Trans-lunar injection, and Lunar orbit manoeuvres. Once completed, the lander separates from the main spacecraft and performs a soft landing on the moon
- ✓ The spacecraft will take nearly 42 days to reach moon. The Lander and rover are expected to land near the lunar south pole region on August 23 or 24, 2023.
- ✓ The lander and the rover will have a mission life of one lunar day (about 14 Earth days) as they work on solar energy.

**Reason behind south pole**

- ✓ Historically, spacecraft missions to the Moon have primarily targeted the equatorial region due to its favorable terrain and operating conditions.
- ✓ However, the lunar south pole presents a vastly different and more challenging terrain compared to the equatorial region.

- ✓ Sunlight is scarce in certain polar regions, resulting in perpetually dark areas where temperatures can reach to -230 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ This lack of sunlight and extreme cold pose difficulties for instrument operation and sustainability.
- ✓ The lunar south pole offers extreme and contrasting conditions that pose challenges for humans but it make them potential repositories of valuable information about the early Solar System.
- ✓ It is crucial to explore this region which could impact future deep space exploration.

- ✓ With successful landing, **India will be the first country to land spacecraft near Moon's South Pole at 70 degrees latitude**, and the 4th country to soft land on the moon after the United States (US) with its Surveyor 1 in 1966; Soviet Union/Russia's Luna 9 in 1966, and China with Chang's 3 in 2013.
- ✓ According to ISRO, the Chandrayaan-3 is built on a budget of around Rs 615 crore. It is one of the most cost-effective space missions as compared to its predecessors.

**Mass**

- ✓ The total for Chandrayaan-3 is 3897.89 Kg consist of the following:
  - Propulsion Module: 2148 kg.
  - Lander Module: 1752 kg including Rover of 26 kg.

**Chandrayaan 3 Components**

- ✓ **Lander (Vikram):** It is box-shaped, with four landing legs and four landing thrusters of 800 newtons each unlike Vikram on Chandrayaan-2 which had five 800 Newtons engines with a fifth one being centrally mounted with a fixed thrust. Additionally, the Chandrayaan-3 lander will be equipped with a Laser Doppler Velocimeter (LDV).
- ✓ **Rover (Pragyaan):** The rover is a tiny, trolley kind of device with wheels. Once the lander lands on the moon, the rover will slide out of the lander's belly and crawl over the moon's surface like a cockroach. It will pick up soil and do experiments, punch a probe a foot down the surface to check thermal conductivity.
- ✓ **Propulsion Module(PM):**It is a replacement for orbiter (Chandrayaan 2). The main function of PM is to carry the Lander and the Rover from launch

vehicle injection till final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit and make their separation from itself.

**Scientific experiments to be conducted by Chandrayaan 3**

- ✓ Gather data on the polarization of light reflected by Earth
- ✓ Measure the density of ions and electrons near the surface of the Moon and its changes over time
- ✓ Measure the temperature of the moon's surface near polar region
- ✓ Scan for moonquakes around landing site, delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle
- ✓ Understand the dynamics of the Moon system

**About Chandrayaan-1**

- ✓ India's lunar exploration missions began with Chandrayaan-1 in 2008, which aimed to create a three-dimensional atlas of the moon and conduct mineralogical mapping.
- ✓ Launch Vehicle: PSLV – C11.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-1 made significant discoveries, including the detection of water and hydroxyl on the lunar surface.

**About Chandrayaan-2**

- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 consisted of an Orbiter, Lander, and Rover,with the goal of exploring the lunar south pole.
- ✓ Launch Vehicle: GSLV MkIII-M1
- ✓ Although the lander and rover crashed on the moon's surface, the Orbiter successfully collected data and found signatures of water at all latitudes.

**Other Types of Moon Missions**

**Human Missions:**These missions involve the landing of astronauts on the moon's surface.

- ✓ Only NASA has achieved this feat, with six successful landings between 1969 and 1972.

- ✓ NASA's Artemis III, planned for 2025, will mark humanity's return to the moon.

**Flybys:**These missions involve spacecraft passing near the moon without entering its orbit, allowing for observations from a distance.

**About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**

- ✓ Chairman– S. Somanath
- ✓ Headquarters– Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ Establishment– 1969

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

### Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's Visit to India

- ✓ Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe made an official two-day visit to India from 20- 21st July 2023. He was welcomed by Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V Muraleedharan. This marks Wickremesinghe's first trip to India since he was elected president of Sri Lanka in July 2022.
- ✓ The visit takes place as both countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2023.
- ✓ During the visit, Wickremesinghe met Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and President of India Draupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Sri Lanka is an important partner in India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- ✓ India and Sri Lanka adopted a vision document titled, "Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity" that would strengthen maritime, air, energy and people-to-people connectivity to boost the economic partnership between India and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The vision is to accelerate mutual cooperation in tourism, electricity, business, higher education, and skill development.



### Important MoU's exchanged between India and Sri Lanka

- Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) in the field of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy.
- Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka.

- Network to Network Agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka
- Energy Permit for Sampur Solar Power Project.

### UAE becomes 1st Arab Country to Get Observer Status at Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first Arab country to be granted observer status of the Asia- Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the largest Financial Action Task Force-style regional body (FSRB) in the world. The decision was made at the APG's 2023 Annual Meeting and Technical Assistance and Training Forum held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 9-14 July 2023.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by a UAE delegation led by Hamid Al Zaabi, Director-General of the Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (EO AML/CTF).
- ✓ The UAE was named to the Financial Action Task Force list in 2022. The list denotes countries that are working to address "strategic deficiencies" with regard to money laundering and illicit financing, which the UAE has displayed via its participation in Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF).



### Italy unveils memorial to honour Indian Army Soldiers who fought in World War-II

- ✓ On 22nd July 2023, the Commune of Montone, Italy and the Italian Military historians unveiled the V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial at Montone, Perugia, Italy, as a tribute to the Indian soldiers from the 4th, 8th and 10th Divisions,



who fought in the Italian Campaign, during the Second World War (WW- II) (1939-1945).

- ✓ The memorial also honoured the supreme sacrifices of Indian Soldier, Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Victoria Cross (VC) recipient (posthumous), who was killed during the fighting in the of Upper Tiber Valley, Italy on 10th July 1944.
- ✓ The memorial is in the form of a live sundial. The motto of the memorial is “Omines Sub Eodem Sole”, which translates in English as “We all live under the same sun”.

### World Humanitarian Drive got special status from the UN

- ✓ The World Humanitarian Drive (WHD), an international Non-governmental organization (NGO), which promotes international education and trade, has been granted special consultative status by United Nations (UN)’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). With this ECOSOC status, WHD will be authorised to interact actively with its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council, certain UN General Assembly (UNGA) sessions, other intergovernmental bodies, and the UN Secretariat.
- ✓ The special consultative status will provide WHD with the privilege to access UN’s meetings, provide written and oral statements to ECOSOC.
- ✓ WHD can use UN facilities including submitting a quadrennial (occurring every 4 years) report on the activities of the organisation, in support of the work of ECOSOC and the UN at a recently concluded meeting held in UN in June 2023.



### Saudi Arabia becomes 51st Nation to sign TAC

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, Saudi Arabia signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, Indonesia.



- ✓ Saudi Arabia became the 51st nation to agree to the TAC and It was signed by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister(FM) Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

#### About Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)

- ✓ The TAC is a peace treaty signed by ASEAN nations in 1976 to establish a set of norms to manage regional inter-state interactions based on mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national identity.
- ✓ It is a legally enforceable code for regional and global inter-state relations. The Treaty has been revised three times, in 1987, 1998, and 2010, to allow states outside Southeast Asia, as well as regional bodies whose members are sovereign states, to join.

### Russia bans sex change and transgender marriages

- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the LGBTQ+ community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia’s embattled LGBTQ+ population.
- ✓ The ban on gender changes and the wider crackdown on LGBTQ+ rights in Russia are rooted in the Kremlin’s pursuit of preserving what it deems as the nation’s “traditional values.”
- ✓ Lawmakers argue that the legislation is essential to protect Russia against what they view as “western anti-family ideology.”



### India Extends UPI Payments to France

- ✓ On July 13, 2023, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to France, India and France signed a groundbreaking agreement that allows Indian tourists to use India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions in rupees.



- ✓ This partnership marks a significant milestone as it brings UPI, a popular mobile-based payment system, to Europe for the first time after its successful implementation in Singapore. The move is set to revolutionize the payment experience for Indian tourists in France, eliminating the need to carry foreign currency and offering convenience and flexibility.
- ✓ Since its inception, UPI has steadily expanded its reach globally through strategic partnerships. France is the latest addition to the list of countries that have embraced the UPI system for cross-border transactions. Prior to this agreement, UPI had already established itself in countries like Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, and the UAE.

### India-Japan Sign MoC for Semiconductor Supply-Chain Partnership

- ✓ On 20th July 2023, India and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) for a semiconductor supply-chain partnership for government-to-government and industry-to-industry collaboration.
- ✓ The agreement was signed between Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology and Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The MoC helps India to become a global hub for the semiconductor industry and provides access to Japanese technology, which helps India to develop its own semiconductor industry.
- ✓ The MoC signed between India and Japan will cover the semiconductor industry, including design, manufacturing, equipment research, talent development, and enhancing supply chain resilience.

### Third World Hindu Conference to be organized in Bangkok

The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the third World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Bangkok in November 2023. The three-day event, known as Vishwa Hindu Sammelan, will take place at the Convention Center in Bangkok.

With the theme “Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah” meaning “Dharma, the Abode of Victory,” the conference will focus on exploring opportunities and addressing challenges faced by the global Hindu community.



- ✓ The World Hindu Congress is organized by the World Hindu Foundation, with Swami Vigyananand serving as its trustee. Swami Vigyanananda is also the Managing Trustee of the Vishwa Hindu Foundation and the Joint General Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). The foundation aims to bring together Hindus from around the world and provide a platform for discussing various issues.

### India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation

- ✓ India's Election Commission (ECI) and Panama's Electoral Tribunal (ET) have taken a significant step towards enhancing their collaboration in the field of election management and administration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two institutions in Panama City, establishing an institutional framework for ongoing cooperation. The ECI delegation, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, engaged in discussions with Alfredo Juncá Wendehake, the Presiding Magistrate of Panama's Electoral Tribunal, on various aspects of strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two Election Management Bodies.

### India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years

- ✓ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of India and the Public Service Division of the Republic of Singapore recently signed a protocol document to extend their memorandum of understanding for five more years until 2028. The MoU encompasses various areas of cooperation aimed at promoting administrative reforms, public sector transformation, and capacity building.



# NATIONAL

## PM Narendra Modi's Visit to UAE

- ✓ On July 15, 2023, PM Narendra Modi officially visited Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). This marks his 5th visit to UAE since 2015.
- ✓ He was welcomed by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the airport and a ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour were accorded to Modi.



### Highlights

- ✓ During his visit, PM Modi met with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the UAE, in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- ✓ During the visit, the Indian PM met Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President-designate of CoP28 (Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) and Group CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.
- ✓ During the visit, two agreements were inked between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE) to facilitating seamless cross border transactions and payments, and foster greater economic cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ During the visit, IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Delhi inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, to set up its international campus in Abu Dhabi.

## PM Narendra Modi's Visit to France

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a 2-day official visit to France from 13th to 14th July 2023 at the invitation of H.E. Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of France.



### Highlights

- ✓ On 13th July 2023, PM Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest French order of Merit (both Civilian and Military).
- ✓ **PM Narendra Modi has become the first Indian PM to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France.
- ✓ During his visit, PM Modi held formal talks with President Macron and also met with Élisabeth Borne, Prime Minister (PM) of France, Gerard Larcher, President of the French Senate, and the National Assembly of France.
- ✓ During his visit, PM Modi also interacted with the Indian diaspora in France, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian and French companies, and prominent French personalities.
- ✓ In order to set out their shared vision for this next phase of the India-France Strategic Partnership, both leaders adopted the 'Horizon 2047: 25th Anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Towards A Century of India-France Relations'.
- ✓ India, France committed to eliminate single use plastic products pollution, intensify maritime cooperation in Indo-Pacific, enhance cooperation in strategic areas, space, science, sustainable development, deepening cooperation in digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, startup, AI, increase cooperation to end cross-border terrorism.
- ✓ PM Narendra **Modi gifted a 'sandalwood sitar' to French President Emmanuel Macron**. This unique replica of a musical instrument is an art of sandalwood carving that has been practised in Southern India for centuries.
- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron gifted Prime Minister Narendra Modi a framed facsimile of a 1916 photograph of a Parisian presenting flowers

to a Sikh officer and a replica of the Charlemagne chessmen, dating back to the 11th Century.

### Union Cabinet Approves Mumbai based NITIE as 21st IIM of India

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a bill amending IIM Act to include the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Mumbai as the 21st Indian Institute of Management (IIM). The amendment will rename NITIE Mumbai as IIM Mumbai.
- ✓ Maharashtra is set to become the first state to have two IIMs, which includes IIM Nagpur, established by the Government of India in 2015, and newly designated IIM Mumbai.
- ✓ The approved bill to be passed in the monsoon session of Parliament, which is set to take place from July 20 to August 11, 2023.

### Union Cabinet has Approved Commercial Mining of 6 Critical Minerals through MMDR Act

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) MMDR Act of 1957, for the commercial mining of 6 critical minerals: lithium, titanium, beryllium, zirconium, niobium and tantalum.
- ✓ This is the 5th amendment to the act since 2014. Earlier amendments authorised e-auction for minerals and enabled the extension of expiring mine leases.

### Rajya Sabha Chairman reconstituted panel of vice-chairpersons with 50% women Parliamentarians

- ✓ The Vice President of India, ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar has appointed 4 women Parliamentarians namely Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha (PT Usha), Phangnon Konyak, Fauzia Khan and Sulata Deo to the panel of vice-chairpersons.
- ✓ The panel of vice chairpersons has been reconstituted with effect from 17th July 2023. The

panel reconstituted before the Monsoon Session contains a total of 8 members, out of which half(4) are women.

- ✓ For the first time in the history of Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of the Indian Parliament) has given equal representation to women members in the panel.
- ✓ Apart from these 4 women members, V Vijaysai Reddy(AP), Ghanaashyam Tiwari(Rajasthan), Dr L Hanumanthaiah(Karnataka), Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (West Bengal) have also been nominated to the panel.
- ✓ The Vice Chairpersons conduct the proceedings of the House when the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are not available.

#### About Rajya Sabha

- ✓ Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of the Indian Parliament.
- ✓ According to article 80 of the Indian Constitution, The total allowed capacity is 250 which includes, 238 elected and 12 appointed members.
- ✓ 30 years is the minimum age required to become a member of the Rajya Sabha.

### PM Modi Inaugrates IECC complex “Bharat Mandapam” at Pragati Maidan; IECC to host G20 Meet

- ✓ On 26th July 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated a futuristic International Exhibition-cum- Convention Centre (IECC), the revamped India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) complex also known as Pragati Maidan Complex, and also unveiled the G20(Group of 20) coin and stamp at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The IECC Complex has been named “Bharat Mandapam” and the naming ceremony of the Centre was carried out using a drone.

### 7th edition of India Mobile Congress held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, the Minister of Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Curtain Raiser of 7th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC 2023) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under Ministry of Communications and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) will jointly host the seventh edition of Asia's premier digital technology exhibition with the theme 'Global Digital Innovation' which is scheduled to take place from 27th to 29th October at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ IMC 2023 plans to introduce **Aspire**, a startup event aimed at fostering entrepreneurship growth among young innovators and industry delegates. It will include sections like an Investor zone, pitching zone, workshop zone, and networking zone.

### President Droupadi Murmu lays foundation of 'Divine Light House' of PBKIVV in Odisha

- ✓ On 27th July 2023, President Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone for the "Divine Light House" of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV) at Dasabatia, Tamando, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) during her 3 day visit to Odisha from July 25 to 27 2023.
- ✓ The President also launched the 2023 theme of PBKIVV, "The Year of Positive Change" for conducting nationwide seminar and conferences
- ✓ She highlighted the significance of both material and spiritual development for humanity, with technology being a crucial driver of change.
- ✓ She also acknowledged the role of PBKIVV, a social and spiritual campaign in promoting spirituality through meditation and a disciplined lifestyle, leading to mental peace.
- ✓ Brahma Kumaris, officially known as 'Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya' is a worldwide spiritual movement founded by Pitashri Prajapita Brahma (well known as Dada Lekhraj) in 1936 in Hyderabad, Sindh (Present Pakistan) and formally established in October 1937.

### Govt extends Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana for 2 Years upto June 2024

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, has extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), an unemployment

relief scheme, under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for two years upto 30th June 2024.

- ✓ According to the gazette notification, the scheme has been extended for a period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2024 with relaxed eligibility conditions and enhanced rate of relief.
- ✓ This is the third extension since its inception. Previously, the scheme was extended twice from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 to provide relief to those Insured Persons (IPs) who became unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### About Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- ✓ On 1st July 2018, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launched Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) scheme (on pilot basis) under the Section 2(9) of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948.
- ✓ The Scheme aims to provide relief to the Insured Persons (IPs) who have become unemployed (Tenure: 2 years).

### Jyotiraditya M Scindia Inaugurates Heli Summit 2023 by Launching UDAN 5.2 & HeliSewa app

- ✓ On 25th July 2023, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated the 5<sup>th</sup> Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ During the event Scindia launched Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), 5.2 (RCS UDAN 5.2) and HeliSewa app.
- ✓ The theme of the summit was "**Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft**".
- ✓ The summit was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

### 23rd SCO-CHS Summit 2023 under India's First SCO Chairmanship

- ✓ On July 4, 2023, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi chaired the 23rd Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit which was held in a virtual format.

- ✓ India, as the Chair of the SCO, hosted the SCO-CHS Summit for the first time. India assumed the chairmanship of the SCO in September 2022.
- ✓ **Theme of the Summit: 'Towards a SECURE SCO'**
  - **SECURE** stands for Security; Economy (and Trade); Connectivity; Unity; Respect (for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity); and Environment.

### **Highlights**

- ✓ During the summit, the member nations signed the New Delhi Declaration coined by the Indian Government to fight against terrorism. It envisages developing common principles and approaches to form a unified list of terrorist, separatist and extremist organizations whose activities are prohibited on the territories of the SCO Member States.
  - ✓ Under this declaration, India refused to sign the paragraph supporting China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). With this, India is only nation who does not endorse this agreement.
  - ✓ However, other SCO member nations viz. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will jointly implement this project, including efforts to link the construction of the Eurasian Economic Union and BRI.
  - ✓ **Joint Statements:** The leaders also adopted the following two thematic joint statements
    - i. Countering Radicalization leading to Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism
    - ii. Cooperation in the field of Digital Transformation
- Bhashini**
- ✓ The PM Narendra Modi presented the AI (artificial intelligence) and Natural Language Processing (NLP)- based language platform 'Bhashini' at SCO summit which can transcend language barriers by translating in-real time and allowing people from different languages to interact with one another over digital platforms.

- ✓ In 2022, PM Modi launched Bhashini under the National Language Technology Mission (NLTM). Developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), its aim is to bring the non-English speaking population of the nation to the global internet and help them access it in their language itself.

### **Iran joins SCO as its 9th Permanent Member**

- ✓ During the summit, Iran became the new permanent member (9th) of SCO. Now, the member nations of SCO increased to 9 viz. China, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ✓ **Belarus** is set to become a full member by 2024 as the nation signed a Memorandum of Obligations which will lead to its membership.

### **Kazakhstan takes over SCO Presidency from India**

- ✓ The presidency of the SCO for the forthcoming period is handed over to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held in 2024 in the Kazakhstan.
- ✓ The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev also proposed closer energy cooperation within the SCO.

