

# IACE

Indian Academy of Competitive Exams

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English Medium

Digest SEPTEMBER - 2023

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

Current Affairs



**VINAY SIR**  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, IACE



**15<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit**

The 15<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit was held in Johannesburg from 23 to 24, August 2023, under the South Africa's chairship.



**ISRO 'Aditya L1' Mission**

ISRO Aditya L1 mission was launched successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India.



**INS Vindhyagiri**

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates INS Vindhyagiri, an advanced stealth frigate and the sixth vessel crafted as part of Project 17A at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata



**UDGAM Portal**

RBI launches UDGAM Portal to track Unclaimed Deposits.



**CR Rao**

India's greatest Mathematician and Statistician C Radhakrishna Rao, passed away at 103.



**Neeraj Chopra**

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian athlete to win the Gold Medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.



**FIFA Women's World Cup 2023**

Spain secured their first ever Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 win over England at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Sydney.



**65<sup>th</sup> Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023**

India's Ravi Kannan among 4 winners of Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023



**August 23 - "National Space Day"**

PM Modi Declared August 23 as "National Space Day" to commemorate the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon.

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## ఎవ్వరికీ అందనంత ఎత్తులో...



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“మీ విజయంలో  
భాగస్వాములమైనందుకు గర్వపడుతున్నాము”



**మీ VINAY SIR**  
MIND CALCULATION GURU  
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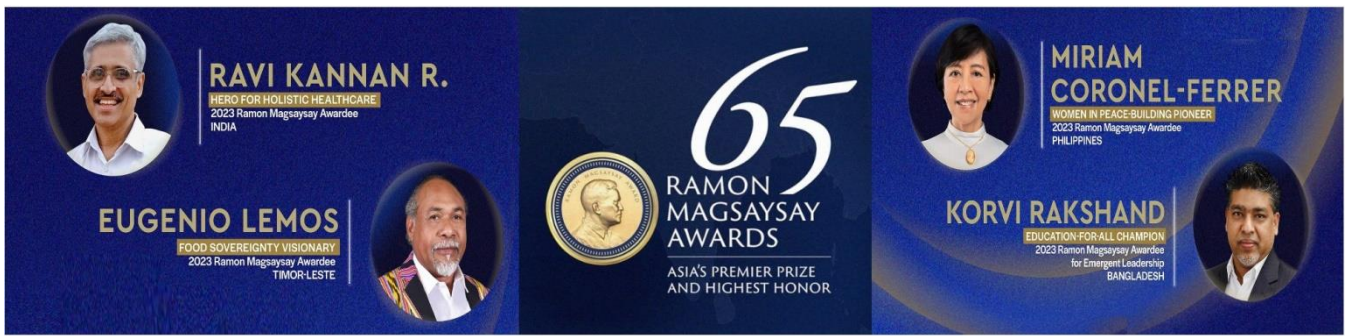
**Current  
Affairs  
September-2023**



### Awards and Honors Bestowed on the PM Narendra Modi by Other Nations

- Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greece in August 2023
- Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour by France in July 2023
- 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 the 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

# IACE



# Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023

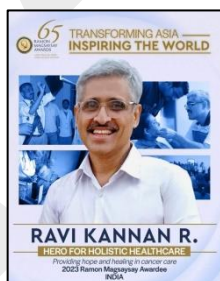
Philippines based Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) announced the 65th edition of the Ramon Magsaysay Award(2023) with the theme “Transforming Asia, Inspiring the World”.The 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award is set to be held in Manila, Philippines on 11th November 2023. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the ‘Nobel Prize of Asia’.India has received a total of 59 awards, while the Philippines has received 65 awards, making it the highest among all countries.

## Winners of Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023

### Ravi Kannan

“Hero for Holistic Healthcare” from **India**

- ✓ Contribution: For his combination of skill, commitment, and compassion in pushing the boundaries of people-centered, pro-poor health care and cancer care.
- ✓ Dr R. Ravi Kannan has been working as Director at the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC), Silchar in Assam since 2007.
- ✓ According to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Kannan was selected for this year’s award because of his strong devotion to his medical profession, focusing on what medicine is truly for: pro-health and people-centred



treatment. Kannan and his institution have helped millions in India, including locals from Assam, find a reliable and inclusive healthcare facility.

- ✓ He previously headed the Surgical Oncology department at the prestigious Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Ravi Kannan was awarded Padma Shri in 2020 in the field of medicine category.

### Korvi Rakshand

“Education-for-All Champion” from **Bangladesh**

- ✓ Contribution: For his work towards developing inclusive education for the underprivileged children in Bangladesh.
- ✓ Korvi Rakshand, the founder of the non-profit organisation JAAGO Foundation, is the 13th Bangladeshi to have received the prestigious



Ramon Magsaysay Award. Since its inception in 2007, JAAGO has grown exponentially; providing free, government-recognised English language education to over 30,000 students throughout Bangladesh.

### Miriam Coronel-Ferrer

“Women in Peace-Building Pioneer” from the **Philippines.**

- ✓ Contribution: For her unwavering confidence in the transforming power of nonviolent peacebuilding techniques.

- ✓ .Peace negotiator Miriam Coronel-Ferre was the Philippines government’s Chief negotiator for peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to end insurgency and pave the way for peace.
- ✓ She co-founded the Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators, engaged in convening safe spaces for dialogues and supporting mediation initiatives in countries like Myanmar and Afghanistan. .
- ✓ She also served as the mediation adviser for the United Nations (UN) and was involved in U.N. peace missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, the Maldives and Southeast Asia.



**Eugenio Lemos**

“Food Sovereignty Visionary” from **Timor-Leste**

- ✓ Contribution: For his efforts in ensuring adequate food for people and promoting the importance of conserving the environment and social equality.
- ✓ Eugenio Lemos, from the Southeast Asian country of Timor-Leste, is an agriculture expert who has helped the Timorese community embrace new ways to appreciate agriculture and nature preservation. Since his university days, Lemos promoted organic farming, and after being introduced to modern sustainable agrosystems, he started working on implementing similar methods alongside the traditional Timorese culture.
- ✓ According to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Lemos is an activist, a songwriter, and a singer, who isn’t shy of using his songs to talk about social issues to the general public. He is known by his local community as a down-to-earth individual who has made notable contributions to how young Timorese views nature and their surroundings.



- ✓ Recently, on 26th April 2023, The 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award was presented to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in person after 64 years in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, by Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation president Susanna B Afan and foundation trustee Emily A Abrera.

**Indians who have won Ramon Magsaysay Award in the past:**

- ✓ Satyajit Ray- 1967 – Filmmaker
- ✓ Prakash Amte-2008- Indian medical doctor
- ✓ Ravish Kumar- 2019 -Indian journalist
- ✓ Kiran Bedi- 1994 – IPS officer
- ✓ Several others including- Vinoba Bhave, Mother Teresa, and Arvind Kejriwal (2006) also won this prestigious award.

**About Ramon Magsaysay Awards**

- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay Award, is a yearly honor created to uphold the values of 7th president of the Philippines Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay. Started by trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, located in New York City, and with the approval of the Philippine government. It is managed by Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF). It is frequently referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Asia.”
- ✓ First Awarded: August 31, 1958.
- ✓ From 1958 to 2008, The Award was given in six categories annually, five of which were eliminated in 2009.
- ✓ Except for Emergent Leadership the Awards are no longer given in any predefined category beginning in 2009.