### **About SCO**

- ✓ It is a 9-member intergovernmental organization that was founded in Shanghai on June 15, 2001. The main goals of the SCO are to strengthen mutual trust and good-neighborliness among member states, promote their effective cooperation in political, trade, economic, and other areas.
- ✓ **4 Observer States:** Mongolia, Iran, Belarus, Afghanistan
- ✓ **6 Dialogue Partners:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Turkey, Nepal

### **Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 held in New Delhi**

- ✓ For the first time, India hosted the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023, held as part of the Group 20 (G20) event, in Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, Delhi from 20th to 21st July 2023. The summit was organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- ✓ Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 to create a global platform of food regulators to exchange perspectives on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory framework across the food value chain.

### U20 chair city Ahmedabad hosted U20 Mayoral Summit 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- ✓ 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.

#### About the U20 Mayoral Summit 2023

- ✓ i. The Summit was hosted with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and the U20 Technical Secretariat.
- ✓ The summit offered a platform for city leaders from G20 countries to deliberate on actions towards sustainability.
- ✓ The current U20 cycle has also created a record with over 50 articles, 6 extensive background research papers, six white papers on the six priority areas and six U20 bulletins being prepared and released during the cycle.
- ✓ The Summit also saw the launch of several technical papers and documents including the Policy brief on Mainstreaming Gender in U20 and the Ahmedabad Resilient City Climate Action Plan, which gives a roadmap for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- ✓ Urban 20 is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states under a common framework to discuss global economic, climate and development issues.

### Startup20 Shikhar Summit held in Gurugram; India passes torch to Brazil

- ✓ Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organised by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20

Presidency, was held from 3rd to 4th July 2023 in Gurugram, Haryana. The 2-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem.

- ✓ During the closing ceremony of the summit, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Chair of Startup20 and the Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), handed over the torch to Brazil, which holds the G20 presidency for 2024.

### Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy

- ✓ The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.
- ✓ The ULLAS initiative aims to provide a comprehensive learning ecosystem that caters to the needs of every individual. It focuses on promoting functional literacy, vocational skills, and essential life skills, such as financial literacy, legal literacy, and digital literacy. Moreover, it empowers citizens to actively participate in nation-building.

### 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to be launched in run-up to Independence Day

- ✓ On 30th July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign in run-up to Independence Day to honor the martyred bravehearts of the country.
- ✓ During the campaign of "Meri Mati Mera Desh", an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out. This 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will reach Delhi, carrying the soil in 7,500 Kalash from villages and various corners of the country. This yatra will also carry plants from various parts of the country. An 'Amrit

Vatika' will be built close to the National War Memorial from these 7,500 Kalash of soil and plants.

### India launched international Big Cat Alliance for conserving 7 big cats

- ✓ India has recently launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
- ✓ The idea for the alliance originated in July 2019, when Prime Minister Modi called for a coalition of global leaders to join forces against poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia on Global Tiger Day. The establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance is a testament to the commitment to this initiative's principles. According to Modi, the alliance will play a vital role in mobilizing financial and technical resources to support the entire ecosystem associated with big cats, thereby ensuring their conservation and protection.
- ✓ The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats. IBCA would further strengthen global cooperation and efforts to conserve the wild denizens, especially the big cats.



### First ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

- ✓ The Indian government has introduced a pioneering "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the Livestock Sector aimed at revitalizing the rural economy and empowering Micro, Small & Medium



Enterprises (MSMEs).

- ✓ The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has established a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of Rs 750 crore to provide credit guarantee coverage to eligible lending institutions, enabling improved access to finance for the underserved livestock sector.
- ✓ The scheme focuses on supporting first-generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged sections of society who lack collateral security for their ventures in the livestock sector.
- ✓ It provides them with financial assistance and access to credit facilities.

### India to host World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru from Sept 25

- ✓ India is set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) in Bengaluru from September 25 to 28, where it will present its diverse coffees to buyers from over 80 countries. This is the first time that the event will be held in Asia. The conference aims to create pathways for innovative opportunities and markets, with a special emphasis on benefiting coffee farmers who play a crucial role in the coffee production chain.
- ✓ The central theme of the event will be "Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture" The event will encompass various activities, including conferences, exhibitions, skill-building workshops, a CEOs & global leaders forum, and a growers conclave. Participants from over 80 countries are anticipated to take part in WCC 2023.

### 3rd Sherpas G20 meeting held in Hampi

- ✓ The 4-day 3rd G20 Sherpa meeting was held in the city of Hampi, Karnataka, under the Ministry of Cultural and External Affairs, during India's G20 Presidency.
- ✓ Hampi, located in Karnataka, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was hosted the third Sherpas meeting as part of India's G20 Presidency, with Amitabh Kant leading the meeting as the chairperson. The summit, organized by the Ministry

of Cultural and External Affairs, anticipates the participation of more than 200 individuals representing 43 countries.

### Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant

- ✓ India has integrated two notable conservation endeavors, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, into a fresh division named 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division.
- ✓ Project Tiger and Project Elephant, two significant conservation initiatives in India, have been merged under a new division called 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Recently, the Prime Minister also commended the success of Project Tiger on its 50th anniversary.
- ✓ A similar proposal was made in 2011 to merge Project Tiger, Project Elephant, and Integrated Development under Wildlife Habitat. However, the plan was dropped after objections from experts on the National Board for Wildlife standing committee.

### Cabinet approves draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, approved the Draft of Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022.
- ✓ The Bill frames out the rights and duties of the citizen (Digital Nagrik) and the obligations to use collected data lawfully of the data fiduciary (entities that collect personal data). It is based on the following six principles of the data economy:
  - i. Collection and usage of the personal data of citizens of India.
  - ii. Data collection exercise: It must be for a legal purpose and the data should be safely stored till the purpose is served.
  - iii. Data minimization: Only relevant data should be collected of individuals and serving the pre-defined purpose should be the only aim.
  - iv. Data Protection and Accountability
  - v. Accuracy of data

- vi. Rules regarding reporting a data breach
- ✓ The Bill will enhance India's trade negotiations with other nations like the European Union (EU), whose General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) are among the world's most exhaustive privacy laws.
- ✓ It will also empower individuals to question private companies as well as governments about their data collection, processing, and storage.

### Cabinet approves changes to Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2023

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, the union cabinet approved amendments to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023. The amendments were made to decriminalise minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts which administered by 19 ministers with the aim to promote ease of business and living.
- ✓ It amends 42 laws, across multiple sectors, in agriculture, environment and media and publication.
- ✓ This includes the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, and the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- ✓ The Jan Vishwas Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in December 2022. It was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (Chair: Mr. P.P. Chaudhary), which submitted its report on March 17, 2023.

### ITC released a Special Stamp on Mission Millets in collaboration with Department of Post

- ✓ On 25th July 2023, ITC Limited, a leading Indian multi-business enterprise based in Kolkata, West Bengal, has released a special postal stamp, a "Customised My Stamp" on Mission Millet in collaboration with the Department of Post (India Post) under the Ministry of Communication. The stamp was released by Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW).

## STATES

### **Karnataka Launches Gruha Lakshmi Scheme for Women Supporting Households**

- ✓ On 19th July 2023, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the registration for Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which provides Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of the households.
- ✓ The Scheme will benefit around 1.28 crore families in Karnataka and the cash benefit of Rs 2,000 will be transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ✓ The Gruha Lakshmi scheme will be implemented from August 15, 2023.
- ✓ This was one of the poll promises by the newly elected Siddaramaiah led Congress government in the election manifesto of the 2023 Karnataka general Assembly Election. On 7th July 2023, the Karnataka Government allocated an amount of Rs 24,166 crore for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme for 2023-24 fiscal year.

### **Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel launches Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana**

- ✓ On 19 July 2023, During the announcement of Rs.1,764 crore worth benefits for various segments of government employees, Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel introduced the 'Nyay Yojana,' a housing scheme aimed at providing homes to rural homeless individuals in Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The scheme will be fully sponsored by State Government of Chhattisgarh by allocating Rs.100 crore in budget.

### **Rajasthan Cabinet Introduced 'Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023'**

- ✓ On 18th July 2023, Rajasthan cabinet chaired by Chief Minister(CM) Ashok Gehlot introduced the Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023 aimed to provide social security to individuals and households of Rajasthan.
- ✓ The Bill focuses on 3 main areas such as Right to Minimum Guaranteed Income, Right to Guaranteed

Employment and Right to Guaranteed Social Security Pension.

- ✓ These social security schemes were implemented by the Government of India's United Progressive Alliance (UPA) through Rights-based Laws such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Right to Education (RTE) and Food Security Act.

### **J&K launched India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot for people in mental distress**

- ✓ On 5th July 2023, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) launched India's first TeleMental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) chatbot in the Union Territory (UT) to enhance mental health support for distressed people by initiating an instant conversation with those who are in need.
- ✓ The 2-tier system comprises State Tele-MANAS cells, which includes trained counsellors and mental health specialists in Tier 1 and specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or eSanjeevani for audio visual consultation in Tier 2.
- ✓ J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who inaugurated the 'J&K Health Conclave' on Mental Health and Non-Communicable Diseases at Srinagar, J&K.
- ✓ The initiative will ensure round the clock services of health counsellors, clinical psychologists and consultants.

### **Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre**

- ✓ Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) received a grant of Rs.10 crore from NITI Aayog in order to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre in fisheries.
- ✓ NITI Aayog provided grant of Rs.10 crore to Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in fisheries which will be dedicated to promoting research, technological advancement and entrepreneurship in fisheries and allied sectors.



## Bengaluru Becomes 1st Indian City to Join World Cities Culture Forum

- ✓ Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka became the first Indian city to be part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), a global network of cities that share research and intelligence to explore the role of culture in future prosperity. Bengaluru became the 41st city to join the forum and the network currently includes 40 cities across six continents. The forum includes cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai.

## Odisha cabinet approves Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

- ✓ Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana, a scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter.
- ✓ This initiative grants affordable access to two-wheelers for Mission Shakti Federation Leaders and CSS (Community Support Staff). It will empower them to fulfill their responsibilities more efficiently, thus increasing their effectiveness and extending their outreach within the community.
- ✓ This scheme is expected to benefit roughly 75,000 community support staff members of SHGs (Self Help Groups) and approximately 1,25,000 federation leaders associated with SHGs.

## Author betel leaves from Tamil Nadu receives GI certificate

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum have awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) certificate to the Author betel leaves from Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu. The certificate is granted in the name of Author Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Author betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential.
- ✓ The Author betel leaf, predominantly utilized during special occasions such as temple festivals, housewarmings, and weddings, possesses a distinctively spicy and pungent flavor.

- ✓ This exceptional leaf is exclusively found in the village of Authoor, situated in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, owing to the utilization of Thamirabarani River water for irrigation purposes in the local fields.

## Indore Municipal Corporation to be the first urban body to get EPR credit

- ✓ Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh, India, has made history by becoming the first urban body in the country to receive Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items. Indore has implemented a complete ban on single-use plastic items within the city. In recent times, the IMC seized approximately eight tonnes of such plastic, preventing its circulation. Moreover, Indore has also been recognized as India's cleanest city for the sixth consecutive year in the central government's annual cleanliness survey.

## PM MITRA Park launched in Amravati, Maharashtra

- ✓ The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), the Maharashtra government, and the Indian Ministry of Textiles joined hands by signing a memorandum of understanding to establish the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) in Amravati, Maharashtra. The inauguration of the PM MITRA mega textile park took place with the aim of attracting an investment of ₹10,000 crore and creating 300,000 job opportunities.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the Government of India unveiled plans to establish 7 PM MITRA Parks across the country as designated sites for the textile industry.
- ✓ The establishment of these parks in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- ✓ These parks aim to create top-notch industrial infrastructure that can attract substantial investments, including foreign direct investment (FDI), while fostering innovation and job creation within the sector.

## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### Ministry of Finance amends Small Saving Rules, allows NRIs as Nominees

- ✓ The Ministry of Finance has amended the Government Savings Promotion General Rules, 2018 with Government Savings Promotion General (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023, under which the Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are made eligible to be nominated as nominee for government saving schemes.
  - This is on the condition that payment to such nominee/s shall be on non-repatriation basis.
  - This amendment has been added as sub-rule (9) in the principal rules, in rule 14, after sub-rule (8).
  - The new rule indicates that the money needs to utilised in India.
- ✓ The rule covers various schemes under the Government Savings Promotion Act, 1873, such as Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme (MSSC), Post Office Time Deposits, Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), and Post Office Monthly Income Scheme.

### Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches AMC Repo Clearing Limited and CDMDF

- ✓ On July 28, 2023, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance, initiated the trading on Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) mechanism called AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL), during an event organized by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ She also inaugurated Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF). Both the initiatives intend to deepen the functioning of the corporate debt markets.
- ✓ **About ARCL:** The Union Minister launched the triparty repo in corporate debt securities offered

through ARCL, a LPCC aimed at developing the underlying Corporate Bond market in India.

- ✓ ARCL, setup by MFs managing debt Assets under management (AUM) acts as a Central Counter Party (CCP) that facilitates clearing and settlement services of corporate bond repo transactions.
- ✓ During its launch, ARCL successfully conducted its first transaction, with a total traded value of Rs 480 crore.

### Central Govt approves 8.15% interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund for FY23

- ✓ On 24th July 2023, The Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI) has approved Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)'s Central Board of Trustees' recommendation to set the annual interest rate of 8.15% on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) accounts for the financial year 2022-2023 (FY23).
- ✓ This move will cover over 6 crore subscribers of EPFO. The current rate is 0.05% higher than the FY22 when it was 8.10%.
- ✓ Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) has conveyed this approval of the Central Government under para 60(1) of EPF Scheme, 1952 by crediting the interest to the account of each member of the EPF Scheme as per the provisions under Para 60 of EPF Scheme, 1952.
- ✓ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. It manages the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), a social security scheme for salaried employees in India.
- ✓ Each month, an employee contributes 12 per cent of their earnings to their EPF account, with the entire contribution directed towards the EPF account. On the employer's part, only 3.67 per cent is deposited into the EPF account, while the remaining 8.33 per cent is allocated to the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS).
- ✓ According to EPFO's latest provisional payroll data released on July 20, 2023, the top 5 states in terms

of net member addition are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, and Gujarat.

### Government raises interest rates on select small saving schemes by up to 0.3% for Q2 of FY24

- ✓ The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF) has announced an interest rate hike on selected small savings schemes by up to 0.3% for the 2nd quarter of the financial year 2023-24 (Q2 FY24) (i.e July 1, 2023-September 30, 2023).
- ✓ The rates are in line with the high-interest rates in the banking system.

#### Changed Interest Rates

- ✓ The interest rate for the five-year recurring deposit (RD) has been raised by 30 basis points (bps), resulting in a highest increase of 0.3%. Earlier it was 6.2%, now it is 6.5%.
- ✓ Interest rate has increased by 10bps for The One-year term deposits with post offices will now earn 0.1% reaching 6.9% (earlier 6.8%) and, The two years tenor is 7% (earlier 6.9%).

#### Unchanged Interest Rates

- ✓ Interest rates on term deposits for three and five years have been retained at 7% and 7.5%.
- ✓ The interest rates for popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and savings deposits are kept at 7.1% and 4%.
- ✓ The interest rate on the National Savings Certificate (NSC) remained unchanged at 7.7% for July 1 to September 30, 2023.
- ✓ The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi rate remained unchanged at 8%.
- ✓ The interest rate on the senior citizen savings scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is 8.2% and 7.5%.
- ✓ There is no interest rate hike for the Monthly Income Scheme, and it gives investors a 7.4 percent gain.

#### About Small Savings Schemes

- ✓ Small Savings Schemes are savings instruments managed by the government to encourage citizens to save regularly. The small savings schemes have three categories- savings deposits, social security schemes, and monthly income plan.

### NABARD's 42nd Foundation Day 2023- 12th July

- ✓ On July 12, 2023, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation was the chief guest of the event held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The day was marked by a series of events throughout the country, including a webinar on the theme of "NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation."
- ✓ The webinar was addressed by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, who highlighted the important role that NABARD has played in the development of rural India by enhancing agricultural production, developing infrastructure, and fostering financial inclusion.
- ✓ **About NABARD:** NABARD is a development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country by providing finance for Agriculture and rural development.
- ✓ It is a statutory body established under Parliamentary act-NABARD Act, 1981.
- ✓ Founded in – 12 July 1982
- ✓ Chairman – K.V.Shaji

### 50th meeting of GST Council held in New Delhi

- ✓
- ✓ On July 11, 2023, the 50th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held in New Delhi, Delhi under the chairpersonship of Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ To mark the milestone of 50th meeting of the GST Council, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (Chairperson) released a short video film titled 'GST Council- 50 steps towards a journey' in the presence of the Members of the Council.
- ✓ The GST on snack pellets, the semi-finished ingredient that is used to manufacture snacking products is decreased to 5% from 18%. This includes uncooked, unfried and extruded snack palettes.

- ✓ Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) exemption on imported Dinutuximab (Quarziba), a rare cancer drug, for personal use.
- ✓ GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation Limited and New Space India Limited (NSIL) may be extended to similar services supplied by organizations in the private sector.

### HDFC Bank Crossed USD 100 Billion Valuation; Becomes World's 7th largest Lender

- ✓ On 14th July 2023, following its reverse merger with its parent company, Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) limited, HDFC Bank crossed the USD 100 billion market capitalisation(m-cap) and traded at a market value of around USD 152 billion. With this, HDFC Bank has emerged as the World's 7th largest lender, moving ahead of Bank of China and Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs.
- ✓ HDFC bank has entering the list of the world's top 10 banks by market capitalisation. JPMorgan Chase (USD 438 billion) tops the list followed by Bank of America at 2nd (USD 232 billion) and ICBC at 3rd (USD 224 billion).



### ADB Retained India's GDP Growth Forecast at 6.4% in FY2023

- ✓ Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2023: Robust Growth with Moderating Inflation published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has retained India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast at 6.4% in FY2023 and 6.7% in FY2024, as projected in ADO April 2023.
- ✓ The inflation projection for India in FY2023 is reduced slightly from 5.0% in ADO April 2023 to 4.9% and maintained at 4.5% in FY2024.
- ✓ This is driven by continued domestic demand that supports India's recovery.



- ✓ The growth in South Asia is projected at 5.5% in 2023 and 6.1% in 2024.

### IMF WEO July 2023 Update projects Indian Economy Growth at 6.1% in 2023

- ✓ On July 25, 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its 'July 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update- Near-Term Resilience, Persistent Challenges' projected a growth rate of 6.1% for India in 2023, which is a 0.2 percentage point upward revision compared with the April 2023 projection of 5.9%.
- ✓ This shows a stronger-than-expected growth in the Q4 of 2022 driven by robust domestic investment.
- ✓ For 2024, it remained at 6.3%, as projected in April 2023 WEO Update. India grew at 7.2% in 2022.
- ✓ As per Calendar Year, India's growth projections are 6.6% in 2023 and 5.8% in 2024.



#### The Global Scenario

- ✓ i.The global growth is projected to fall at 3% in both 2023 and 2024 from an estimated 3.5% in 2022.
- ✓ ii.Global headline inflation is projected to fall to 6.8% in 2023 and 5.2% in 2024 from 8.7% in 2022.
- ✓ iii.The global recovery is slowing amid increased dissimilarity among economic sectors and regions.
- ✓ iv.The forecast for 2023 is modestly higher than predicted in the April 2023 WEO, however, it remains weak by historical standards.
- ✓ v.The outlook projected the moderation of adverse risk globally as the United States (US) debt ceiling standoff, and strong action by authorities to contain turbulence in US and Swiss banking which reduced the immediate risks of financial sector turmoil.
- ✓ Regional Highlights
- ✓ i.On the regional front, Emerging market and Developing Economies will grow at 4% in 2023, and 4.1% in 2024.
- ✓ Emerging and Developing Asia will grow at 5.3% in 2023, and 5% in 2024. China and India are part of this region.