**About Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)**

- ✓ Chairman – Aurelio R. Montinola III
- ✓ Established – 1957
- ✓ Headquarters – Manila, Philippines

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

### 15th BRICS Summit: BRICS officially expands from 5 to 11 members



- ✓ The 15th BRICS Summit held under South Africa's chairship, in Sandton in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa from 22 to 24 August, 2023. The theme of 15th BRICS summit was 'BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism'.
- ✓ This was the first in-person BRICS Summit since 2019. The event reviewed the ongoing initiatives and the identification of future prospects.
- ✓ The Indian PM Narendra Modi participated 15th BRICS Summit. Modi also participated in the BRICS Leaders Retreat at the Summer Place in Johannesburg on August 22, 2023 which was held in a closed format. Here leaders discussed global developments and ways to utilize BRICS platform to find solutions to global challenges.
- ✓ On August 22, 2023, the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue was held in Johannesburg, SA where leaders were briefed on the deliberations of the BRICS Business Forum. Here Indian side highlighted the its various reforms to improve the ease of doing business, including technology-based solutions to address the social and economic challenges.

#### Participants

- ✓ India– PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ Brazil- President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
- ✓ Russia– Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov; President Vladimir Putin participated virtually
- ✓ China– President Xi Jinping
- ✓ SA– President- Cyril Ramaphosa (Host)

- ✓ Invitations were also extended to 67 leaders across Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Caribbean
- ✓ By mutual agreement, Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, did not attend the Summit. In March 2023, The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Putin for alleged war crimes. South Africa, would be required to arrest Putin if he attended the summit.

#### The Indian PM emphasized the following points

- ✓ Emphasized the need for clear timelines for UNSC (United Nations Security Council) reforms
- ✓ Advocated the reform of Multilateral Financial Institutions.
- ✓ Urged for the reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ Encouraged BRICS to find consensus on its expansion.
- ✓ Stressed the importance of conveying global unity rather than polarization.
- ✓ Suggested the formation of a BRICS Space Exploration Consortium.
- ✓ Extended the offer of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (Indian stack) to BRICS nations.
- ✓ Proposed collective efforts by BRICS countries to protect Big Cats through the International Big Cat Alliance.
- ✓ Recommended the establishment of a repository for traditional medicine within BRICS nations.
- ✓ Called on BRICS partners to back the African Union(AU)'s permanent membership in the G20 (Group of Twenty).

#### PM gifted pair of 'surahi' to President Cyril Ramaphosa

- ✓ The Indian PM gifted a pair of 'surahi' from Telangana to SA President Cyril Ramaphosa, and a Nagaland shawl to his wife and first lady of SA. The 'bidri vase' is a purely Indian innovation exclusive to Bidar, a Karnataka city. It is cast with an alloy of zinc, copper and other non-ferrous metals.



**BRICS officially expands from 5 to 11 members**

- ✓ South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the expansion of BRICS with the inclusion of 6 new members viz. **Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as its full time members. The membership will come into force from January 1, 2024.

**NDB & TCTA signed Loan Agreement for Lesotho Highlands Water Project**

- ✓ During the summit, a loan agreement was inked between the New Development Bank(NDB), formerly the BRICS Development Bank, and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) for the implementation of phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), the largest bi-national infrastructure project between Lesotho and South Africa
- ✓ As per it, NDB will provide a project loan of 3.2 billion South African Rand (USD 173 million) to TCTA under the sovereign guarantee of SA.

**BRICS supports use of national currencies in international, bilateral trade**

- ✓ BRICS members agreed to stand for the use of national currencies in international trade, as well as financial settlements within the association. This decision will strengthen supply chains and payment systems between its members.

**About BRICS**

- ✓ The grouping was formed in September 2006 and it originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). It was renamed as BRICS after South Africa was accepted as a full member in September 2010.
- ✓ At present, the BRICS represents 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade. Now, the 11 countries have a combined population of 3.7 billion.

**PM Modi Visit to Greece**

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi embarked on a one-day visit to Greece on 25th August 2023 at the invitation of Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece.
- ✓ PM Modi’s visit to Greece marks the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years. Indira Gandhi was the last Indian Prime Minister to

visit Greece. She travelled to Greece in September 1983.

- ✓ During his visit to Greece, PM Modi paid tributes at the ‘Tomb of Unknown Soldier’, a war memorial dedicated to the Greek soldiers killed during various wars, in Athens, Greece.



- ✓ PM Modi highlighted India and Greece’s plan to double the bilateral trade between India and Greece by 2030 and announced an agreement in the field of agricultural production. The bilateral trade stood at nearly USD 2 billion in 2022-23.

**The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour**

- ✓ Katerina Sakellariou, President of Greece honoured PM Narendra Modi with The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour. He became the first Indian PM to receive the honours.

**PM Modi’s special gifts for Greek leaders**

- ✓ PM Modi presented the offered Meghalaya shawls and Dokra art, crafted by artisans from Chattisgarh, to Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis.
- ✓ Meghalaya shawls were initially woven for the Khasi and Jaintia royalty, who considered them a symbol of their power and status.
- ✓ Dhokra is one of India’s prehistoric art forms. The dancing girl found in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappan excavations was one of the earliest expressions of the artefact.
- ✓ PM Modi presented the Bidri surahi (Bidri work Vase) Pair to the President of Greece, Katerina N Sakellariou.
- ✓ Bidri vase is an Indian innovation of a 500-year-old Persian exclusive to Karnataka’s Bidar. It is cast with an alloy of Zink, Copper and other non-ferrous metals.

About Greece	
✓	Prime Minister– Kyriakos Mitsotakis
✓	President– Katerina N. Sakellariou.
✓	Capital– Athens
✓	Currency– Euro

## Georgia Declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- ✓ In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as 'Hindu Heritage Month' within the state. This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.
- ✓ The choice of October for this celebration holds special meaning. It is the birth month of Mahatma Gandhi, an iconic figure known for his principles of peace, non-violence, and civil rights. Additionally, October is a time when major Hindu festivals, such as Navratri and Diwali, are celebrated, making it an ideal month to honor Hindu heritage.

## India hands over Rs.450 million to Sri Lanka to fund its SL-UDI Project

- ✓ On 4th August 2023, India handed over a cheque of Rs.450 million in advance to Sri Lanka, for supporting the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) project, which is expected to strengthen Sri Lanka's digital infrastructure and promote growth across various sectors.
- ✓ With this move, Sri Lanka is paving the way for a more technologically advanced future, anticipating substantial economic development and prosperity.
- ✓ The initiative comes under the objective of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, which demonstrates its commitment of India to assist its neighbouring countries in the South Asian region for mutual cooperation and support.

## India Commits USD 700,000 to Tuvalu's Clean Water Initiative

- ✓ India has pledged to support worth USD 700,000 from the India-United Nations Development Partnership(UNDP) Fund to the project in Tuvalu, a Pacific island nation for clean water initiatives and community development in schools.
- ✓ India will provide funding support for the "Motufoua Concrete Water Cistern" project, initiated by the Tuvalu Government.

- ✓ The project aims to construct a concrete water cistern, at Tuvalu's only public school called 'Motufoua Secondary School', a capacity of 760 metric cubes which will store and provide clean water to students, teachers and school staff promoting hygiene and reducing water-borne diseases.
- ✓ The announcement was made by Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN.

## India & Nepal Signed An MoU to Undertake 4 HICDPs in Nepal

- ✓ On 4th August 2023, the Indian embassy in Kathmandu and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of Nepal signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for undertaking 4 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal under the grant assistance of the Government of India.
- ✓ A total of 170 million Nepalese rupees (NPR) are expected to be spent on the four projects, three of which will be in the education sector and one in the water supply and sanitation sector.