### Razorpay launches 'MoneySaver Export Account' for Indian exporters to save 50% on overseas bank transfers

- ✓ On 26th July 2023, Razorpay, a Finetech company announced the launch of its 'MoneySaver Export Account', built specifically for small and mid-size exporters by offering up to 50% savings on international bank transfers for the Indian exporters. The facility allows exporters to open an account in any country of their choice (over 160 countries).
- ✓ The exporters receive international payments locally via the Razorpay platform such as FedWire, Automated Clearing House (ACH) and more in order to save from high transfer costs, chargebacks and payment failures.
- ✓ With the MoneySaver Export Account, Indian exporters can experience consistent wire transfer from their international customers over 200 countries and have their funds settled directly in their Indian bank accounts.
- ✓ By using the Razorpay dashboard, users can access the features and all the payments will come with an electronic Foreign Inward Remittance Statement (FIRS).

### PhonePe Launches India's First Health Insurance Platform with Monthly Subscriptions

- ✓ On 18th July 2023, PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Private Limited (PIBS), a wholly owned subsidiary of PhonePe Private Limited, launched the health insurance plans offering comprehensive insurance in partnership with leading insurers.
- ✓ With this launch, PhonePe Insurance became the first and only Platform in India to enable customers to pay for insurance in easy monthly installments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on the PhonePe app.
- ✓ These health insurance plans come with coverage up to Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ PhonePe Insurance Is Registered With IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory And Development Authority) As A Direct Broker (Life And General).

### Google Pay Introduced UPI LITE to Boost Small Value Transactions

- ✓ On 13th July 2023, Google Pay introduced its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) LITE payment (on-device wallet) feature to allow users to make small payments without entering the UPI personal identification number (PIN).
- ✓ Using Google Pay's UPI Lite, users can make payments of up to Rs(INR) 200 without the use of a UPI PIN. Users maintain a balance of Rs 2000 (Maximum balance) in their UPI Lite wallet, which can be loaded up to twice in a day and can spend up to a total of Rs 4000 within 24 hours.
- ✓ This is possible because the LITE account is linked to the user's bank account but does not rely on the issuing bank's core banking system in real time.
- ✓ The UPI LITE support feature was launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) along with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in September 2022, and currently it is supported by 15 banks. Paytm, PhonePe and BHIM(Bharat Interface for Money), have the UPI LITE feature already.

### LIC launches Jeevan Kiran to offer Life Cover with Premium Return

- ✓ On 28th July 2023, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a new term assurance plan "Jeevan Kiran", a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, and life Insurance plan that offers a combination of protection and savings.

#### Eligibility & Restrictions

- ✓ Age(Entry): Minimum 18 years to Maximum 65 years.
- ✓ Age (Maturity): Minimum 28 years to Maximum 80 years.
- ✓ Policy Term : 10 years to 40 years
- ✓ Minimum Basic Sum Assured: Rs 15 Lakhs.
- ✓ Maximum Basic Sum Assured: No Limit
- ✓ Minimum Premium: Rs 3000 for Regular Premium Policies & Rs 30000 for Single Premium Policies.

### Federal Bank launches Non-Resident SB Account 'NRE Eve+' for NRI Women

- ✓ The Federal Bank Limited (the erstwhile Travancore Federal Bank Limited) launched a

unique Non-Resident (NR) Saving Bank (SB) account scheme, named SB NRE (Non-Resident External) Eve+ designed exclusively for the financial needs of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) women.

- ✓ The scheme provides variety of benefits geared at enhancing the financial journeys of the NRI women.

### Canara Bank Leads PSBs in Lending with Rs 187,813cr to State PSUs & Corp.; TN holds Highest Debt

- ✓ According to the Parliamentary Questions and Answers data (Lok Sabha) on Outstanding Debt of States and Union Territories (UTs), Canara Bank topped the list of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) with the highest lending of Rs 187,813 crore in FY23 to Corporations and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of States and Union Territories (UTs) for the 5th consecutive time.
- ✓ This information was revealed in a written statement by the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance, on July 24, 2023, in response to questions raised by Member of Parliament (MP), Velusamy P.
- ✓ Out of the 12 PSBs, 10 reduced their lending to PSBs in FY23. Only two banks viz. Canara Bank and Central Bank of India, increased their exposure in FY23.
- ✓ Canara Bank lending amount of ₹187,813 crore to government-backed entities, alone accounting for over 45% of the total lending of all PSBs in the financial year 2022-2023(FY23).
- ✓ This lending amount was 11% higher compared to the ₹1,69,532 crore the bank had lent to government entities in the previous financial year (FY22).
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has notified as second highest lender in FY23 with a total loan disbursement of Rs 70,142.5 crore.
- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) as 3rd highest lender, lent Rs 66,523.2 crore to State enterprises in FY23, down from Rs 81,735 crore in FY22.
- ✓ PNB and SBI are followed by Bank of India (Rs 25,147 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 15,706.8 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 12,584.8 crore), Bank of

Maharashtra ( Rs 10,822.7 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 9,021 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 7,490 crore), Central Bank of India (Rs 3,949 crore from Rs 1,475 crore in FY22), UCO Bank (Rs 2,939.4 crore), Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs 87.7 crore).

- ✓ Punjab & Sind Bank had the lowest exposure to State PSUs and corporations in FY23 as compared to Rs 3,570 crore in FY22.
- ✓ As per the RBI's 'State finances: A study of budgets of 2022-23' report published in 2023, Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman shared data on outstanding liabilities, highlighting that Tamil Nadu(TN) has the highest amount of outstanding debt among all States and Union Territories in India, at Rs 7.54-lakh crore (as per budget estimates for FY23).
- ✓ TN is followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) at 7.10-lakh crore outstanding debt.
- ✓ Odisha is the only state in the country to reduce its debt consistently over the past three years: 1.8% in 2019-20, 8.4% in 2020-21, and 12% in FY 2022-23.

### EIB commits € 1 billion loan to support India's National Green Hydrogen Mission

- ✓ European Investment Bank(EIB) is set to support India's National Green Hydrogen Mission with a substantial loan of up to EURO 1 billion to boost green hydrogen and renewable energy projects in India.
- ✓ The EIB aims to boost India's renewable energy ambitions by supporting renewable energy generation, energy storage technologies, power transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- ✓ EIB Vice-President Kris Peeters is set to confirm EIB's interest to support NGHM during his visit to India to attend G20(Group of Twenty) Infrastructure Investors Dialogue (IID), which takes place during the 3rd meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- ✓ .The investments align with the European Green Deal, the EU Global Gateway strategy, and India's own agenda on climate change, renewable energy, connectivity, and sustainable finance.

## HDFC Bank becomes first to offer interoperability between CBDC and UPI

- ✓ On 13 July 2023, HDFC(Housing Development Finance Corporation) Bank, the largest private sector lender in India launched UPI QR code(Unified Payments Interface Quick Response code)interoperable with India's sovereign digital currency, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- ✓ With this, HDFC Bank became the first bank in the country to complete the integration process between UPI payment system and Digital currency.
- ✓ HDFC Bank will enable Digital Rupee payments in several cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, and Gangtok.
- ✓ This feature will benefit customers as it enables them to transact using the funds available in their CBDC wallet through UPI QR codes.
- ✓ Previously, HDFC Bank customers had to scan two separate QR codes for their CBDC wallet and UPI payment respectively, causing inconvenience.
- ✓ The new single UPI QR code allows customers to make CBDC wallet payments with a single scan. Merchants also benefited by displaying only one QR code.

## 3 Multilateral Development Banks Have Pledged upto USD 27 bn for India's Green Growth

- ✓ During the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023), three Multilateral Development Banks, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank have contributed USD 27 billion for India's Green Growth.

### The funding allotment

- ✓ The EIB has pledged Euro(€) 1 billion to develop a large-scale hydrogen industry hub
- ✓ The ADB intends to provide USD 20-25 billion over 5 years to support India's green growth
- ✓ The World Bank approved USD 1.5 billion to aid India's low-carbon transition journey.

## Razorpay launches first international payment gateway in Malaysia

- ✓ India's renowned fintech giant and leading Full-Stack Payments and Business Banking Platform, Razorpay, has made a significant announcement regarding its first-ever international Payment Gateway for the Malaysian market as it acquires Malaysian fintech start-up 'Curlec' for \$20 million, which has been rebranded as 'Curlec by Razorpay'.
- ✓ The introduction of the Curlec Payment Gateway aims to bridge the gap between local and international payment gateways, while also addressing the unique digital payment challenges prevalent in emerging markets.

## ONGC Becomes India's First PSU to Achieve Anti-Bribery Management System Certification

- ✓ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS). The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA. ONGC's commitment to combat bribery was previously demonstrated in 2005 when it became the first organization in India to adopt the Integrity Pact (IP) initiated by Transparency International.

## India set to be third-largest economy by FY28: SBI Research

- ✓ India will become the third largest economy by FY28, two years earlier than projected, said SBI Research economists in a note. SBI economists said India will likely grow 8.1% in the first quarter of FY24, pushing the overall growth rate to 6.5%. India recorded a 13.5% growth in the first quarter of FY23. The forecast aligns with RBI projections of 6.5% growth in FY24 but is more optimistic than the International Monetary Fund's revised forecast of 6.1%. Earlier this week, the IMF revised its growth forecast upwards by 0.2 percentage points on the back of strong domestic investment.

## RBI UPDATES

### Digital payments grew significantly at 13.24% in FY23, shows RBI index

- ✓ The remarkable 13.24% growth in digital payments during FY23, as reflected in the RBI-DPI, underlines the significant progress of India's digital payment ecosystem.
- ✓ In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI). The RBI-DPI, a comprehensive measure of payment digitization, displayed a substantial increase across all parameters during this period, driven by significant advancements in payment infrastructure and performance across the country. The index for March 2023 recorded a value of 395.58, marking a 13.24% growth compared to September 2022 (377.46), as announced on January 31, 2023.
- ✓ The RBI-DPI began with a base index value of 100 in March 2018 and has been consistently rising ever since. It provides a reliable gauge of the extent of digital payment adoption in India and is updated semi-annually, with a four-month lag.

### Banknotes with a Star (\*) symbol identical to any other legal banknotes: RBI

- ✓ Banknotes with a Star (\*) symbol have recently become a subject of discussion on social media platforms. RBI issued a press release to clarify that these banknotes, known as the "Star Series" banknotes, are legitimate and have a specific purpose. The Star symbol is added to identify banknotes used as replacements for defectively printed ones in a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes.
- ✓ The Star Series banknote is a special category of banknotes issued by the RBI to replace defectively printed banknotes in a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes. These replacement banknotes are identical to regular legal banknotes, except for the addition of a Star (\*) symbol in the number panel.



### RBI Treasury Bill And Bond Auction Update: T-Bill Yield 6.86%; Punjab Offers Highest SDL Rates at 7.41%

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the next auction of Treasury bills and state development loans (SDLs) with attractive yields for various maturities. The T-bill yields for three-month, six-month, and 364-day maturities are set at 6.71 per cent, 6.83 per cent, and 6.86 per cent, respectively. The auction will see the participation of 11 states, including Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and others.
- ✓ Punjab is offering the highest interest rate of 7.41 per cent for SDLs maturing on July 5, 2034.
- ✓ Following closely are Rajasthan and West Bengal, each offering SDLs at 7.40 per cent.
- ✓ MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.) has tapped the corporate bond market with a government of India guarantee this week.
- ✓ The total issue size is Rs 2500 crore, including the green shoe option. The issue garnered substantial interest from long-term investors and proprietary traders, with bids worth Rs 9,178 crore, of which the issuer accepted Rs 2,480 crore at 7.59 per cent yield, payable semi-annually.

### RBI to detail SOP for banks to help expedite rupee trade

- ✓ RBI is set to introduce a standard operating procedure (SOP) to enable banks to expedite the issuance of Foreign Inward Remittance Certificates (FIRC) and Electronic Bank Realization Certificates (e-BRCs). This proactive step comes in response to the challenges faced by exporters using the rupee-based trading mechanism for foreign trade.
- ✓ FIRC serves as a crucial document, acting as a testimonial for all incoming remittances to India.
- ✓ Statutory authorities widely accept this document as proof that individuals or businesses, including limited companies, partnership firms, sole proprietorship firms, among others, have received foreign currency payments from abroad.



## RBI Includes S.Korea's 'NongHyup Bank' in the list of Scheduled Banks under Schedule II of RBI Act, 1934

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a notification addressing all the banks regarding the inclusion of 'NongHyup Bank' in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ✓ As per the RBI notification, NongHyup Bank has been officially include in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act 1934 and published in the Gazette of India (Part III – Section 4).
- ✓ The notification informs all the banks about the addition of NongHyup Bank to the regulated list.
- ✓ NongHyup Bank (NH Bank), established in 2012, is a commercial bank headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.

### About Scheduled Banks

- ✓ Scheduled banks are those banks that are listed under Schedule II of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. To qualify as a scheduled bank, the bank's paid-up capital and collected funds must be at least Rs. 5 lakh. These banks are eligible for low interest loans from the RBI and also have membership in clearing-houses.

## RBI Sets Restrictions on Bengaluru based National Co-operative Bank

- ✓ On 24th July 2023, Reserve Bank of India(RBI) imposed business limitations on Bengaluru's one of the oldest banks, National Co-operative Bank Limited because of its poor declining financial condition.
- ✓ Starting from July 24, 2023, the business restrictions will be in place for a duration of six months and are subject to review.
- ✓ The restrictions are imposed under the provision of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ✓ Depositors will be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount up to Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation(DICGC)

## RBI cancels Licence of United India Co-operative Bank Limited,UP

- ✓ On 19th July 2023, Reserve Bank of India(RBI) cancelled the licence of United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Nagina( Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh) as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects to pay its present depositors in full.
- ✓ The bank also does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and bank has failed to comply with the requirements of Sections 22(3) (a), 22 (3) (b), 22(3)(c), 22(3) (d) and 22(3)(e) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ✓ The bank is prohibited from engaging in any 'banking' activities, including the acceptance and repayment of deposits, as defined in Section 5(b) in conjunction with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

## India needs Average Annual growth rate of 7.6% for 25 years to Become Developed Nation: RBI Paper

- ✓ According to the article titled "India @ 100" published in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin July 2023 published by RBI's Economic Research Department, India needs to achieve an average annual real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 7.6% over the next 25 years to become a developed nation by 2047-48.
- ✓ This would require raising the current per capita GDP from USD2,500 to USD22,000, an increase of 8.8 times.
- ✓ This paper, authored by Harendra Behera, V. Dhanya, Kunal Priyadarshi, and Sapna Goel, is included in the RBI's July 2023 issue of its monthly Bulletin, released on July 17, 2023. Click Here for full Monthly Bulletin.

## RBI cancelled Licence of 2 co-operative banks, Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank and Sri Sharada Mahila Cooperative Bank

- ✓ On 11th July 2023, the Reserve bank of India (RBI) cancelled the banking licence of two cooperative
- ✓ banks, Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank, Tumkur, Karnataka and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Satara in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The licence were cancelled by RBI under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as these

cooperative banks do not have adequate capital and earning prospects and have failed to comply with the requirements of the banking regulation act.

- ✓ RBI has asked these two lenders to cease banking business from 11 July 2023 in two separate statements.

### **RBI allows Card Network Portability from Oct 1, 2023**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a 'Draft Circular – Arrangements with Card Networks for issue of Debit, Credit and Prepaid Cards' empowering the debit, credit, and prepaid card users in India with Card network portability w.e.f. October 1st, 2023.
- ✓ This means users can port their card network just like one can port switch/port mobile service providers while retaining the same phone number.
- ✓ The Card network portability will keep their existing card accounts, balances, and credit history intact.
- ✓ The RBI has invited opinions from various stakeholders for the same up to August 4, 2023. This decision by RBI has been taken in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007), by ensuring the interest of payment system and public interest.

### **IBA sets up 5-member group to implement RBI committee's recommendations on ARCs**

- ✓ Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has formed a five-member working group for the Implementation of recommendations from the Reserve Bank of India's committee on the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- ✓ The primary focus of the working group is to conduct a thorough review of assignment agreements and trust deed templates related to the acquisition of distressed assets by ARCs from lenders.
- ✓ The aim of this review is to update these templates to align with the evolving changes and expectations

within the ARC sector, enabling them to meet the growing demands of the financial industry.

#### **Members**

1. Ajit Kumar, MD and CEO, Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)
2. Hari Hara Mishra, CEO, Association of ARCs in India
3. MythiliBalasubramanian, Executive Director, Edelweiss ARC;
4. Dharmendra Pali, senior official from State Bank of India
5. AnupamaRanade, senior official from ICICI Bank

### **Education financing startup Propelld gets NBFC licence from RBI**

- ✓ Education financing startup, Propelld has procured a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to disburse loans worth Rs 2000 Cr by Financial Year(FY)24 and to bolster its direct lending proposition.
- ✓ Previously, Propelld provided lending solutions by partnering with NBFCs but now the new license will help the company to lend directly along with functioning as a loan service provider (LSP).
- ✓ With the NBFC Licence, Propelld will provide tailored loan products, flexible repayment options and competitive interest rates to its customers, particularly in tier two and tier three cities.

### **India May 2023 services exports rise 7.7% to USD 27.06 billion: RBI**

- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provisional data on July 4, 2023, India's services exports in May 2023 increased by 7.7% compared to May 2022, reaching USD (\$)27.06 billion while imports rose 2% to USD 15.5 billion.
- ✓ The government's initial estimates, released in mid-June, had indicated that services exports amounted to USD 25.3 billion, with services imports at USD13.53 billion.
- ✓ The RBI's figures are provisional and subject to further updates which are published quarterly as part of India's overall balance-of-payments data.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NASA, DARPA enlist Lockheed to build Nuclear-Powered Spacecraft

- ✓ On 26th July 2023, United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) penned an agreement with Littleton, Colorado based aerospace and defence firm Lockheed Martin to construct Nuclear Thermal Rocket (NTR) vehicle to use in NASA's Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations (DRACO) program for crewed missions to Mars.
- ✓ This will help NASA & DARPA jointly to launch a nuclear-powered satellite as soon as 2027
- ✓ The engine uses a nuclear fission reactor to generate high temperatures which is efficient than chemical propulsion systems.
- ✓ NASA is attempting to develop a nuclear rocket that will take humanity to Mars and beyond. Under the DRACO program, NASA aims to have an in-space test of Nuclear Thermal Propulsion (NTP) within 2027 with an estimate of USD 499 million.
- ✓ In 1979, NASA contemplated a manned Mars Mission utilising a nuclear-powered spacecraft known as Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Application (NERVA). Unfortunately, the NERVA project was abandoned.
- ✓ Under the agreement with DARPA, Lockheed Martin is responsible for spacecraft design, integration, and testing.



### 14th CEM adopted CEM-Hubs initiative

- ✓ On July 21, 2023, The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) adopted first-of-its-kind 'Clean Energy Marine Hubs Initiative (CEM-Hubs)' for scaling up low carbon fuel production during the 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation meeting (CEM14/MI-8) held on July 19-22, 2023 in Goa, India.

- ✓ The CEM14/MI-8 meeting was simultaneously organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, and the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, in Goa from 19th to 22nd July 2023.
  - ✓ CEM was held on the sidelines of 4th G20 (Group of Twenty) Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting (ETMM) under India's G20 Presidency in Goa during July 19-20, 2023.
  - ✓ Theme of CEM14/MI-8: Advancing Clean Energy Together
  - ✓ Aim of CEM14/MI-8: To Bring Together The Global Clean Energy Community.
- About CEM-Hubs Initiative**
- ✓ It is a high-level global forum jointly led by private sector and governments across the energy-maritime areas to promote policies and programs to transform maritime transportation and production hubs for future low-carbon fuels.

### China Successfully Launches World's First Methane-Powered Rocket to Space

- ✓ On July 12 2023, LandSpace, a Chinese private aerospace company became the world's first aerospace company to launch a two-stage rocket 'ZhuQue-2 Y-2' using liquid methane as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOx) as oxidizer.
- ✓ The rocket was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi desert, China.
- ✓ A test payload was deposited into the Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- ✓ The launch was the second attempt for the Zhuque-2 Y-2 rocket, following a failed initial launch of Zhuque-2 Y-1 in December, 2022.