## India, New Zealand sign MoU for Open Sky Policy; Boost cooperation in Civil Aviation

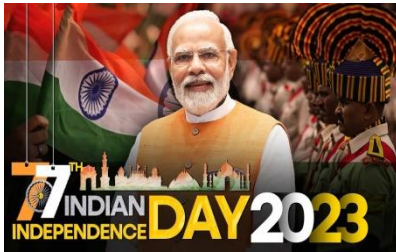
- ✓ On August 29, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of New Zealand for an Open Sky Policy, allowing more flights between various cities in the two countries.
- ✓ This will further boost the bilateral between both nations in civil aviation by scheduling of new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement.
- ✓ Under this, New Zealand's designated airline(s) can operate unrestricted services with any type of aircraft, holding third and fourth freedom traffic rights to/from six Indian cities: New
- ✓ Delhi (Delhi), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), and Kolkata (West Bengal). This is set to amplify bilateral civil aviation relations.



# NATIONAL

## Highlights of 77th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2023

- ✓ The Central Government has organized the 77th Independence Day at Red Fort, New Delhi, Delhi which was addressed by the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi.



- ✓ 2023 Independence Day signified the theme Nation First, Always First under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, which began in 2021.
- ✓ The year 2023 marked the 76th anniversary of Indian Independence, as the first anniversary was marked a year from the actual year that is 1948. Hence, India celebrated its 77th Independence Day and 76th Independence Day anniversary in 2023.

### Highlights

- ✓ In 2023, PM Modi has also introduced the "HARGHAR TIRANGA" means "Every Home, a Tricolor" campaign, encouraging the public to proudly hoist the tricolor flag on Independence Day.
- ✓ The prime minister addressed the nation for 90 minutes during his 10th consecutive Independence Day address on August 15.
- ✓ The national flag rose as a 21-gun salute echoed from the elite 8,711 Field Battery (Ceremonial). Indigenous 105-mm Light Field Guns were used for the first time for ceremonial gun salute at Independence Day event.
- ✓ The Red Fort's floral arrangements included the prominent G20 logo. 75 couples from different regions adorned their traditional attire for the ceremony.
- ✓ Capture a selfie with the flag and post it on the official website <https://harghartiranga.com> as well as on social media using the campaign hashtag.
- ✓ During the event, the PM announced 'Vishwakarma Yojana' to benefit individuals skilled in traditional

- ✓ craftsmanship/artisan works. These include Weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and such families. Around Rs 13,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore will be allocated for the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme will be launched on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti (September 17, 2023).
- ✓ The scheme seeks to enhance artisans' products and services, integrating them into local and global value chains, thus economically empowering marginalized workers from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Communities (OBCs), women, transgender, and others.
- ✓ The Central Government is set to launch a new scheme to provide agri-drones to thousands of women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) in order to promote the use of technology in the agriculture sector and promote agritech in the country.
- ✓ The Central Government will launch a new scheme to help those living in rented houses in cities to build their own homes.
- ✓ Under the scheme, government would provide offer interest subsidy on bank loans to such families (urban poor and middle class) which live in cities but stay in rented homes, slums and unauthorized colonies and want to build a home of their own.
- ✓ A relief worth lakhs of rupees will be provided under the scheme.
- ✓ The President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved one President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and five Tatrakshak Medals (TM) to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished/meritorious service on the occasion of Independence Day 2023.
- ✓ These awards are given to the personnel of the ICG on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day every year since January 26, 1990.
- ✓ The President approved 76 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. These include the following:

- 4 Kirti Chakra (posthumous)
- 11 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous
- 2 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- 3 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)
- 4 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)
- ✓ The President also gave her assent to 30 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army, including to Army dog Madhu (Posthumous), and one to Air Force personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations.
- ✓ The President awarded 53 personnel with Fire Service Medals. These include the following
  - ✓ 3 President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry
  - ✓ 1 Fire Service Medal for Gallantry
  - ✓ 8 President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service
  - ✓ 41 Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service
  - ✓ 48 personnel / volunteers are also awarded Home Guards & Civil Defence Medals.
- ✓ Government has approved Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th February, 2023 for development of the select villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts of abutting northern border in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and UT (Union Territory) of Ladakh.

### Ministry of Finance Launches Vivad Se Vishwas-2 Scheme To Settle Contractual Disputes

- ✓ On 2nd August 2023, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance (MOF), launched the scheme, Vivad se Vishwas II – (Contractual Disputes), to settle the pending contractual disputes of government and government undertakings.
- ✓ The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 by the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ The scheme aims to promote ease of doing business and will cover disputes up to September 30, 2022, clear the backlog of litigation, and also resolves the government's contractual disputes with private parties.

- ✓ The deadline for submitting claims under the scheme is 31st October 2023
- ✓ Application for settlement are to be made by the contractors through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- ✓ The Scheme is valid from 15 July to 31 October 2023.
- ✓ The scheme is applicable to domestic contractual disputes involving the Government of India or organizations under its control.
- ✓ Disputes with arbitral awards issued up to 31st January 2023 and court awards passed up to 30th April 2023 are eligible for settlement. amount.

### MoE Announces Launch of Smart India Hackathon 2023

- ✓ On 23rd August 2023, The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Innovation Cell in collaboration with the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) announced the launch of the 6th edition Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023.
- ✓ SIH-2023 is supported by the participation of 26 Central Ministries, 6 State Ministries, and 4 Industry partners.
- ✓ The last date for the submission of problem statements for senior SIH is September 30, 2023, whereas for Junior SIH, it is October 30, 2023.
- ✓ The first edition of the Smart India Hackathon was held in 2017. For the Junior category, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition since it was started in 2022.
- ✓ About Smart India Hackathon 2023: Smart India Hackathon 2023 is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to address critical
- ✓ challenges, we encounter in our everyday lives. It aims to foster a culture of product innovation and cultivate problem-solving skills among participants.
- ✓ The competition is set to be held in two categories.
  - SIH Junior – Class 6th-12th students.
  - SIH Senior – Higher Education Institution (HEI) students (Graduate/Post-Graduate/Doctor of Philosophy)
- ✓ Themes – Agriculture, FoodTech & Rural Development, Blockchain & Cybersecurity, Clean & Green Technology, Disaster Management, Fitness & Sports, Heritage & Culture, MedTech /

BioTech / HealthTech, Miscellaneous, Renewable / Sustainable Energy, Robotics and Drones, Smart Automation, Smart Education, Smart Vehicles, Transportation & Logistics, Travel & Tourism and Toy.

### **Dharmendra Pradhan launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem**

- ✓ On 12th August 2023, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the Ministry of Education(MoE), and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to encourage the participation of both corporates and young individuals towards apprenticeship training in India, at an event in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ As part of the DBT launch, an amount of approximately Rs. 15 crores was disbursed to 1 lakh apprentices.
- ✓ Under the NAPS, the GoI reimburses 25% of the prescribed stipend, up to a maximum of Rs.1500/- per month per apprentice, engaged by employers.
- ✓ With the implementation of DBT, it is anticipated that the number of apprentices will further increase, expanding the coverage beyond the initial 30% target set under NAPS 2.0.
- ✓ More than 25 Lakh apprentices have been engaged since the inception of NAPS in 2016 till 31st July 2023, whereas around 2.6 lakh Apprentices have completed training in the financial year (FY) 2023-2024.

### **President of India Released Rs.100 Coin Commemorating Late NT Rama Rao**

- ✓ Government of India(GoI) introduced a commemorative Rs.100 silver coin featuring the image of the Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (N.T. R), a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and a legendary Indian actor. President of India Droupadi Murmu released the coin to mark the 100th birth anniversary (centenary Year) of N.T.Rama Rao at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre(RBCC) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The coin is 44mm in diameter and it is made from 50 percent Silver, 40 per cent Copper, 5 per cent Nickel and 5 per cent Zinc.
- ✓ The coin features the national emblem, the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath, on one side and an image of NTR along with the inscription 'Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao Satha Jayanthi' on the other side. NTR's centenary, the coin also has the inscription 1923-2023.