#### **About Methane engines**

- ✓ The exceptional performance and cost-effectiveness of methane engines have potential to produce methane by combining water and carbon dioxide in space. The technology holds great promise for reusable rockets, positioning it at the forefront of the new era of rocketry.

## India Launches First 100% DME-Fueled Tractor for Sustainable On and Off-Road Usage

- ✓ The research was supported by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and was aligned with NITI Aayog's 'Methanol Economy' program.
- ✓ Dimethyl Ether (DME) is an indigenous and renewable fuel that has been widely adopted in countries like the United States, Japan, China, Sweden, Denmark, and Korea for powering vehicles.

## North Korea Conducted Second Successful Test of Solid-Fueled ICBM

- ✓ On 12th July 2023, North Korea's Hwasong-18 (Mars Artillery Type 18), a intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) was successfully launched for the second time from Pyongyang, North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea). The first test-firing of Hwasong-18 was on 13th April 2023.
- ✓ It uses solid-fuel technology, giving it the capability to launch with minimal preparation and allows faster deployment of missiles during a war which makes it harder for the opponent to detect signs of their launch in advance.
- ✓ The road mobile, three stage missile flew for 74 minutes – the longest time for a North Korean missile test.
- ✓ Hwasong-18 is the North Korea's first solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).



## L&T and Spain's Navantia sign an 'Teaming Agreement to build submarines for Indian Navy

- ✓ On 10th July 2023, Spain's shipbuilder Navantia and engineering major Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T), India signed an 'Teaming Agreement'(TA) in Delhi to jointly bid for a Rs. 43,000-crore (4.8

billion euros) project to build 6 advanced diesel-electric submarines for the Indian Navy.

- ✓ The TA was signed for the purpose of submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's Project 75 (India) or P75 (I), a military acquisition initiative and submarine programme affiliated to India's Ministry of Defence (MoD) .
- ✓ This agreement follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between L&T and Navantia on 11th April 2023 in Madrid, Spain to bid for the Indian Navy's P75 (I).
- ✓ Under the agreement, Navantia will design the P75(I) submarines based on its S80 class. The first S80 submarine, launched in 2021, is undergoing sea trials and will be delivered to the Spanish Navy by end 2023.

## World's largest private communications satellite 'Jupiter 3' launched

- ✓ SpaceX, Elon Musk's space exploration company, launched the world's largest commercial communications satellite from LC-39A, Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA. The Falcon Heavy rocket was used for the launch, carrying Maxar Technologies' biggest satellite to date, named Jupiter 3.
- ✓ JUPITER 3, also referred to as 'EcoStar XXIV', is a satellite of Hughes, an EchoStar company. As the next-generation Ultra High Density Satellite (UHDS), it is designed to provide gigabytes of connectivity to customers across North and South America.
- ✓ EchoStar Corporation, an American company, serves as a global provider of satellite communication and Internet services through its business segments, namely Hughes Network Systems and EchoStar Satellite Services.
- ✓ Maxar Technologies has developed JUPITER-3, a satellite that stands out not only for its remarkable size but also for its state-of-the-art technology and capabilities.



## India AI and Meta to foster advancements in AI & Emerging Technologies

- ✓ India AI and Meta have forged a collaborative partnership with the shared objective of propelling the progress of AI & Emerging Technologies research and development. The partnership's primary aim is to achieve groundbreaking advancements in AI technology and its practical applications.
- ✓ As part of their joint efforts, the possibility of establishing a Center of Excellence to foster the growth of AI & other Emerging Technologies startups is also being explored.



## Gaganyaan Human spaceflight mission: ISRO successfully tested service module propulsion system

- ✓ ISRO successfully tested Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission on 19th July at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It involves sending a crew of three members to a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth, with a planned landing in Indian Sea Waters.
- ✓ Gaganyaan Human Spacecraft Mission involved five liquid apogee motor (LAM) engines with a thrust of 440 Newton and 16 reaction control system (RCS) thrusters with a thrust of 100 N. The Gaganyaan project aims to demonstrate India's capability for human spaceflight.
- ✓ The Service Module of Gaganyaan incorporates a regulated bi-propellant based propulsion system, fulfilling various critical functions such as orbit injection, circularisation, on-orbit control, de-boost manoeuvring and SM-based abort procedures during the ascent phase.



- ✓ The recent hot tests of the System Demonstration Model simulated the fluid circuit of the Service Module Propulsion System, including the propellant tank feed system, helium pressurisation system, flight-qualified thrusters and control components.

## Dell joins Intel to launch AI skills lab in India

- ✓ Dell Technologies and Intel have joined forces to establish an artificial intelligence (AI) lab in Telangana institute. The partnership aims to bridge the digital skills gap and empower students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana by integrating Intel's 'AI for Youth' program into their curriculum. This initiative seeks to prepare students for the industry with the necessary expertise for the future job market and foster an AI-ready ecosystem on campus.

## ISRO to transfer SSLV to private sector

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is going to transfer its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to the private sector after conducting two development flights of the rocket that seeks to provide on-demand services to put satellites weighing up to 500kg in a low-earth orbit.
- ✓ The commercial satellite launch services sector in India is projected to contribute \$13 billion to the economy by 2025, with the SSLV transfer expected to accelerate its growth.



### About ISRO's SSLV

- ✓ Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a three stage launch vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and a liquid-propulsion based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage.
- ✓ The diameter of SSLV is 2m and the length is 34m with a lift-off weigh of around 120 tonnes.
- ✓ SSLV is capable of launching 500kg satellites in 500km planar orbit.

## Meta and Microsoft Introduce the Next Generation of Llama

- ✓ Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called “Llama 2“. This cutting-edge language model is now available for both research and commercial use, making it a potential competitor to ChatGPT (OpenAI) and Bard (Google). The offering of Llama 2 for free enhances its accessibility and usability in various domains.



### Llama 2: Features

- ✓ Llama 2 comes in three different sizes: 7B, 13B, and 70B.
- ✓ This new large language model (LLM) demonstrates superior performance compared to other open-source LLMs across various external benchmarks, excelling in reasoning, coding proficiency, and knowledge tests.
- ✓ Pre-trained on publicly available online data sources, the Llama-2-chat, which is a fine-tuned model, makes use of publicly available instruction datasets and benefits from over 1 million human annotations.

## Elena Introduces India's First NavIC

- ✓ In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC). The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railway, land survey, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration. With a cost of Rs 6,000, it can be easily attached to smartphones using an on-the-go (OTG) connector, enabling users to leverage data from any mapping application or satellite source.
- ✓ Elena Geo Systems plans to collaborate with smartphone manufacturers to integrate the NavIC chip directly into mobile phones.

## Meta launches “Threads” Twitter killer app

- ✓ Meta, the owner of Instagram, has introduced a new social media platform called Threads. With Twitter facing instability under its billionaire owner Elon Musk, Meta aims to capitalize on the situation. Threads is now accessible in more than 100 countries through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Like Twitter, users can share brief text messages that can be liked, reposted, and responded to. However, Threads does not include direct messaging features. Users can create posts on Threads with up to 500 characters, as well as share links, photos, and videos up to five minutes in length.
- ✓ Threads has been integrated with Instagram, with a strong focus on privacy features. Users have the choice to show or conceal a badge on their Instagram profile, and they can customize privacy settings separately for each app. Several popular brands such as Billboard, HBO, NPR, and Netflix, as well as notable celebrities like Shakira and former Meta Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, quickly created accounts on Threads. Interestingly, no advertisements were observed during a Reuters review of the app.



## WHO identifies first case of MERS-CoV in UAE this year

- ✓ According to WHO, a first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has been identified in a 28-year old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE). WHO has identified the first case of MERS-CoV in 28-year old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE). WHO stated that the patient is a resident of AI Ain city in Abu Dhabi. He had no travel history and had not come in direct or indirect contact with dromedaries (camels), goats or sheep. The first case of MERS-CoV was reported in UAE in 2013. Till date, UAE has reported 94 confirmed cases and 12 deaths. Globally, the total number of cases of MERS-CoV since 2012 is 2,605 including 936 associated deaths.

## DEFENCE

### First Barge of series LSAM 7 delivered to Indian Navy

- ✓ On 18th July 2023, the Indian Navy received the First Barge of the series LSAM 7 (Yard 75) in the presence of Iftekhar Alam, Commanding Officer of INS Tunir. This Barge was constructed in accordance with the classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) and is expected to serve the Indian Navy for a service life of 30 years.
- ✓ The Barge proudly exemplifies the “Make in India” initiative of the Government of India, as it stands as a symbol of self-reliance with all its major and auxiliary equipment procured from indigenous manufacturers.
- ✓ The induction of these Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barges is expected to bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy by streamlining the transportation, embarkation, and disembarkation processes for articles and ammunition to Indian Naval Ships.

### DAC approves proposals for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft from France

- ✓ On 13th July 2023, The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French government.
- ✓ This procurement is based on an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Indian and France and aims to bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The DAC also granted the AoN for procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under Buy (Indian) category which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

### L&T and Spain’s Navantia sign an ‘Teaming Agreement to build submarines for Indian Navy

- ✓ On 10th July 2023, Spain’s shipbuilder Navantia and engineering major Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T), India signed an ‘Teaming Agreement’(TA) in Delhi to jointly bid for a Rs. 43,000-crore (4.8 billion euros) project to build 6 advanced diesel-electric submarines for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The TA was signed for the purpose of submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy’s Project 75 (India) or P75 (I), a military acquisition initiative and submarine programme affiliated to India’s Ministry of Defence (MoD) .
- ✓ This agreement follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between L&T and Navantia on 11th April 2023 in Madrid, Spain to bid for the Indian Navy’s P75 (I).
- ✓ Under the agreement, Navantia will design the P75(I) submarines based on its S80 class. The first S80 submarine, launched in 2021, is undergoing sea trials and will be delivered to the Spanish Navy by end 2023.

### 15th edition of India-Mongolia joint military exercise ‘GNomadic Elephant-23’ held in Mongolia

- ✓ Nomadic Elephant-2023, the 15th edition of India-Mongolia bilateral joint military exercise is being conducted at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17 to 31 July 2023. Indian Army contingent comprising of 43 personnel is participating in the exercise at Mongolia.
- ✓ Primary Theme: Focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations (UN) mandate
- ✓ Participants include soldiers from the Indian Army’s Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment and Unit 084 of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

- ✓ This joint military exercise between India and Mongolia is an annual training event, which is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India.
- ✓ The previous edition (14th edition) of exercise was held at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh from 5 to 18 October 2019.

### INS Sunayna participates in CMF Exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness 2023' in Seychelles

- ✓ From July 10-12, 2023, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Sunayna, a second Saryu-class patrol vessel, participated in two-week long annual training exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness 2023', conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), in Seychelles to strengthen international collaboration at sea & enhances operational readiness.
- ✓ The exercise was led by CMF's new maritime security training staff, CTF-154.
- ✓ **Participants:** Navies from the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, and member nations of EUNAVFOR (European Union Naval Force).

### SALVEX: 7th Edition of IN-USN Salvage and EOD Exercise held in Kerala

- ✓ The 7th edition of Indian Navy (IN) – the United States of America (USA) Navy (USN) Salvage and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was conducted from June 26 to July 6 2023 in Kochi, Kerala to strengthen US and Indian divers' capability in diving and salvage techniques.
- ✓ The first-ever IN- USN SALVEX was conducted in 2005 and the SALVEX series of exercises have been conducted annually thereafter, alternately in Indian and US Pacific locations.

**Participants:** The exercise witnessed participation from both navies which included the vessels/Ships: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nireekshak and US Naval Ship (USNS) Salvor, as well as Specialist Diving and EOD teams.

### Indian Navy Conducts 7th Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) 2023

- ✓ Indian Navy (IN) along with Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) conducts the 7th edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from July 5 to 10, 2023. This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- ✓ JIMEX 23 provides an opportunity for the two navies to learn from each other's best practices and facilitate operational interactions to foster mutual cooperation and reaffirm their shared commitment towards maritime security in the region.

#### About Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23):

- ✓ The JIMEX 23 spans six days and consists of two phases.
- ✓ **i. Harbour Phase:** The initial phase, known as the Harbour Phase, will take place in Visakhapatnam. During this phase, participants will engage in professional discussions, sporting events, and social interactions.
- ✓ **ii. Sea phase:** This phase will be conducted on the open sea, enabling the two navies to collaborate and refine their warfighting capabilities. Through intricate multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface, and air domains to enhance their interoperability.
- ✓ **Participants**
- ✓ **Indian Navy (IN):** The exercise saw the participation of Indian Naval Ship (INS) Delhi, India's inaugural indigenously constructed guided missile destroyer, as well as INS Kamorta, a homegrown Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette. Additionally, fleet tanker INS Shakti, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and Dornier, ship-borne helicopters, and fighter aircraft were also a part of the exercise.
- ✓ **Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF):** JMSDF will be represented by the guided missile destroyer JS Samidare and its integral helicopters.



## India-US Joint Operation 'Broader Sword' Halts Illegal Drug Shipments via International Mail System

- ✓ India and the United States recently joined forces in Operation Broader Sword, a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS). The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.
- ✓ Under Operation Broader Sword, law enforcement agencies from both countries, including India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), worked together to target and halt the smuggling of dangerous and unauthorized pharmaceuticals, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors through International Mail Facilities (IMF).g

## J&K: Operation Trinetra II to neutralise hiding terrorists continue

- ✓ Jammu-Kashmir continues Operation Trinetra-II in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil on 17th July to neutralize hiding terrorists. A joint search and cordon operation of the army and the police named Operation Trinetra II to track down the terrorists hiding in Jammu-Kashmir's border of district Poonch.
- ✓ Operation Trinetra-II has been launched on 17th July afternoon in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil which led to an immense gunfight with hiding terrorists.
- ✓ According to the officials, intermittent firing was reported from the besieged area at regular intervals. Reinforcements were immediately after the broke out of gunfight.
- ✓ In a major success four terrorists were killed in the gun fight by the security forces and a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control in the

Krishna Ghati Sector of the Poonch district on the intervening night of 16th and 17th July.

## Ashok Leyland bags major orders worth Rs 800 crore from Indian Army

- ✓ The commercial vehicles manufacturer, Ashok Leyland recently disclosed securing defense contracts valued at Rs 800 Crore.
- ✓ These contracts entail the supply of specialized 4×4 Field, Artillery Tractors and 6×6 Gun Towing Vehicles to the Indian army within the next 12 months.
- ✓ The vehicles are designated for use by the Artillery battalions of the Indian army to efficiently tow light and medium guns.
- ✓ Ashok Leyland has made significant investments in creating a wide array of mobility platforms, ranging from 4×4, 6×6, 8×8, 10×10, to 12×12 configurations, addressing the unique requirements and operational demands of the Indian Armed Forces. These platforms are entirely homegrown, as Ashok Leyland takes pride in designing, developing, and manufacturing them indigenously.

## Indian Army & TVS motor launched All-women Motorcycle Rally to commemorate 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas

- ✓ The Indian Army, in partnership with TVS Motors company, launched a Tri-Services All Women Motorcycle Rally – 'Nari Sashaktikaran Motorcycle Rally' to commemorate 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas and to highlight the brave spirit of women. General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) flagged off all-women motorcycle rally from the National war memorial, New Delhi on 18 July 2023.
- ✓ The Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the victory of Indian Armed Forces against Pakistan on July 26, 1999, as part of Operation Vijay.
- ✓ Rally will cover around 1000 kilometres through Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to reach Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Kargil District, Ladakh on 25 July 2023.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### GEM Awards 2023-24: ANI Chairman Prem Prakash honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✓ On 26th July 2023, Prem Prakash, a renowned journalist and Founder & Chairman of Asian News International (ANI), was honoured with the Global Education Mentor (GEM) Award 2023 – Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising his significant contributions to the field of education and journalism throughout his lifetime.
- ✓ He was honoured with the award at the GEM Awards 2023-24 program organised at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The program was graced by the Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti and other prominent personalities from the education sector and so on.
- ✓ Prem Prakash has dedicated over 70 years in the world of Journalism and during his long career he has covered some significant stories of post-independence India including the 1962 War with China and 1971 Wars against Pakistan.
- ✓ His notable work includes: Reporting India: My Seventy-year Journey as a Journalist (2020) and its Hindi Version was launched in 2022



### Mumbai's 169 yr old Byculla Railway Station won 2022 UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ✓ On 24th July 2023, India's oldest railway station (169-years-old) Byculla railway station in central Mumbai, Maharashtra received the 2022 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (Award of Merit).



The award was presented by Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Railways.

- ✓ The recognition comes after 5 years of restoration activities of the railway station started in 2018
- ✓ The award was announced in November, 2022.

#### About Byculla railway station

- ✓ Byculla railway station was built in 1852 One of the original stations on the Thane-Bombay rail network that was inaugurated in 1853

### Ministry of Coal won "Best Engagement" Award for Procurement through GeM Portal

- ✓ Ministry of Commerce and Industry awarded the Ministry of coal under the "Best Engagement" category for its achievements on e-procurement through Government e Marketplace (GeM).
- ✓ The Ministry has consistently performed well on the GeM portal for 2 consecutive financial years.
- ✓ During the financial year 2023-24, the Coal Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have showed a steady confidence in GeM by publishing bids worth Rs. 21,500 crore.

### Moksha Roy, 7-year-old Indian-origin wins UK PM's Points of Light award

- ✓ On 13th July 2023, Moksha Roy, a 7-year-old Indian-origin girl from Hertfordshire, the United Kingdom (UK) has been awarded the UK Prime Minister's (PM) Points of Light Award as Sustainability Champion for volunteering for several sustainability initiatives including raising funds for children in need for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- ✓ She has been the world's youngest Sustainability Champion, who started advocating for the United Nations (UN)'s Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) initiative against micro-plastic pollution at the age of 3.



- ✓ The initiative was supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, a bishop of superior rank, who is 'primate of All England and the UN task force.

### **J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission bagged SKOCH Award under “State of Governance India 2047” in Gold Category**

- ✓ The UMEED Programme of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme “State of Governance India 2047” in Gold category in District Governance for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory. JKRLM received the SKOCH Award for the first time since the establishment of the scheme.
- ✓ This recognition is for the hard work and dedication of JKRLM for empowering women and promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas and creating marketing opportunities from district level to national level platforms.
- ✓ Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director of JKRLM, who received the award introduced several initiatives including Umeed Women’s Haat, and District Rural Haat, SHG products available on e-commerce platforms like Meesho, Flipkart and Amazon etc.,
- ✓ SKOCH award, one of the highest honors in the field of governance, finance, and technology, which recognizes organizations that have made significant contributions to the socio-economic development of communities through innovative initiatives.

### **President Murmu presents Bhoomi Samman awards 2023**

- ✓ On 19th July 2023, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the Bhoomi Samman 2023 awards to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors along with their teams for achieving saturation of the core components of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) – the core of Governance.
- ✓ The awards were given to Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal at a function

organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ Out of 766 districts in the country, 68 districts have won ‘Platinum Prize’ in six categories under the DILRMP.
- ✓ The event is extremely significant for Revenue and Registration functionaries of the State who would receive the “Bhoomi Samman” for the first time in the last 75 years for their outstanding performance.
- ✓ 19 districts of Odisha who won platinum award under six different categories by attaining 100 % objectives of DILRMP.

### **French government presented Chevalier award to Indian Musicians Aruna Sairam & Shashank Subramanyam**

- ✓ On 15th July 2023, the Government of France presented the title of Chevalier (Knight) de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) awards to Aruna Sairam, a Padma Shri awardee and Carnatic vocalist, and Shashank Subramanyam, flautist for their contributions in connecting France and India through their music.
- ✓ The award Ceremony was held at the National Day of the French Republic celebrations in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

### **IIT-M Professor Thalappil Pradeep wins 15th Edition of International Eni Award**

- ✓ On 17th July 2023, Eni, an Italian integrated energy company, announced the names of the winning researchers and scientists of the 15th edition of the Eni Award. Thalappil Pradeep, professor in the Department of Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras), has been awarded the Advanced Environmental Solutions Award, which is dedicated to research for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.
- ✓ The prize is composed of a gold medal, a citation and a cash component and the award is set to be



presented by the President of Italy in the near future.

**Professor Thalappil Pradeep’s contribution**

- ✓ T. Pradeep’s work on affordable clean water using advanced materials has gained recognition. He made groundbreaking discoveries in sustainable nano-scale materials that effectively remove toxic contaminants from water.
- ✓ His research on pesticide removal has positively impacted millions of people. Moreover, his team has successfully developed ‘water-positive’ materials that can effectively eliminate toxic contaminants like arsenic, uranium, and others from water.

**Union Minister Kishan Reddy Confers Global Incredible Inc Leadership Award**

- ✓ On 16th July 2023, Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region (DoNER) conferred the ‘Global Incredible Inc Leadership Award’ from the U.S.India SME Council.
- ✓ US India SME Council bestowed his efforts to promote tourism and India’s rich culture. It was presented by the president and chief executive officer(CEO) of U.S. India SME Council, Inc. Elisha B. Pulivarti.
- ✓ US India SME Council is a Nonprofit, Membership, and Premier Business Advocacy Organization, based in Washington DC, the United States of America (USA).



**NLC India Ltd has been declared the Winner of the GeM Award for 2023**

- ✓ NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna company under the Ministry of Coal, has been declared the Winner of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) award for the year 2023 in “Timely Payments (CPSEs)” category for promoting and encouraging business activities through e-Market.
- ✓ K Mohan Reddy, Director (Planning and Projects), received the award on behalf of NLCIL from Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry,

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & Textiles.

- ✓ NLCIL registered and on-boarded in GeM portal in the year 2017. It’s growth in GeM procurement started at Rs 2.21 crore during the year 2018-19 and the company has now registered an impressive growth of Rs 984.93 crore during the year 2022-23.

**34th International Biology Olympiad held at Al Ain, UAE; India tops medal tally with 4 Golds**

- ✓ India won 4 gold medals and topped the medals tally at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2023) held at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 3rd to 11th July 2023.
- ✓ For the first time, all the students (4) representing India won the gold at the IBO.
- ✓ Besides India, Singapore has also won 4 gold medals at IBO 2023.
- ✓ Around 293 students from 76 countries participated in the IBO 2023 and a total of 29 gold medals were awarded at the IBO 2023. The number of gold medals will be limited to approximately 10 % of the number of participants.
- ✓ The following students from India emerged as the gold medal

✓ Dhruv Advani, Bengaluru, Karnataka
✓ Ishan Pednekar, Kota, Rajasthan
✓ Megh Chhabda, Jalna, Maharashtra
✓ Rohit Panda ,Risali, Chattisgarh

**4 Indian Origin Women features on Forbes’ America’s Richest Self-Made Women 2023**

- ✓ 4 Indian Americans, Jayshree Ullal, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Arista Networks, Neerja Sethi, co-Founder of Syntel, Neha Narkhede, co-founder of Confluent, and Indra Nooyi, former chair and CEO of PepsiCo, were featured on the 2023 America’s Richest Self-Made Women, 9th edition of Forbes’ annual ranking of the United States of



America (USA)'s most successful women entrepreneurs, executives and entertainers.

- ✓ Jayshree Ullal is ranked 15th with net worth of USD 2.2 billion, Neerja Sethi, is ranked 25th with net worth of USD 990 million, Neha Narkhede is ranked 50th with net worth of USD 520 million and Indra Nooyi is ranked 77th with net worth of USD 350 million
- ✓ The combined net worth of these 4 women stands at USD 4.06 Billion.
- ✓ The list is topped by Diane Hendricks, Chairman and founder of ABC Supply Co., Inc. (ABC), for the 6th consecutive year, with net worth of USD 15 billion.
- ✓ Diane is followed by Judy Love and Family, Chairman And CEO, Love's Travel Stops And Country Stores, with USD 10.2 billion and Judy Faulkner, Founder and CEO of Epic Systems with USD 7.4 billion.

### GAIL accredited with Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) T3 Status

- ✓ On 23rd June 2023, Gas Authority Of India Limited (Gail (India) Limited), a Maharatna – central public sector undertaking (CPSU) accredited with Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) T3 Status which is a highest level of facilitation for Importers & Exporters by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ AEO is a programme run by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework (2005) of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade, it aims to improve international supply chain security, facilitate the flow of genuine goods, and increase the ease of doing business in India.



### British Children's Writer Michael Rosen honoured with PEN Pinter Prize 2023

- ✓ British children's writer and performance poet, Michael Rosen (77 years old), has been awarded the PEN Pinter Prize 2023. He will receive the award in

a ceremony co-hosted by the British Library on 11 October 2023.

- ✓ Michael Rosen is known for making poetry accessible to children through his work and performances. His themes are often social, political and ethical.
- ✓ Some of Rosen's most well-known books include You Can't Catch Me (1982), which won the Signal Poetry Award; You Wait Till I Am Older Than You (1996), Rover (2007), Fantastic Mr Dahl (2012, on Roald Dahl's writing life).
- ✓ **About PEN Pinter Prize:** The PEN Pinter Prize was established in 2009 in memory of playwright Harold Pinter, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2005.



### PM conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune

- ✓ The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was granted to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in Pune, Maharashtra, during a ceremony that commemorated the 103rd death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak. The prestigious award, instituted by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. Shri Narendra Modi became the 41st distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition.
- ✓ The previous year saw the presentation of the Lokmanya Tilak National Award to Tessy Thomas, a renowned senior scientist often referred to as India's "missile woman." Ms. Thomas played a crucial role as the project director for Agni-4 and Agni-5 missile systems, contributing significantly to the nation's defense capabilities.



### Ratan Tata to get Maharashtra govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award

- ✓ The Maharashtra Government will confer Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata with the first prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this

year, state industries minister Uday Samant announced in the State Legislative Assembly. On the lines of Maharashtra Bhushan award, which is the state’s highest award, that is conferred to eminent people, the Maharashtra government, decided to initiate the prestigious Udyog Ratna Award from this year onward. The first of the awards will be given to industrialist Ratan Tata.



**SJVN bags 1st Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by MoP**

✓ SJVN Limited has been honored with the 1st Prize in the Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by the Ministry of Power. NL Sharma, the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN, received the award from Pankaj Agarwal, the Secretary of the Ministry of Power, during a ceremony held in New Delhi. The evaluation of public sector undertakings (PSUs) for these awards is based on various criteria, including the initiatives taken to raise awareness about the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan among the public. SJVN has secured the top position, with the second and third prizes being awarded to Power Grid and PFC, respectively. Notably, SJVN also achieved the first prize in the previous year’s Swachhta Pakhwada Awards.

**Golden Peacock’ Environment Management Award 2023 to Adani Transmission Limited**

✓ Adani Transmission Limited has received ‘Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 (GPEMA) in the ‘Power Transmission Sector’ from ‘Institute of Directors.’  
 ✓ The core philosophy of Adani Group is ‘Nation Building’ and ‘Growth with Goodness’.

**About the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award**

✓ The award is given for reducing its ecological footprint through programs such as zero waste in landfills, single-use plastic free, water-positive operations, promoting renewable energy integration and implementation of best-in-class environmental management strategies

**PM Modi conferred with France’s highest award Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France’s highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron. Mr. Modi received the honour at the Elysee Palace here on, July 13, 2023, and joined the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles – the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.



Awards and honors bestowed on the PM Narendra Modi by other nations	
✓	Order of the Nile by Egypt in June 2023
✓	Companion of the Order of Logohu by Papua New Guinea in May 2023
✓	Companion of the Order of Fiji in May 2023
✓	Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau in May 2023
✓	Order of the Druk Gyalpo by Bhutan in 2021
✓	Legion of Merit by the US Government in 2020
✓	King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain in 2019
✓	Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin by Maldives in 2019
✓	St. Andrew Award from Russia in 2019
✓	Order of Zayed Award from the UAE in 2019
✓	Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award in 2018
✓	State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan from Afghanistan in 2016
✓	Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud from Saudi Arabia in 2016

# SPORTS

## Aditya Samant Becomes India's 83rd Chess Grandmaster

- ✓ On 26th July 2023, Aditya S Samant (17) an International Master, became India's 83rd chess Grandmaster (GM) by earning his 3rd GM norm against Aryan Chopra in the 9th round of Biel Chess Festival Master Tournament (MTO) 2023 in Switzerland.
- ✓ To become a GM, a player has to secure 3 GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.
- ✓ Aditya who hails from Maharashtra earned his 1st GM norm at the age of 16 at the ABU Dhabi Masters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in August 2022 and secured his 2nd GM norm at the 3rd El Llobregat Open, Spain in December 2022.



## ISSF Junior World Championships 2023: India Finished 2nd with 17 medals

- ✓ India won 17 Medals(6 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze)and secured the 2nd spot in the overall medal tally of the 3rd edition International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championships 2023 Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun. The event held from 14th July to 25th July 2023 at Changwon Shooting Range, Changwon, South Korea.
- ✓ China topped the medal tally with 28 medals(12 Golds, 9 Silver and 7 Bronze).
- ✓ Previously India topped the medal tally with 43 medals(17 Gold, 16 Silver and 10 Bronze) in ISSF Junior World Championships 2021 at Lima, Peru.
- ✓ The 19-year old Kamaljeet won two golds in the men's 50m pistol event and the 50m pistol men's team event along with Ankait Tomar and Sandeep Bishnoi.



## Indian Gold Medal Winners

Shooter	Event
Kamaljeet	50m pistol men
Shubham Bisla	10m air pistol men
Sainyam	10m air pistol women
Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot	10m air rifle mixed team
Abhinav Shaw, Srikanth Dhanush and Parth Rakesh Mane	10m air rifle men's team
Yashita Shokeen, Veerpal Kaur and Tiwana	50m pistol women's team
Kamaljeet, Ankait Tomar and Sandeep Bishnoi	50m pistol men's team

## Tennis: India's Sumit Nagal wins Men's Singles Tampere Open 2023

- ✓ On 23rd July 2023, Indian Tennis Player Sumit Nagal won Men's Singles title of the Tampere Open 2023 by defeating Dalibor Svrčina of Czech Republic in Tampere, Finland.
- ✓ This marks Sumit Nagal's fourth Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Challenger title in five outings and his second title in 2023, when he won the Garden Open 2023 in Rome, Italy.
- ✓ The 41st edition of the Tampere Open was held in Tampere, Finland from 17th July to 23rd July, 2023.
- ✓ In 2023, only the men's tournament will be played at the Tampere Open.
- ✓ **Men's Doubles winners:** Piotr Matuszewski and Szymon Kielan (Poland) defeated by Vladyslav Orlov (Ukraine) and Adam Taylor (Australia)



## Sri Lankan Cricketer Lahiru Thirimanne retires from international cricket

- ✓ On 23rd July 2023, Sri Lankan cricketer Lahiru Thirimanne announced his retirement from

international cricket with immediate effect, after a 12-year cricket career.

- ✓ Thirimanne represented Sri Lanka in 44 Test matches, 127 One-Day Internationals(ODI) and 26 Twenty20 (T20) Internationals after his debut in 2010.
- ✓ He has represented Sri Lanka in two ODI World Cups (2015, 2019) and three T20 World Cup campaigns, including Sri Lanka's victory in 2014.

### Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard has won 110th edition of the Tour de France

- ✓ Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard of the Jumbo-Visma, Dutch professional bicycle racing team, has won 110th edition of the Tour de France for a second straight year on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France. The Tour de France (Tour of France) is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race primarily held in France.
- ✓ Vingegaard crossed the finish line after the 21-day race 7min 29sec ahead of Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, the champion in 2020 and 2021.
- ✓ Vingegaard's winning margin (7 minutes and 29 seconds) was the largest since 2014.
- ✓ The tour covers 3,405 kilometres with eight mountain stages across five mountain ranges. Vingegaard seized control of the race over two stages in the Alps.

### Pakistan A Wins ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023

- ✓ On 23rd July 2023, Pakistan A cricket team won Asian Cricket Council(ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 by defeating India A in the finals at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ✓ This marks Pakistan's second consecutive win in the tournament, previously it won the cup in the 2019 finals against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✓ The fifth edition ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 held from 13th July to 23rd July 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



### Korea Open 2023: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Wins Men's Doubles Title

- ✓ The Indian Badminton Players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Men's Doubles title by defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto at the finals of the Korea Open 2023.



- ✓ The Korea Open 2023 marks Chirag and Satwik's fourth victory following the Swiss Open, Asian Championships and Indonesia Open in 2023.
- ✓ The Super 500 badminton tournament, Korea Open 2023 held from 18th – 13th July 2023 at Jinnam Stadium, Yeosu, South Korea.

#### Men's Singles Title

- ✓ Anders Antonsen of Denmark, won the men's singles title defeating Loh Kean Yew from Singapore.

#### Women's Singles

- ✓ An Se young Of South Korea won the Women's Singles Title defeating Tai Tzu-ying from Chinese Taipei.

#### Women's doubles

- ✓ Chen Qing chen and Jia Yi fan (China) won the Women's Doubles Title defeating Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong from South Korea.

#### Mixed Doubles

- ✓ Feng Yan zhe and Huang Dong ping
- ✓ (China) won mixed doubles defeating Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin (China).

### Hungarian GP 2023:Max Verstappen gave Red Bull 12th Successive Win

- ✓ On 23rd July 2023, Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch racing driver) won Formula1(F1) Qatar Airways Hungarian Grand Prix 2023, held in Budapest, Hungary. This victory made the Red Bull team win twelve consecutive Formula One races in 2023.
- ✓ Red Bull's achievement broke the record of McLaren's 11 wins in 1988. This also marks Verstappen's seventh consecutive win. He completed the race with 26 points.



## Indian GM Praggnanandhaa Becomes Champion at Super GM chess tournament in Hungary

- ✓ On 19th July 2023, Young Indian Grandmaster (GM) R Praggnanandhaa (17) became champion at the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ In the final round, he secured a draw against Polish GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek with the white pieces.
- ✓ The inaugural edition of V Géza Hetényi Tournament was organized by GM FT Attila Czebe in Budapest, Hungary from 11<sup>th</sup> to 18th July 2023.



## Cricket: South Zone won the 2023 Duleep Trophy title defeating West Zone

- ✓ On 16th July 2023, South Zone defeated West Zone by 75 runs in the finals of the 2023 Duleep Trophy Championship at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka. South Zone has won the Duleep Trophy after 9 years, previously South zone was the joint winner (along with North Zone) in 2013-14 . This marks South Zone's 14th title.
- ✓ 2023 Duleep Trophy, 60th edition of the Duleep Trophy, was held from 28th June 2023 to 16th July 2023.
- ✓ West Zone was led by Priyank Panchal and South Zone was led by Hanuma Vihari.
- ✓ Vidwath Kaverappa of South Zone won both the 'Player of the Match' for taking 8 wickets (7/53 and 1/51) in the final match as well as the 'Player of the Series' award for taking 15 wickets in 2 match.
- ✓ The Duleep Trophy, also known by its sponsorship name, the MasterCard Duleep Trophy, is a First-Class Cricket tournament in India. It is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinghji (also called as Duleep), an Indian cricketer from then-British India.



## US Open 2023 Badminton: China's Li Shi Feng & Thailand's Supanida Katethong won singles titles

- ✓ On 16th July 2023, China's Li Shi Feng (Ranked 12) and Thailand's Supanida Katethong (Ranked 22) won the men's singles finals and the women's singles finals of the Yonex US Open 2023 at the the Mid- America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ The US open 2023 is the part of HSBC Badminton World Federation (BWF) Super 300 series held from 11th July to 16th July 2023.
- ✓ The US Open 2023 marks the 58th edition and the sixteenth tournament in the 2023 BWF World Tour and the seventh Super 300 event of the season.

## Commonwealth Sr. Jr. & Youth Weightlifting Championship 2023: India won 20 Medals in Senior Category

- ✓ Indian Senior weightlifting contingent won 20 medals (9 Golds, 9 Silvers and 2 Bronze) at the Commonwealth Senior, Junior, and Youth Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- ✓ The Indian team overall won 61 medals (38 Gold, 21 Silver and 2 Bronze) across senior (9 Golds, 9 Silvers and 2 Bronze), junior (13 Golds, 8 Silvers) and youth (16 Golds, 4 Silvers) categories.
- ✓ The event witnessed 250 weightlifters from 20 countries participating across junior, youth and senior categories from 12th July to 16 July 2023.
- ✓ **Indian Senior medallists:**
- ✓ **i.Gold medallists:**The nine gold medallists are Komal Kohar (women's 45kg), Gyaneshwari Yadav (women's 49kg), Popy Hazarika (women's 59kg), S Nirupama Devi(women's 64kg), Vanshita Verma (women's 81kg), Mukund Aher (men's 55kg), Shubham Todkar (men's 61kg), Ajith N (men's 73kg) and Ajay Singh (men's 81kg).
- ✓ **ii.Silver medallists:**The nine silver medallists are Jhilli Dalabehera ( women's 49kg), Shrabani Das (women's 55kg), T Madhavan(men's 67kg), Harjinder Kaur (women's 71kg), Pallavi

S(women’s 64kg), Amarjit Guru(men’s 89kg), Harshad Wadekar(men’s 96kg), Harcharan Singh (men’s 102kg), Lovepreet Singh(men’s 109kg).

- ✓ **iii. Bronze medallist:** The two Bronze medallist are Jagdish Vishwakarma(men’s 96kg) and Purnima Pandey (women’s +87kg)

### England won the Men’s 2023 UEFA European U21 Championship title defeating Spain

- ✓ England Football team won the Men’s 2023 UEFA(Union of European Football Associations) European Under 21 (U21) Championship title(1-0) defeating Spain in the finals held at Batumi Arena, Georgia. This mark’s England’s 3rd UEFA European U21 Championship title after 1982 and 1984.
- ✓ This also marks the 9th finals of Spain, more than any other country. Italy stands 2nd with 7. UEFA’s Technical Observer panel has named England forward Anthony Gordon as the Player of the Tournament.
- ✓ The tournament was co-hosted by Romania and Georgia from 21st June to 8th July 2023. Romania hosted the opening match, while Georgia hosted the final.
- ✓ Slovakia has been selected as host nation of the 2025 UEFA European Under-21 Championship

### Asian Athletics Championships, Bangkok, Thailand: India finish 3rd with 27 medals

- ✓ Indian contingents won 27 medals( 6 Gold, 12 Silver and 9 Bronze) and finished 3rd in the overall medal tally of the 25th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships (AAC), the flagship event of the Asian Athletics Association(AAA), held in the Supachalasai National Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand from July 12th to July 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.



- ✓ Japan topped the medal tally with 37 medals (16 gold, 11 Silver, 10 bronze ) followed by China with 22 medals (8 Gold, 8 Silver, 6 Bronze).
- ✓ The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Asian Athletics Association(AAA) (1973-2023).
- ✓ Members of AAA: Thailand, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore.
- ✓ It is a biennial event happening once in every two years. Following the cancellation of the 2021 edition in Hangzhou, China due to COVID-19, the Asian Athletics Championships returned after a four-year hiatus.

### 136th Edition of “The Wimbledon Championships 2023

- ✓ The 136th edition of The Wimbledon Championships (Wimbledon) 2023 took place from 26th June to 16th July 2023 at the centre court, All England lawn tennis and croquet club, Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.

#### Winners of Wimbledon 2023

##### Gentlemen’s Singles- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz (Spain - ATP- Association of Tennis Professionals Rank 1) defeated seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic(Serbia -gATP Rank 2) to claim his first Wimbledon title(2023) at the Gentlemen’s singles final match.