#### **About N.T.Rama Rao**

- ✓ He served as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for three terms and was well known as Anna Garu (Elder Brother) by the fans and supporters. He made his debut in Telugu language movies.
- ✓ He became familiar in 1950s for his portrayal of Hindu Gods such as Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Shiva in his movies.

### **Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat New Car Assessment Programme**

- ✓ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme(BNCAP) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The aim of the launch is intended to improve the road safety for M1 category motor vehicles weighing less than 3.5T Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW).
- ✓ The BNCAP car test program begins on 1st October 2023, will be led by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).
- ✓ The M1 category refers to vehicles used for the carriage of passengers comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat.
- ✓ About Bharat NCAP: The purpose of this programme is to provide automobile buyers with a tool for comparing the crash safety of motor vehicles on the market.
- ✓ Car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their vehicles to be tested in accordance with Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197 under this scheme.
- ✓ The car will be awarded star ratings for Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupants (COP) based on its performance in the testing.

- ✓ BNCAP sets India as the world's fifth country to have such an indigenous car crash test programme, behind the United States, China, Japan, and South Korea.

### **NHA launches India's 1st ABDM Microsite in Aizawl; Mizoram 1st state to Operationalize Microsite**

- ✓ On 23rd August 2023, National Health Authority (NHA) launched India's first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) microsite in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram. With this, Mizoram became the 1st State in India to operationalise ABDM microsite project.
- ✓ Mizoram has appointed Youth for Action as the Interfacing Agency for implementing the ABDM Microsite in Aizawl.
- ✓ Besides Mizoram, other states including Andhra Pradesh(AP), Madhya Pradesh(MP), Uttar Pradesh(UP), Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh have also made significant progress in the implementation of ABDM microsites. More microsites are expected to be operational in the next few weeks.

#### **What are Microsites?**

- ✓ Microsites are clusters of ABDM-enabled small and medium-scale healthcare facilities, such as clinics, nursing homes, hospitals (with less than 10 beds), laboratories, and pharmacies, offering digital health services to patients like linking the health records generated at these facilities with their Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs).

### **BRICS Nations Agree to Launch New University Ranking System**

- ✓ BRICS Education Ministers recently assembled in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa and reached an agreement to establish a new autonomous university rating system. BRICS nations comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ Objective – It aims to take a significant step toward bringing excellence in higher education, encouraging cross-border academic collaborations, and advancing the collective educational objectives of these nations.

- ✓ The primary agenda of the BRICS Education Ministers' meeting was addressing the need for modern, accountable education and training. Leaders from various educational departments collaboratively recognized the limitations of current university ranking methodologies.

### **PM Launches Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilpa Kosh during 9th National Handloom Day in Delhi**

- ✓ On August 7, 2023, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi launched the e-portal 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilpa Kosh (भारतीय वस्त्र एवंशिल्पकोष) – A Repository of Textiles & Crafts' developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in collaboration with Ministry of Textiles.
- ✓ This launch was made during the 9th National Handloom Day celebration held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi which was presided over by the PM.
- ✓ The event was hosted jointly by the Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME).
- ✓ It was attended by over 3000 weavers and artisans from across India.
- ✓ The PM declared August 7 as the 'National Handloom Day' in 2015 to highlight the contribution of handloom weavers in the development journey of India. This specific date commemorates the Swadeshi Andolan launched in 1905..

### **President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurated Unmesha 2023 & Utkarsh Festival in Madhya Pradesh**

- ✓ On 4th August 2023, President of India Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – National Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts to promote inclusivity and cultural diversity at Ravindra Bhavan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The function was also addressed by Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

- ✓ Utkarsh: 'Utkarsh' celebrates the rich expressions of folk and tribal traditions in India. The event, which will take place from 3rd–5th August 2023, is
- ✓ organized by the Madhya Pradesh Department of Culture in collaboration with the Sangeet Natak Akademi of the Union Ministry of Culture.
- ✓ Unmesha 2023: The 'Unmesha' festival is a international literary gathering from August 3 to 6 2023 is organised by the Madhya Pradesh Department of Culture in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi of the Union Ministry of Culture.
- ✓ It is India's most inclusive and Asia's largest literature festival in terms of the number of languages represented.
- ✓ It is also on track to overtake other festivals as the biggest literary event in the world.
- ✓ This will be the 2nd edition of 'Unmesha'. The first event was held in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in June 2022.