##### Ladies Singles: Marketa Vondrousova(Czech Republic)

- ✓ Czech Republic’s Marketa Vondrousova became the first unseeded Women’s Singles champion at Wimbledon in the Open Era after defeating Ons Jabeur (WTA- Women’s Tennis Association Rank 6)of Tunisia in the Ladies singles final.



**Gentlemen’s Doubles:** Neal Skupski(United Kingdom) and Dutch partner Wesley Koolhof won the Wimbledon

Gentlemen's doubles title against the duo Marcel Granollers(Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina).

**Ladies doubles:** Hsieh Su-Wei of Taiwan and Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic won their second Wimbledon Ladies doubles title as a pairing by beating Elise Mertens of Belgium and Storm Hunter of Australia.

**Mixed Doubles:** In the Wimbledon Mixed Doubles final Mate Pavic of Croatia, with teammate Lyudmyla Kichenok(Ukraine) against Joran Vliegen of Belgium and his teammate Xu Yifan of China.

#### About Wimbledon:

- ✓ Wimbledon was established in 1877 and organised by the All England Lawn Tennis and Crouquet Club (AELTC)& International Tennis Federation.
- ✓ The 2023 Championships is the 129th staging of the Ladies' Singles Championship event, the 55th in the Open Era and the 3rd Grand Slam tournament of the year.
- ✓ It is one of the 4 Grand Slam tennis tournaments (others being Australian Open, French Open and the United States(US) open)that takes place in Grass Outdoor Courts and every player must follow the dress-code of whites.

#### Wimbledon 2023: Prize Money

- ✓ • Gentlemen's & Ladies Singles- £(Euro)2,350,000
- ✓ • Gentlemen's, Ladies & Mixed Doubles – £600,000
- ✓ Wimbledon Chairman- **Ian Hewitt**

### **World Archery Youth Championships 2023: India won 11 medals(6 Golds, 1 Silver, 4 Bronze)**

- ✓ The Indian Archery team won 11 medals (6 Golds, 1 Silver, 4 Bronze) and secured 2nd position in the medal tally of the Limerick 2023 World Archery Youth Championships held in Limerick, Ireland from 3rd July-9th July 2023. South Korea topped the medal tally with 10 medals (6 Gold and 4 Silver).
- ✓ The World Archery Youth Championships 2023 witnessed the participation of 518 archers (277 men and 241 women) from 58 countries competing for medals in individual and team events in the Under-21(U21) and Under-18(U18) age categories.

- ✓ Team India represented by 12 archers each in the U21 and U18 age groups.
- ✓ The 19-year old Parth Salunkhe from Maharashtra becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian male archer to win a gold medal in Recurve men's individual by defeating South Korea's Song Injun.
- ✓ He also won a Bronze medal in the Recurve mixed team along with Ridhi.

### **Badminton: Lakshya Sen Wins Men's Singles Title in Canada Open 2023**

- ✓ Indian Badminton Player Lakshya Sen won the Men's Singles finals at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Yonex Canada Open 2023 (Canada Open 2023) defeating China's Li Shi Feng (reigning All England champion 2023), held in Calgary, Canada from 4th July – 9th July 2023.



- ✓ India's P.V. Sindhu lost to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the Women's Singles (semifinals) of Canada Open 2023.
- ✓ The Canada Open 2023 marks the 58th edition organised by Badminton Canada and Badminton Alberta with the support from BWF.

#### Winners of Canada Open 2023

**Women's Singles:** Akane Yamaguchi (Rank 1) of Japan won the Women's Singles title by defeating Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon at the Canada Open 2023.

**Men's Doubles:** Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark won the Men's Doubles title by defeating Frederik Sogaard and Rasmus Kjaer of Denmark.

**Women's Doubles:** Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Rank 3) of Japan won the Women's doubles title by defeating Wakana Nagahara and Mayu Matsumoto of Japan at the Canada Open 2023.

**Mixed Doubles:** Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito of Japan won the mixed Doubles by defeating Mathias Thyri and Amalie Magelund of Denmark.

## Shah Rukh Khan appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023

- ✓ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC World Cup 2023. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan launched the World Cup 2023 campaign 'It takes one day' in his iconic voiceover. The World Cup 2023 will be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. India will start their world cup campaign against Australia on October 8 and the Rohit Sharma led side will take on Pakistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.



## FIFA Ranking Announced, India Placed 99th In Latest Ranking

- ✓ In the latest FIFA Men's World Rankings update, India has been ranked 99th, showing progress in international football. The Indian team, known as the Blue Tigers, recently achieved notable victories, securing both the Intercontinental Cup and the SAFF Championship. Their impressive performance led to a one-spot climb in the rankings.
- ✓ India's highest FIFA ranking ever was 94, achieved back in February 1996
- ✓ In the latest FIFA rankings, **Argentina** continues to hold the **top spot**, followed by France and Brazil in second and third place, respectively. The next positions are closely contested by England, Belgium, and Croatia, securing the 4th, 5th, and 6th ranks.

## atwik 'smashes' Guinness world record with fastest badminton hit

- ✓ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, achieved the remarkable feat of setting a new Guinness world record for the fastest hit by a male player in badminton in the ongoing Korea Open 2023. His smash reached an astonishing speed of 565 km/h, surpassing the decade-long record set in May 2013 by Malaysian player Tan Boon Heong, who



had previously recorded a speed of 493 km/h with his smash.

## Australia pull out as Commonwealth Games 2026 host

- ✓ Australia's Victoria state has withdrawn as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games because of a massive increase in the projected cost of staging the multi-sports event. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said his government last year agreed to host the next edition of the quadrennial event "but not at any cost." He said his government had initially budgeted 2.6 billion Australian dollars (\$2.39 billion) to stage the Games in five regional cities but recent estimates put the potential cost as high as 7 billion Australian dollars (\$6.3 billion).

## Netherlands men team wins second FIH Hockey Pro League title

- ✓ Netherlands men team finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season. With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second title, successfully defending their first title, won in the competition last year.
- ✓ The Indian men's hockey team finished fourth in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 with 30 points from 16 matches. This was India's second fourth-place finish in the FIH Pro League, having achieved the same position in their debut season in 2020-21. The Indian hockey team was third in the 2021-22 season. India captain Harmanpreet Singh finished as the top-scorer in FIH Pro League 2022-23 with 18 goals.

## SAFF Championship 2023 Final: India wins 9th title

- ✓ The Indian men's football team emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against Kuwait 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the SAFF Championship 2023 title at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### World Bank President Ajay Banga Named In 2023 List of Great Immigrants

- ✓ Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "Great Immigrants" list. He is lauded for his contributions and efforts in enriching America and its democracy.



With over 30 years of experience in key positions, 63-year-old Banga is expected to usher in transformative policies at the World Bank to combat poverty and address climate change, opening opportunities for people around the globe.

### India welcomes its first regional AI news anchor, 'Lisa'

- ✓ In a significant milestone for the AI industry, Odisha TV, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor. Lisa's introduction marks a groundbreaking moment in TV broadcasting and journalism, with the potential to revolutionize the industry. With Lisa's emergence as India's first regional AI news anchor, the boundaries of AI in the media industry continue to be pushed, opening up new possibilities for engaging and dynamic news presentations in different languages and regional contexts.



### Cambodia's Hun Sen to resign after four decades and appoint son as PM

- ✓ Cambodia's Prime Minister, Hun Sen recently announced his decision to step down and appoint his eldest son, Hun Manet, as the new prime minister. Despite leaving the prime ministerial position, Hun Sen will continue to hold leadership roles as the head of the ruling Cambodian People's Party and as a member of the National Assembly.



- ✓ Hun Manet, currently the deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces, will assume the role of the new prime minister on August 22, 2023.

### Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

- ✓ Oommen Chandy, the former Chief Minister of Kerala, passed away at the age of 79. He was a well-respected public figure and a prominent legislator, representing the Puthupally constituency in Kottayam district.



Chandy held the office of Chief Minister twice during his political career.

- ✓ Oommen Chandy led the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) governments in Kerala on two occasions: from August 31, 2004, to May 12, 2006, and from May 18, 2011, to May 20, 2016.

### Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away at 80

- ✓ Dr Mangala Narlikar, an eminent mathematician and the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar who is the founder director of Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), passed away. She was 80. Dr Mangala Narlikar carried out research in pure mathematics. She initially worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai before joining as a lecturer at Bombay and Pune universities.

### Well known Painter and sculptor Namboothiri passes away

- ✓ Renowned artist Namboothiri, recognized for his exceptional talent in painting and sculpture, has passed away at the age of 97 in Kottakkal, Malappuram district. He was widely acclaimed for his exquisite line art and copper relief works, which adorned the literary works of prominent Malayalam writers such as Thakazhi Shivashankara Pillai, MT Vasudevan Nair, Uroob, and SK Pottakkad.



# APPOINTMENTS

## Microsoft appoints Puneet Chandok to lead India operations

- ✓ Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia, effective from September 1, 2023. He will take over operational responsibilities from Anant Maheshwari and will lead the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Puneet aims to strengthen Microsoft's presence in the region and focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach, with generative AI as a core technology.



## G. Kannabiran takes over as new NAAC Director

- ✓ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) recently announced the appointment of Prof Ganesan Kannabiran as its new director. The appointment took place on July 28, as per the official statement from NAAC. Prof Kannabiran brings with him a rich experience of over 30 years in the education sector, having served as a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership positions, including the Dean of Research and Consultancy, and Director-in-Charge at NIT Trichy and NIT Puducherry.



## SC extends ED chief SK Mishra's tenure until Sept 15

- ✓ Supreme Court extended the term of SK Mishra as the Director of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) until September 15 in 'larger public interest'.



- ✓ A three-judge bench led by Justice B R Gavai has granted an extension to the term of SK Mishra, the Director of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) until September 15. According to the previous judgment, Mishra's term was set to conclude on July 31, as previous extensions provided to him were deemed unlawful. The bench clarified that this extension was made in the 'interest of the larger public' and will be the final one allowed for him.

## Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

- ✓ The appointment of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya as the new chief justice of Bombay High Court has been officially notified by the Central Government, while Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur has been appointed as the chief justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- ✓ Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya will succeed the current Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar.



## Tata Steel reappoints TV Narendran as MD and CEO for 5 years

- ✓ T V Narendran has been reappointed as the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Tata Steel for a term of five years, starting from September 19, 2023, which will last until September 18, 2028. This decision was made based on the recommendation of the 'Nomination and Remuneration Committee'.
- ✓ Narendran also holds the positions of Chairman at Tata Steel Europe, the Supervisory Board of Tata Steel Nederland BV, Tata Steel Long Products Limited, and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited.



## Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai Takes Oath As Chief Justice Of Kerala High Court

- ✓ In a formal ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai took the oath as the 38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Chief Justice, signifying the commencement of his tenure.
- ✓ He was previously a Judge of the Gujarat High Court and served as the senior-most Judge of that court, also temporarily performing the duties of the office of Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.



## Justice Alok Aradhe took oath as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad

- ✓ Justice Alok Aradhe sworn in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court on 23rd July by governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at an event held at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad. Justice Alok Aradhe succeeded Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who was elevated as the judge of the Supreme Court.



## Govt appoints Sat Pal Bhanoo as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corp

- ✓ Sat Pal Bhanoo, who currently serves as the Additional Zonal Manager at LIC of India's Zonal Office in Bhopal, has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the company. He will take charge from Siddhartha Mohanty, who has been appointed as chairman of the firm in April, 2023.
- ✓ Sat Pal Bhanoo's appointment as the Managing Director of LIC is effective from the date he assumes office until the date of his superannuation,



which is December 31, 2025, or until further orders, whichever comes earlier.

## Rakesh Pal appointed as 25th Director General of Indian Coast Guard

- ✓ Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy and joined the Indian Coast Guard in January 1989. The Ministry of Defence states that he underwent professional specialisation in Gunnery and Weapons Systems at Indian Naval School Dronacharya, Kochi, and completed an Electro-Optics Fire Control Solution course in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Rakesh Pal holds the distinction of being the First Gunner of ICG. He received the Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and the President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018 for his outstanding service.



## Centre appoints IPS officer Manoj Yadava as DG Railway Protection Force

- ✓ Manoj Yadava, a senior IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, has been designated as the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), according to an order from the Personnel Ministry. Yadava, who belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Police Service, will take over from Sanjay Chander, who is set to retire on July 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Yadava's appointment as DG, RPF, until his retirement on July 31, 2025.
- ✓ Yadava, who was the Haryana DGP from 2019-21, is the senior most IPS officer in the cadre and is on central deputation at present as DG (investigations), National Human Rights Commission.
- ✓ railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed Force of the Union under the administrative and operational control of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.



## Ms. Nivruti Rai appointed as MD & CEO of Invest India

- ✓ Ms. Nivruti Rai joined as the Managing Director & CEO of Invest India. She has taken over the charge from Ms. Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) who had assumed this additional charge of MD & CEO ad-interim in March 2023.
- ✓ Ms. Rai is the recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her remarkable contributions in the field of technology. Ms. Nivruti Rai joins Invest India after an illustrious 29 years at Intel as a global business and technology leader.



## President appoints two new judges in Supreme Court

- ✓ Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Kerala Chief Justice S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court by the President. These appointments were made shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recommended their names to the government.
- ✓ The two new appointments increase the judicial strength of the apex court to 33, leaving only one vacancy. Justice Bhuyan, appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011, had been serving as the Chief Justice of Telangana since June 28 last year.



## ITC board reappoints Sanjiv Puri as chairman & managing director

- ✓ In a significant development, the board of ITC Ltd has re-appointed Sanjiv Puri as the company's Chairman and Managing Director for a period of five years. The decision, made on the recommendation of the committee, is set to take effect from July 22, 2024. ITC Limited is an



eminent Indian conglomerate, which holds a prominent position among the largest companies in the country. Its operations encompass a diverse range of business sectors, such as tobacco manufacturing, food processing, retailing, and financial services.

## OCA elects Sheikh Talal as new President

- ✓ Kuwait's Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) following a vote overshadowed by allegations of corruption. Sheikh Talal replaces his older brother Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the OCA for 30 years until 2021 when he was forced to step down after being found guilty of forgery in a court in Geneva and sentenced to at least 13 months in prison.

## SBI appoints Abhijit Chakravorty as SBI Card's CEO

- ✓ SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card), the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed Abhijit Chakravorty as MD & CEO. Chakravorty, who is presently a Deputy Managing Director at SBI, will assume charge of his new role on August 12, SBI Card said in a filing with stock exchanges. He has been appointed as SBI Card's MD&CEO for two years.
- ✓ Incumbent MD & CEO Rama Mohan Rao Amara has tendered his resignation owing to his transfer to SBI. Amara will demit office on August 11.

## RBI appoints P Vasudevan as new executive director

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed P. Vasudevan as executive director. His appointment is effective from July 03, 2023. The Reserve Bank in a statement said Vasudevan will look after Department of Currency Management, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department (Areas other than that of Budget & Funds) and Enforcement Department. Prior to being promoted as executive director, Vasudevan was the Chief General Manager-in-charge of the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems.





## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### Tamil Nadu tops NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022 for States/UTs

- ✓ According to the Export Preparedness Index(EPI) 2022 for States and Union Territories(UTs), the 3rd edition of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) report, Tamil Nadu has topped the Index with an overall score of 80.89.
- ✓ Maharashtra with 78.20 at 2nd place, Karnataka with 76.36 at 3rd place and Gujarat with 73.22 at 4th place are the top performers in EPI 2022 in all categories of states.
- ✓ The report, which presents a comprehensive analysis of India's export performance in FY22, was released by Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, on 17th July 2023.
- ✓ The EPI 2022 was prepared by NITI Aayog in association with the Institute for Competitiveness(IFC).
- ✓ The report highlights that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have the highest number of Geographical Indications (GI) products being exported.



#### Highlights of EPI 2022

- ✓ According to EPI 2022, most of the coastal states of India have performed well.
- ✓ Haryana(63.65), Telangana(61.36) and Uttar Pradesh(61.23) are the top performers in landlocked states category.
- ✓ Uttarakhand (59.13) has topped among Himalayan States followed by Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
- ✓ Goa(51.58) has topped among Union Territories followed by Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh.
- ✓ The report stated that among 680 districts, the top 100 districts contributes to around 87% of total exports of India.

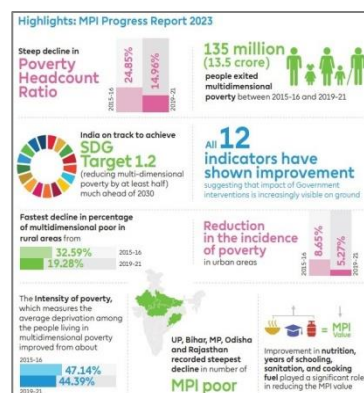
- ✓ Gujarat's Jamnagar has topped the list of Districts followed by Surat, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai, Pune, Bharuch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bengaluru Urban.
- ✓ With 8 districts, Gujarat has the highest number of districts in the top 25 export districts in India.

#### About EPI

- ✓ The Export Preparedness Index(EPI) 2022 Report evaluates the performance of the states across four pillars:
  - Policy pillar.
  - Business Ecosystem pillar.
  - Export Ecosystem pillar.
  - Export Performance pillar.
- ✓ These 4 pillars are further based on ten sub-pillars: Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.
- ✓ The index utilise 56 indicators that captures export preparedness of States and UTs in terms of exports at both the state and district-level.

### NITI Aayog launches 2nd National MPI: India's Multidimensionally Poor declines to 14.96% in 2019-2021

- ✓ On July 17, 2023, the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery released the 2nd edition of NITI Aayog's Report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): A Progress Review 2023'.
- ✓ The report represents India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between the two surveys, National Family Health Survey [NFHS-4 (2015-16)] and NFHS-5 (2019-21).



- ✓ India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in number of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.

### Highlights

- ✓ There is Marked improvement across all the 12 indicators.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (UP) registered the largest decline in number of poor i.e. 3.43 crore people.
- ✓ The fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in the States of UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- ✓ However, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, UP and MP (even after decrease) top the chart where the percentage of total population who are multidimensionally poor is high.
- ✓ Delhi, Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu have the least number of people facing multidimensional poverty along with the Union Territories.
- ✓ The rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% in 2015-16 to 19.28% in 2019-21.
- ✓ During the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%.
- ✓ Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty has reduced from 47% to 44%.
- ✓ This decline showcases Central Government's strategic focus on ensuring sustainable and equitable development and eradicating poverty by 2030. This include Flagship programs like Poshan Abhiyan and Anaemia Mukh Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Saubhagya, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Samagra Shiksha, among others.

## **Henley Passport Index 2023: Indian passport ranks 80th; Gives Visa-Free Entry to 57 Countries**

- ✓ According to the Henley Passport Index 2023 (3rd quarter) released by Henley & Partners, a London-based global citizenship and residence advisory

firm, India ranked 80th by providing visa-free or visas on arrival access to 57 countries.

- ✓ India ranked 87th in Henley Passport Index 2022. India's current rank ties it with countries like Togo and Senegal.



- ✓ Singapore is the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations out of 227 worldwide.

### The top 5

- ✓ i. Singapore increased its score by 25, pushing it five places up the ranking over the past 10 years
- ✓ to 1st position.
- ✓ ii. The 2nd place is shared by 3 European countries Germany, Italy, and Spain with 190 visa-free destinations
- ✓ iii. Japan, which held the top position for five consecutive years, dropped to 3rd place as the number of visa-free destinations for its passport holders decreased to 189. It shares its position with Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea and Sweden.
- ✓ iv. The United Kingdom, claimed 4th place (a position it last held in 2017) by rising 2 spots. It shares its position with Denmark, Ireland and Netherland.
- ✓ v. The 5th position is held by Belgium, Czech Republic, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland with visa-free access to 187 countries.

### The least in the index

- ✓ Afghanistan with a score of 27, Iraq 29 and Syria 30 stands at the bottom of the ranking, rounding out the three weakest passports in the world.

## **India stands at 126 rank out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index 2023**

- ✓ According to the 17th edition of the Global Peace Index 2023 released by international think-tank, the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), India has ranked at 126th



position by climbing nine positions from 2022. The list is topped by Iceland.

- ✓ India held the 135th position in 2022 with a score of 2.578, whereas in the current year it has improved to the 126th rank with a score of 2.314.

#### **India's position with respect to neighbours**

- ✓ India is listed as the 126th country on the list which is far behind few of her neighbours such as Bhutan (17), Maldives (23), Nepal (79), China (80), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (107). Countries like Myanmar (145) & Pakistan (146) are listed behind India.
- ✓ The ranking, which is based on 23 indicators grouped into three criteria (societal safety and security; extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict; and degree of militarization), shows 84 countries recording improvement and 79 showing deterioration.
- ✓ The 2023 Global Peace Index, which measures peace in 163 countries, found that violence costs the world USD17.5 trillion in purchasing-power parity (PPP) terms, or 12.9% of total global GDP. This means that each person on the planet is losing out on USD 2,200 in economic output because of violence.
- ✓ The index also found that the level of global peacefulness has decreased for the 13th time in the past 15 years. This is due to a number of factors, including political instability, unresolved internal conflicts, and an increase in violent crime.

### **THE Young University Rankings 2023: Mahatma Gandhi University Secures Top among Indian Universities**

- ✓ According to the Times Higher Education (THE) 'Young University Rankings (YUR)-2023', Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), Kerala has emerged as top among Indian universities and secured 77 globally. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore tops the list in 2023.
- ✓ The only three universities from India in the Top 100 World List are Mahatma Gandhi University, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences.

### **Indian Universities' Performance**

- ✓ MGU followed by JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysore, Karnataka and Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Solan, Himachal Pradesh in top three positions among Indian Universities.
- ✓ JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysore, Karnataka ranked 79 and Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences ranked 91st in the ranking list.
- ✓ A total of 45 Indian institutes were assessed in the THE Young University Ranking 2023 out of 605 universities globally.
- ✓ This category includes universities established in the past 50 years. For the first time, 13-year-old Shoolini University has participated in these rankings.
- ✓ In the year 2022, out of 539 universities ranked globally, only 40 Indian institutions were on the list and JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research topped the list.
- ✓ Lovely Professional University (LPU), Punjab placed in World's Rank Band 251-300 in the ranking THE YUR 2023 list among the other universities created since 1973. LPU has surpassed three IITs, namely IIT Guwahati and Bhubaneswar (ranked within the 301-350 band), as well as IIT Mandi (ranked within the 351-400 band).
- ✓ Australia is top-performing nation for first time in five years, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown a greater rate of improvement.
- ✓ The THE World University Rankings 2023 include 1,799 universities across 104 countries and regions.

### **Tamil Nadu becomes India's Top Electronics Exporter of FY23 with the export worth USD5.37 billion**

- ✓ According to the Export data released by the government of India for FY23 (financial year ended in March 2023), Tamil Nadu (TN) becomes India's leading exporter of Electronic goods in FY23, with exports reaching USD5.37 billion (bn), nearly triple the export of FY22 (USD 1.86 bn).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP) in the 2nd place with export worth USD 4.90 bn and Karnataka in 3rd place with USD 4.52 bn.

- ✓ For the 1st time, TN has overtaken UP, Karnataka and Maharashtra to top the list as India's leading exporter of electronic goods.
- ✓ Production from the companies like Tata Electronics and Pegatron helped TN to climb the top spot from the 4th spot in FY22 in the electronics sector.
- ✓ In FY 2022-23 India's export of electronic goods were recorded at USD 23.57 bn, the share of TN in the total export is 22.83%.
- ✓ Previously in FY22, India's export of electronic goods were at USD 15.59 bn while TN's share was 11.98%.

### 2023 UNAIDS Global AIDS Update: World can end AIDS by 2030

- ✓ UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations (UN) Programme on Human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV)/Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), report titled "2023 UNAIDS Global AIDS Update – The Path That Ends AIDS" highlights that there is a path to end AIDS by 2030 and it requires strong political leadership, following the science, tackling inequalities and ensuring sustainable funding.
- ✓ The report contains data and case studies which highlight that ending AIDS is a political and financial choice, and that the countries and leaders who are already following the path are achieving extraordinary results.
- ✓ .Progress in AIDS response has been strongest in the countries and regions such as in eastern and southern Africa (that have the most financial investments), where new HIV infections have been reduced by 57% since 2010.

### India Achieved the Best-Performing Nation on UN Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Survey

- ✓ According to the 5th edition of Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP), India has emerged as the best-performing country in the South Asian region in terms of trade facilitation.

- ✓ India has been positioned at the forefront of global trade facilitation efforts, with an impressive score of 93.55% in 2023 vis a vis 90.32% in 2021 after evaluation of 160 economies(countries) and 60 trade facilitation measures.
- ✓ India has progressed by achieving a perfect score of 100% in four key areas; Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, and Paperless Trade.
- ✓ India has shown improvement in the "Women in Trade Facilitation" component, increasing the score from 66.7% in 2021 to 77.8% in 2023.
- ✓ This indicates India's commitment to gender inclusive and empowering women in the trade sector.
- ✓ The 2023 survey reveals that India has not made any notable implementation in terms of "Wildlife Trade Facilitation."

### Ministry of Education releases report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for 2021-22

- ✓ On July 7, 2023, the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE), released the 'Performance Grading Index (PGI): 2.0: 2021-22: States & Union Territories' which assesses the performance of school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- ✓ the PGI: 2.0 is the revised version of earlier 'PGI – State structure for 2021 22'.

#### Highlights

- ✓ None of the States/UTs has attained the highest Grade i.e., Daksh.
- ✓ The top-most grade attained in PGI 2.0 is Prachesta – 2. It was attained by only 2 States and UTs, namely Punjab with score of 647.4 and Chandigarh (659.0).
- ✓ 6 States/UTs joined Grade Prachesta – 3 (score 581-640), 13 States/UTs joined grade Akanshi -1 (score 521- 580), 12 States/UTs in grade Akanshi – 2 (score 461-520) and 3 States in grade Akanshi – 3 in PGI 2.0.
- ✓ Punjab and Chandigarh which are in Prachesta – 2, are ranked 21st and 35th respectively in terms of their geographical size amongst States/UTs.

## The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023

- ✓ The latest update of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom(UK).
- ✓ As per it, a total of 415 million people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021 showing 55.1% decrease in 2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-2021.
- ✓ The analysis of trends from 2000 to 2022, focused on 81 countries with comparable data over time.

### Indian Scenario

- ✓ i.In India, multidimensional poverty declined from 645 million people in 2005-2006 to 370 million in 2015- 2016, and further to 230 million in 2019-2021. Deprivation decreased across all indicators.
- ✓ The proportion of people multidimensionally poor and deprived of nutrition decreased from 44.3% in 2005- 2006 to 11.8% in 2019-2021, and child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- ✓ Those deprived of cooking fuel decreased from 52.9% to 13%, and sanitation deprivation decreased from 50.4% in 2005-2006 to 11.3% in 2019-2021.
- ✓ Multidimensional poverty and deprivation decreased in drinking water (from 16.4% to 2.7%), electricity (from 29% to 2.1%), and housing (from 44.9% to 13.6%).

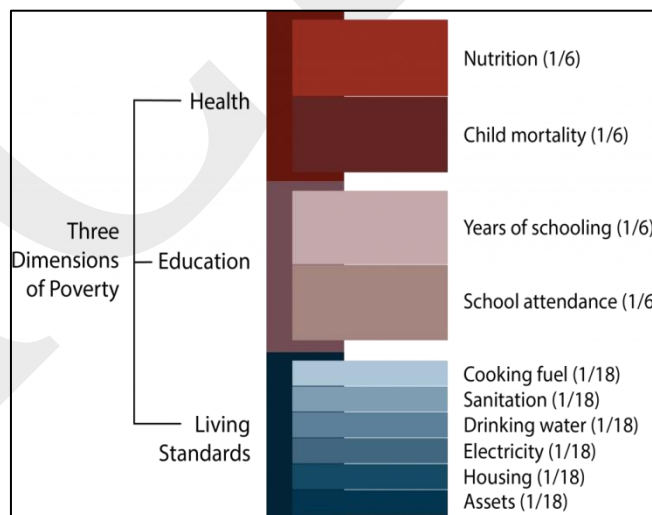
### Global Scenario

- ✓ Over 18% of the global population (1.1 billion people) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries, with Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia housing the majority of the poor.
- ✓ Two-thirds of all poor individuals (730 million people) reside in middle-income countries, highlighting the need for action in these nations. Low-income countries, comprising just 10% of the MPI population, are home to 35% of the poor.
- ✓ Half of the MPI-poor population (566 million) consists of children under 18, with a poverty rate of 27.7%. Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, where 84% of all poor people live.

- ✓ 25 countries, including India, have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years, demonstrating the potential for rapid progress. These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.

### About The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- ✓ The index is a key international resource that measures acute multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries.
- ✓ It was first launched in 2010 by the OPHI and the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP.
- ✓ The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 indicators spanning health, education and standard of living and includes both incidence as well as intensity of poverty.
- ✓ The Global MPI uses three standard dimensions: Health; Education; Standard of Living and ten indicators.



## 2023 WHO-UNICEF JMP report: Women, girls bear the burden of Water, Sanitation Crisis

- ✓ According to the report by World Health Organization(WHO)- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) titled “Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022: Special focus on gender”, globally women and girls bear the burden of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) crises.

## DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme&Details
July 1st	National Doctor’s Day 2023	National Doctor’s Day is annually observed across India on 1st July to mark the birth as well as the death Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (BC Roy), a physician and one of the most influential designers of India’s contemporary healthcare system. <b>Theme: “Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands”.</b>
July 1st	75th National Chartered Accountants Day	National Chartered Accountants (CA) Day is annually observed across India on 1st July to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on 1st July 1949. <b>Theme: ‘Empowering Financial Excellence’.</b>
July 1st	International Day of Cooperatives 2023	<b>Theme: “Cooperatives: partners for accelerated sustainable development”...</b>
July 1st	6th Goods and Services Tax Day	Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day is annually observed on 1st July to commemorate the implementation of the GST system, comprehensive indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services in India. 1st July 2023 marks the observance of the 6th GST Day which commemorates the 6th anniversary of GST coming into force (1st July 2017).
July 3rd	International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023	-----
July 7th	World Kiswahili Language Day 2023	<b>Theme: s “Unleashing Kiswahili’s potential in the digital era“.</b>
July 7th	World Chocolate Day 2023	-----
July 10th	National Fish Farmer’s Day 2023	-----
July 11th	World Population Day 2023	<b>Theme: “Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world’s infinite possibilities“.</b>
July 12th	42 <sup>nd</sup> NABARD Foundation Day 2023	-----
July 12th	International Malala Day 2023	Malala Day is an international observance annually celebrated on 12th July to honour the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist and Nobel Prize laureate. The day is also marked to honour Malala, who is known for her advocacy of girls’ education. It also signifies the free, quality and compulsory education for every child across the world. In October 2014, Malala was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner at the age of 17, she became the youngest person to receive this prize
July 15th	World Youth Skills Day 2023	<b>Theme: “Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future”.</b>
July 17th	Day of International Criminal Justice 2023	<b>Theme: “Inclusion is Strength“</b>
July 18th	Nelson Mandela International Day 2023	United Nations (UN)’s Nelson Mandela International Day is annually celebrated across the world on 18th July to marks the birth anniversary

		(July 18, 1918) of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who played an eminent role in creating non-racial constitution and democratic of South Africa. ✓ The 2023 Mandela Day marks the 105 <sup>th</sup> gbirth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
July 20th	International Moon Day 2023	United Nations(UN) designated International Moon Day (IMD) which is annually celebrated across the globe on July 20th to mark the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission. American astronauts <b>Neil Armstrong, and Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin</b> became the first humans in history to land on the Moon on July 20, 1969.
July 22nd	National Flag Adoption Day 2023	National Flag Adoption Day is annually observed across India on 22nd July to commemorate the day on which the Constituent Assembly adopted the tricolour flag, in its present form, as the national flag of India in 1947. The National flag of India is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesari) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. ✓ The National Flag was first designed in 1923 by Pingali Venkayya.
July 22nd	World Brain Day 2023	World Brain Day, is celebrated annually across the globe on July 22, to raise awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.2023 marks the 10th Anniversary of World Brain Day, hosted annually on July 22 by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN). <b>Theme: “Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind.”.</b>
July 23rd	National Broadcasting Day 2023	This significant day marks the inception of India’s first-ever radio broadcast, known as “All India Radio (AIR).”
July 24th	Aaykar Diwas Or Income Tax Day 2023	The Income Tax department observes July 24 every year as Income Tax Day or ‘Aaykar Diwas’, to commemorate the introduction of provision of income tax in the country. On July 24, 1860, Sir James Wilson introduced income tax for the first time in India.
July 26th	International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2023	-----
July 26th	Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023	The day commemorates the victory of Operation Vijay, which was a significant military victory over Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999. In 2023, India is celebrating its 24th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas.
July 28th	World Nature Conservation Day 2023	<b>Theme: “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”.</b>
July 28th	World Hepatitis Day 2023	<b>Theme: one life, one liver’.</b>
July 29th	International Tiger Day 2023	International Tiger Day has been observed annually on July 29th since its inception in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
July 29th	World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2023	<b>Theme: “Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind,”</b>
July 31st	World Ranger Day 2023	<b>Theme: “30 by 30,”</b>

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR
“Through The Broken Glass”	‘Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography authored by <b>T.N. Seshan</b> , the former Chief Election Commissioner of India, who made a significant difference to Indian elections. It was published by Rupa Publications India.
‘Krishna – The 7th Sense’	Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala, released the book “Krishnan Oru Ezhamindriyam”, the Malayalam translation of ‘Krishna – the 7th Sense’ authored by <b>Prof. Debashis Chatterjee</b> , Director of Institutes of Management (IIM)-Kozhikode(Kerala), during the event held at IIM, Kozhikode, Kerala. The book was translated from English to Malayalam by <b>V Madhusoodan</b> .

## APPS & WEB PORTAL

APPS & WEB PORTAL	Launched by
‘MERA GAON MERI DHAROHAR’	On 27th July 2023, <b>Arjun Ram Meghwal</b> , Minister of State (MoS) Ministry of Culture launched the virtual portal of Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD), a virtual museum that culturally maps over 6.5 lakh villages of India, at Qutub Minar premises in New Delhi, Delhi
‘CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal	On 17th July 2023, Union Minister of Cooperation <b>Amit Shah</b> launched the ‘Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) – Sahara Refund Portal’ aimed at aiding over 10 crore depositors of the Sahara Group in reclaiming their money within 45 days of registration in the portal.
Mobile-Dost-App	On July 11, 2023, <b>Dr Arun Kumar Mehta</b> , Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) launched the ‘Mobile Dost App’ in line with Apka Mobile Hamara Daftar, an initiative for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services in J&K.
eSARAS App	On 3rd July 2023, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), launched the eSARAS, an e-commerce mobile application to support the marketing of products made by women of Self-help Groups (SHGs). The app was launched by Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of MoRD in New Delhi, Delhi.
Threads	On 6th July 2023, Threads, an app launched as a new text-based microblogging platform, developed by Facebook parent Meta for sharing text updates and joining public conversations.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. In which city, India will host the fifth World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time in Asia?
  - a) Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - b) New Delhi, Delhi
  - c) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - d) Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - e) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
2. As per the report of All India Tiger Estimation – 2022 titled "Status of Tigers: Co-Predators & Prey in India-2022" released by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in July 2023, the Tiger Population in India is estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_ with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
  - a) 2,678
  - b) 4,216
  - c) 3,925
  - d) 1,270
  - e) 2,500
3. Which payment bank has recently (in July '23) approved the proposal for the transition of the Bank into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) licence?
  - a) Airtel Payment Bank
  - b) India Post Payment Bank
  - c) Fino Payments Bank
  - d) Jio Payment Bank
  - e) Paytm Payment Bank
4. Name the company that has recently (in July '23) became the first member from India to join the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG).
  - a) NTPC Limited
  - b) Power Grid Corporation of India
  - c) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
  - d) Power Finance Corporation Limited
  - e) THDC India Limited
5. Name the organisation/bank that has recently (in July '23) signed USD 200 million loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to expand urban service in Rajasthan.
  - a) World Bank
  - b) Asian Development Bank
  - c) United Nations Development Programme
  - d) International Monetary Fund
  - e) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. In July 2023, the National Health Authority (NHA) launched the \_\_\_\_\_ Microsites project under \_\_\_\_\_ (scheme/Mission) to promote digital health adoption and enhance healthcare accessibility for all.
  - a) 500; Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
  - b) 100; Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
  - c) 500; Mission Indradhanush
  - d) 100; Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
  - e) 400; Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
7. In Which state, the 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting was held in July 2023?
  - a) Tamil Nadu
  - b) Maharashtra
  - c) Kerala
  - d) Andhra Pradesh
  - e) Telangana
8. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the prime minister (PM), Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat and Rajasthan in July 2023?
  - A) During the visit to Rajasthan, PM released the 14th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme worth over Rs 17,000 crore to more than 8.5 crores farmers.
  - B) PM Modi inaugurated 5 Medical Colleges at Chittorgarh, Dholpur, Sirohi, Sikar, and Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan.
  - C) PM Modi inaugurated Gujarat's first greenfield airport ' Hirasar greenfield International airport' in Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat.
  - a) Only A
  - b) Only A & B
  - c) Only B & C
  - d) Only A & C
  - e) All A, B & C
9. Name the bank that has recently (in July '23) included by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the list of Scheduled Banks under Schedule II of RBI Act, 1934.
  - a) Mizuho Bank (Japan)
  - b) NongHyup Bank (South Korea)
  - c) Suncorp Bank (United Kingdom)
  - d) Commonwealth Bank (Australia)
  - e) Shinhan Bank (South Korea)

10. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the step taken by the Ministry of Finance, as of July 2023?
- A) Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman initiated the trading on Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) mechanism called AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL).
- B) The Union Minister also inaugurated the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF), Rs 33,000-crore backstop facility for Mutual Funds (MFs).
- C) The Union Minister launched the tri party repo in corporate debt securities offered through ARCL, a LPCC aimed at developing the underlying Corporate Bond market in India.
- a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
11. In July 2023, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) recognised the \_\_\_\_\_ (Association/Federation) as a National Sports Federation (NSF) status.
- a) Equestrian Federation of India  
b) Yachting Association of India  
c) Handball Association of India  
d) Squash Rackets Federation of India  
e) Rowing Federation of India
12. Who was recently (in July ‘23) honoured with the Global Education Mentor (GEM) Award 2023 – Lifetime Achievement Award?
- a) Prem Prakash                      b) Aparajita Gupta  
c) Sanjiv Prakash                    d) Tanya Sharma  
e) Garima Tyagi
13. Name the world’s largest commercial communications satellite that was recently (in July ‘23) launched by the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)’s Falcon Heavy Rocket.
- a) Crew Dragon mission  
b) Hughes JUPITER 3 mission  
c) Axiom Mission 1  
d) RazakSAT  
e) Merlin 1D mission
14. When was the International Tiger Day 2023 observed across the globe?
- a) 25th July 2023  
b) 26th July 2023  
c) 29th July 2023  
d) 28th July 2023  
e) 27th July 2023
15. As of July 2023, India became the only country besides \_\_\_\_\_ (country) to burn more than a billion tonne (BT) of coal in 2022.
- a) China  
b) United States of America  
c) Brazil  
d) Peru  
e) Egypt
16. In which city, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has recently (in July ‘23) inaugurated a futuristic International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) Complex “Bharat Mandapam” to host the G20 leaders’ meeting?
- a) Bengaluru, Karnataka  
b) New Delhi, Delhi  
c) Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
d) Mumbai, Maharashtra  
e) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
17. Which company has recently (in July ‘23) launched ‘MoneySaver Export Account’ for Indian exporters to save 50% on overseas bank transfers?
- a) PhonePe  
b) Razorpay  
c) Paytm  
d) Freecharge  
e) BharatPe
18. According to the State Bank of India’s (SBI) Ecowrap report dated on 27th July 2023, India is set to become the world 3rd Largest Economy in \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- a) 2027  
b) 2028  
c) 2029  
d) 2030  
e) 2026
19. Name the personality from India who has recently (in July ‘23) assumed the chairmanship of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62).
- a) T. S. Tirumurti  
b) Syed Akbaruddin  
c) Ruchira Kamboj  
d) Nirupam Sen  
e) Asoke Kumar Mukerji
20. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first life insurance company in India to enter Metaverse.
- a) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance  
b) Max Life Insurance  
c) SBI Life Insurance  
d) HDFC Life Insurance  
e) Bajaj Allianz life Insurance
21. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian city to be part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- a) Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
b) New Delhi, Delhi  
c) Bengaluru, Karnataka  
d) Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
e) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

22. As of July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank) topped the list of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) with the highest lending of Rs 187,813 crore in FY23 to Corporations and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of States and Union Territories (UTs) for the 5th consecutive time.
- Canara Bank
  - Bank of India
  - Punjab National Bank
  - State Bank of India
  - Bank of Baroda
23. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its 'July 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update Near-Term Resilience, Persistent Challenges' projected a growth rate of \_\_\_\_\_ for India in 2023.
- 5.7%
  - 6.1%
  - 5.9%
  - 6.3%
  - 6.6%
24. Name the railway station that has recently (in July '23) received the 2022 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (Award of Merit).
- Howrah Railway Station (West Bengal)
  - Agra Fort Railway Station (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Lucknow Charbagh Railway Station (West Bengal)
  - Byculla railway station (Maharashtra)
  - Vizianagaram Railway Station (Andhra Pradesh)
25. India won \_\_\_\_\_ medal and secured the 2nd spot in the overall medal tally of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championships 2023 Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun held in July 2023.
- 10
  - 12
  - 13
  - 17
  - 15
26. When was the Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023 observed across India?
- 22nd July 2023
  - 24th July 2023
  - 26th July 2023
  - 23rd July 2023
  - 25th July 2023
27. Who has recently (in July '23) become India's 83rd chess Grandmaster (GM) by earning his 3rd GM norm in the 9th round of Biel Chess Festival Master Tournament (MTO) 2023 held in Switzerland?
- Aditya S Samant
  - Vuppala Praneeth
  - Sayantan Das
  - Vignesh NR
  - M Pranesh
28. In July 2023, the Government of India approved to set the annual interest rate of \_\_\_\_\_ on Employees' Provident Fund accounts for the FY23.
- 7.50%
  - 8.20%
  - 8.15%
  - 7.90%
  - 8.10%
29. Which team has recently (in July '23) won the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023?
- Pakistan A
  - Bangladesh A
  - India A
  - Nepal A
  - United Arab Emirates A
30. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to India in July 2023?
- During the visit, India and Sri Lanka adopted a vision document titled, "Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity" to boost the economic partnership between India and Sri Lanka.
  - MoU signed on renewable energy for Sri Lanka to achieve 70% power from renewables by 2030.
  - Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe signed a network-to-network agreement on the acceptance of UPI in Sri Lanka which will increase Fintech connectivity.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
31. Name the company that has recently (in July '23) tested its Raman-II Engine at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Tamil Nadu.
- Airnetz Aviation Private Limited
  - Bharat Dynamics Limited
  - Boeing India Private Limited
  - Bharat Electronics Limited
  - Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited
32. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Korea Open 2023 held in July 2023?
- Anders Antonsen (Denmark) won the Men's single title by defeating Loh Kean Yew (Singapore).
  - An Se young (South Korea) won the Women's Singles title by defeating Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei).
  - The Indian Badminton Players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Men's Doubles title by defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto at the finals of the Korea Open 2023.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C

- 33.** Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France in July 2023?
- A) PM Narendra Modi has become the first Indian PM to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron.
- B) India & France agree to adopt a roadmap to set the course for the bilateral relationship up to 2047.
- C) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), signed an MoU with Naval Group France to collaborate in the field of surface ships that caters to fulfil the requirement of India and International Naval forces.
- a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
- 34.** Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 136th edition of The Wimbledon Championships (Wimbledon) 2023 held from June to July 2023?
- A) Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia to claim his first Wimbledon title(2023) at the Gentlemen's singles final match held at the centre court.
- B) Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova became the first unseeded Women's Singles champion at Wimbledon in the Open Era after defeating Ons Jabeur of Russia in the Ladies singles final.
- C) Seven-time Grand Slam champion Justine Henin(Belgium) was honoured with the Philippe Chatrier Award, the highest recognition from the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
- 35.** Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 25th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships (AAC) held in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2023?
- A) Indian contingents won 27 medals( 6 Gold, 12 Silver and 9 Bronze) and finished 3rd in the overall medal tally of the 25th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships (AAC)
- B) Rajesh Ramesh, Aishwarya Mishra, Amoj Jacob, and Subha Venkatesan won Gold Medal in 4X400m Mixed Relay Event.
- C) Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar secured his qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics after claiming a silver medal at the Asian Athletics Championships.
- a) Only A  
b) Only A & B  
c) Only B & C  
d) Only A & C  
e) All A, B & C
- 36.** Name the Non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has recently (in July '23) received special consultative status from United Nations (UN)'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- a) CARE International  
b) Action Against Hunger  
c) World Humanitarian Drive  
d) International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.  
e) World Vision
- 37.** In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- a) Denmark  
b) United Kingdom  
c) Germany  
d) Spain  
e) France
- 38.** In July 2023, Karottu Vallakalil Oommen Chandy, former Chief Minister(CM) of \_\_\_\_\_ (state) passed away.
- a) Kerala  
b) Andhra Pradesh  
c) Karnataka  
d) Telangana  
e) Jharkhand
- 39.** Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 2nd edition of NITI Aayog's Report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): A Progress Review 2023' released in July 2023?
- A) India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.
- B) Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor i.e. 3.43 crore people.
- C) Delhi, Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu have the least number of people facing multidimensional poverty along with the Union Territories.
- a) Only A  
b) Only B  
c) Only C  
d) Only A & B  
e) All A, B & C

40. According to the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)'s Export Preparedness Index(EPI) 2022 for States and Union Territories(UTs) report released in July 2023, which state has topped the Index with an overall score of 80.89?
- Tamil Nadu
  - Karnataka
  - Maharashtra
  - Gujarat
  - Madhya Pradesh
41. According to the Henley Passport Index (HPI) 2023 (3rd quarter) released by Henley & Partners in July 2023, India's passport secured \_\_\_\_\_ rank in index with 57 visa-free countries, while \_\_\_\_\_ (country) secured 1st rank as world's most powerful passport.
- 84th; Singapore
  - 70th; Spain
  - 80th; Singapore
  - 70th; Italy
  - 80th; Germany
42. According to the article "India @ 100" published by RBI's Economic Research Department in July 2023, India needs to achieve an average annual real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of \_\_\_\_\_ over the next 25 years to become a developed nation by 2047-48.
- 6.9%
  - 7.6%
  - 7.3%
  - 6.2%
  - 6.0%
43. In July 2023, Asian Development Bank (ADB) retained India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast at \_\_\_\_\_ in FY2023.
- 5.5%
  - 6.4%
  - 6.7%
  - 5.9%
  - 6.0%
44. In July 2023, the Union cabinet approved the bill to include the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Mumbai as the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Institute of Management (IIM) of India.
- 21st
  - 22nd
  - 23rd
  - 24th
  - 25th
45. Name the bank that has recently (in July '23) crossed USD 100 Billion Valuation and emerged as the World's 7th largest lender.
- Deutsche Bank
  - HDFC Bank
  - China Construction Bank
  - Citigroup
  - Morgan Stanley
46. Which country has recently (in July '23) signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with India for semiconductor supply-chain partnership?
- Japan
  - China
  - Brazil
  - Argentina
  - United Arab Emirates
47. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Arab country to be granted observer status of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).
- Qatar
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Yemen
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Egypt
48. In July 2023, India contributed USD \_\_\_\_\_ to the United Nations (UN) for promoting use of Hindi language in the UN.
- 3 million
  - 4 million
  - 2 million
  - 5 million
  - 1 million
49. Which ministry/company has recently (in July '23) won the "Best Engagement" category for its achievements on e- procurement through the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal?
- NLC India Limited
  - Ministry of coal
  - Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
  - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
  - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
50. Which city has recently (in July '23) got India's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH) that will serve as a platform to promote innovation a entrepreneurship?
- Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
  - Kochi, Kerala
  - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
51. Name the bank that has recently (in July '23) launched "Resources Acquisition Centres" to build-up Deposit Portfolio.
- Bank of India
  - State Bank of India
  - Indian Bank
  - Punjab National Bank
  - Bank of Baroda

52. Which state government has recently (in July '23), along with the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched 'Saagu Baagu' (agriculture advancement) project Phase 1 Insights report?
- Maharashtra
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Karnataka
  - Telangana
  - West Bengal
53. Which state has recently (in July '23) launched the "Gajah Kotha" campaign to address the growing problem of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)?
- Assam
  - Karnataka
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Kerala
  - Maharashtra
54. According to the Goldman Sachs forecasts in July 2023, India will become the world's second largest economy by \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- 2060
  - 2050
  - 2075
  - 2035
  - 2040
55. Name the state government that has recently (in July '23) launched 'Ama Pokhari' scheme to rejuvenate 2,000 large water bodies.
- Andhra Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
  - West Bengal
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Odisha
56. In July 2023, the United States of America (USA) and India conducted Operation \_\_\_\_\_ to identify illicit and illegal medical products shipped using the International Mail System.
- Broader Sword
  - Bluebird
  - Lionfish
  - Blue Lotus
  - Garuda
57. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the cabinet approval in July 2023?
- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) MMDR Act of 1957, for the commercial mining of 6 critical minerals: lithium, titanium, beryllium, zirconium, niobium and tantalum.
  - The proposal will remove the six minerals from India's 'Atomic Minerals' list and empower the Center to auction their reserves for mining by private players.
- C) The Union Cabinet also cleared amendments to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation)(OAMDR) Act, 2002, which allows commercial mining of mineral resources in offshore areas.
- Only A
  - Only A & B
  - Only B & C
  - Only A & C
  - All A, B & C
58. Name the country that has recently (in July '23) joined the champions group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG).
- Brazil
  - Russia
  - France
  - India
  - Ukraine
59. According to "A world of debt. A growing burden to global prosperity" report launched by the United Nations secretary-general (UNSG) in July 2023, the global public debt reached a record of USD \_\_\_\_\_ in 2022.
- 59 trillion
  - 92 trillion
  - 62 trillion
  - 84 trillion
  - 70 trillion
60. According to the "2023 UNAIDS Global AIDS Update – The Path That Ends AIDS" released by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in July 2023, the world can end AIDS by \_\_\_\_\_ (year).
- 2028
  - 2025
  - 2030
  - 2035
  - 2040
61. Which country has recently (in July '23) became the 51st nation to agree to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia(TAC) with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?
- Türkiye
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Israel
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Qatar
62. In which state, the Pilot Project of Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojana', an accident insurance scheme, was launched in July 2023?
- Odisha
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
  - Gujarat
  - Uttar Pradesh

63. In July 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a 'Draft Circular – Arrangements with Card Networks for issue of Debit, Credit and Prepaid Cards' empowering the debit, credit, and prepaid card users in India with Card network portability with effect from \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1st December 2023
  - 1st October 2023
  - 1st September 2023
  - 1st November 2023
  - 1st August 2023
64. Which of the following banks has recently (in July '23) contributed USD 27 billion for India's Green Growth, during the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023)?
- World Bank
  - European Investment Bank
  - Asian Development Bank
  - Both 1 & 3
  - All 1, 2 & 3
65. Which bank has recently (in July '23) collaborated with Club Vistara and Mastercard to introduce a travel credit card?
- ICICI Bank
  - Axis Bank
  - IndusInd Bank
  - IDFC FIRST Bank
  - HDFC Bank
66. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first bank in India to offer interoperability between Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- ICICI Bank
  - Axis Bank
  - HDFC Bank
  - YES Bank
  - IndusInd Bank
67. Which of the following cooperative bank licences has/have recently (in July '23) cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?
- Kalapur Commercial Co-operative Bank (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)
  - Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank (Satara, Maharashtra)
  - Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank (Tumkur, Karnataka)
  - Both 1 & 2
  - Both 2 & 3
68. Which company has recently (in July '23) introduced its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) LITE payment feature to allow users to make small payments without entering the UPI personal identification number (PIN)?
- PhonePe
  - Google Pay
  - Freecharge
  - BharatPe
  - Razorpay Software
69. Which country has recently (in July '23) partnered with India to launch trade transactions in Rupees to reduce the dependency on the US dollar?
- Nepal
  - Bhutan
  - Bangladesh
  - Sri Lanka
  - Maldives
70. Which country has recently (in July '23) signed a protocol document with India to extend the MoU on Cooperation in Personnel Management and Public Administration for another five years (till 2028)?
- Australia
  - Singapore
  - Maldives
  - Philippines
  - Indonesia
71. Which state government has recently (in July '23) signed an MoU with six industries for the mangrove plantation over 3000 hectares of land, under the MISHTI scheme?
- West Bengal
  - Gujarat
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Maharashtra
  - Odisha
72. Who has been recently (in July '23) appointed as the chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)?
- Shubham Goyal
  - K Rajaraman
  - Arjun Prasad
  - Injeti Srinivas
  - Saurabh Kumar
73. Who has recently (in July '23) re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan for a 7 year term?
- Shavkat Mirziyoyev
  - Khatamjon Ketmonov
  - Narimon Umarov
  - Abdullah Karimov
  - Sarvar Otamuradov
74. Who has recently (in July '23) elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) from 2023-2027?
- Roy de Silva (Sri Lanka)
  - Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Sabah (Kuwait)
  - Mahmoud Khosravivafa (Iran)
  - Randhir Singh (India)
  - Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (Kazakhstan)

75. In July 2023, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) named Minor Planet after \_\_\_\_\_, India's first professional meteor astronomer and 3 other Scientists (Ashok Kumar verma, Kumar Venkataramani & Rutu parekh).
- Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
  - Shrinivas Kulkarni
  - Jayant Vishnu Narlikar
  - Aswin Sekhar
  - Kiran Kumar
76. Which of the following Indian Origin personalities was 'Not' featured on Forbes America's Richest Self-Made Women 2023, released in July 2023?
- Neerja Sethi
  - Jayshree Ullal
  - Neha Narkhede
  - Leena Nair
  - Indra Nooyi
77. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)'s Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released in July 2023, a total of \_\_\_\_\_ people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years (2005/2006 to 2019/2021).
- 167 million
  - 150 million
  - 415 million
  - 280 million
  - 321 million
78. Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS) that has recently (in July '23) participated in the two-week long annual training exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness 2023', conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), in Seychelles.
- INS Sharada
  - INS Sujata
  - INS Sukanya
  - INS Sunayna
  - INS Suvarna
79. Name the Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) that was launched by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal to boost the digitalisation in the maritime sector.
- Sagar Saahil
  - Sagar Sambandh
  - Sagar Sarokaa
  - Sagar Bandargah
  - Sagar Sampark
80. Name the Indian Badminton Player who has recently (in July '23) won the Men's Singles finals at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Yonex Canada Open 2023 (Canada Open 2023).
- Srikanth Kidambi
  - Prannoy H. S.
  - B. Sai Praneeth
  - Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
  - Lakshya Sen
81. Which state/UT has recently (in July '23) launched The 'Mobile Dost App' to access all the Government to citizen Services (G2C) directly from their mobile devices?
- Uttar Pradesh
  - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Gujarat
  - Delhi
  - Madhya Pradesh
82. Which state government has recently (in July '23) launched 'Didi Cafe', maintained by women's self-help groups?
- West Bengal
  - Odisha
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - Jharkhand
83. Which country has recently (in June '23) became the First Foreign Government to Promote Country through Yoga?
- Spain
  - Italy
  - Indonesia
  - Oman
  - France
84. Which country has recently (in June '23) certified as a malaria-free country?
- Benin
  - Ghana
  - Argentina
  - Belize
  - Burundi
85. Name the bank that has recently (in July '23) launched a virtual branch Metaverse.
- Punjab National Bank
  - State Bank of India
  - Bank of Baroda
  - Indian Bank
  - Bank of Maharashtra
86. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently (in July '23) announced that Amrit Kaal has been named as 'Kartavya Kaal'. 'Amrit Kaal' refers to the next \_\_\_\_\_ (years) of India's Independence.
- 10 years
  - 15 years
  - 25 years
  - 30 years
  - 35 years



87. In July 2023, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, hailed the Guinness World Record for 'largest display of Lambani items' with a total of 1755 items during 3rd G20 Culture Working Group Meeting in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hampi, Karnataka
  - Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
  - Bhubaneswar, Odisha
  - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
  - Mumbai, Maharashtra
88. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ (Village) became the first habitation in Telangana to have been ginsured by 100 per cent.
- Jangaon
  - Mukhra (K)
  - Ankapur
  - Venkatapur
  - Kondapur
89. Which Bank has been recently (in July '23) named as World's Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility in the prestigious Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2023?
- Standard Chartered Bank
  - Deutsche Bank
  - DBS Bank
  - Citibank
  - HSBC International Limited
90. Name the bank that has recently (on 13th July '23) introduced the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme to benefit women.
- State Bank of India
  - Indian Bank
  - Bank of Maharashtra
  - Bank of Baroda
  - Bank of India
91. Which country will host the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025?
- United Arab Emirates
  - India
  - United States of America
  - Russia
  - France
92. In July 2023, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India signed an MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (SARADO) to increase the Regional Cooperation in antidoping in sports. Which of the following countries is 'Not' a member of SARADO?
- Sri Lanka
  - Pakistan
  - Bhutan
  - Bangladesh
  - Nepal
93. Name the state/UT that has recently (in July '23) launched India's first Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (MANAS) chatbot to enhance mental health support for distressed people.
- Delhi
  - Jammu and Kashmir
  - Telangana
  - Maharashtra
  - West Bengal
94. Which of the following organisations, along with the World Health Organization (WHO) has/have recently (in July '23) launched One Health Priority Research Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?
- World Organisation for Animal Health
  - Food and Agriculture Organization
  - United Nations Environment Programme
  - Both 1 & 2
  - All 1, 2 & 3
95. Which state has recently (in July '23) launched 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' (My Forestland Scheme) to recognise all rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act)(FRA), 2006?
- Mizoram
  - Assam
  - Maharashtra
  - West Bengal
  - Odisha
96. Name the bank that has recently (in July '23) partnered with National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) to introduce digital services Project WAVE (World of Advance Virtual Experience).
- Bank of Baroda
  - State Bank of India
  - Indian Bank
  - Canara Bank
  - Punjab National Bank
97. In July 2023, \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank) became the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), 2023.
- Indian Bank
  - Bank of Baroda
  - Bank of India
  - Punjab National Bank
  - Bank of Maharashtra
98. Which country has recently (in July '23) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with India for the development of the Integrated Mast UNited COmbined Radio aNtenna (UNICORN) - NORA-50?
- Australia
  - Japan
  - Germany
  - Indonesia
  - Singapore

99. Name the personality who has been recently (in July '23) appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited (CIL).
- Mukesh Choudhary
  - Vinay Ranjan
  - PM Prasad
  - Narayan Dash
  - Manoj Kumar Behera
100. Who has been recently (in July '23) appointed as the new chairman of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Senior Men's Selection Committee?
- Chetan Sharma
  - Ashok Malhotra
  - Sulakshana Naik
  - Ajit Agarkar
  - Jatin Paranjape

### Answers

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

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