### PM virtually laid Foundation Stone for Redevelopment of 508 Railway Stations under ABSS

- ✓ On August 6, 2023, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 Railway Stations as Amrit Bharat Stations covering 27 states and Union Territories (UTs) via video conferencing in New Delhi, Delhi . This redevelopment will be done at a cost of more than Rs 24,470 crores under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
- ✓ The redevelopment will cover 55 each in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal (WB), 34 in Madhya Pradesh (MP), 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Tamil Nadu (TN), 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka among others.
- ✓ 55 will be developed at the cost of approx Rs 4,000 crores in UP, and Rajasthan, 34 stations in MP at the cost of approx Rs 1,000 crores, 44 stations in Maharashtra at the cost of 1,500 crores, among others.
- ✓ **What is ABSS?**

- ✓ Launched in February 2023, it aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across India by enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs. The above 508 stations are a part of these 1,309 stations.
- ✓ ii.Under the project, all the stations will be redeveloped as city centers which will led to the overall urban development of the cities.

### PM lays Foundation Stone for Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial in Sagar, MP

- ✓ On August 12, 2023, PM Narendra Modi laid the Foundation stones laid for Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial: Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial will be constructed at a cost of more than Rs 100 crores in an area of more than 11.25 acres at Badtuma village of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh.

### India's First 3D-Printed Post Office Building Inaugurated in Bengaluru

- ✓ Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, inaugurated India's first three-dimensional (3D) Printed Post Office located in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout, Karnataka.
- ✓ The new post office was created using 3D Concrete Printing Technology by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction.
- ✓ The technology had been approved by the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and the structural design of the post office was validated by Indian Institute of Technology Madras(IIT-M) .
- ✓ BMTPC is a not-for-profit autonomous body registered in 1990 under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India.

#### **What is 3D Concrete Printing?**

- ✓ 3D concrete printing, also known as concrete additive manufacturing, is an innovative construction technology that involves using specialized machines to create three-dimensional objects and structures using concrete as the primary material. This process allows for the precise layer-

by-layer deposition of concrete, enabling the fabrication of complex and custom shapes.

- ✓ In April 2021, India's first 3D-printed house was built on IIT-M campus by Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions.
- ✓ In December 2022, Indian Army also inaugurated its first two-storey 3D-printed dwelling unit for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantonment in Gujarat.

### **NTCA approved Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan as 54th Tiger Reserve of India**

- ✓ National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) which operates under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of the Government of India, has officially approved The Karauli-SarmathuraDholpur sanctuary in Rajasthan as Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve of India under Project Tiger.
- ✓ It becomes 5th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan and 54th Tiger Reserve of India.
- ✓ The forest covers an area of 1,058 square kilometres (368 sq km of core area and 690 sq km of buffer area) and currently has 9 tigers.
- ✓ The number of tigers in Rajasthan has increased from 32 in 2006 to 88 in 2022.
- ✓ Project Tiger: The Project Tiger was launched in 1973 to promote conservation of the tiger.
- ✓ Project Tiger has been converted into a National tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) through an amendment in Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1972.

### **MRPL becomes India's largest single-location PSU refinery**

- ✓ Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a Mangaluru(Dakshina Kannada), Karnataka based Miniratna Central public sector enterprise (CPSE) has become the largest PSU-refinery (single location) in India for 2022-23. MRPL processes 10% of the total crude oil refined by PSU petroleum refineries in India.
- ✓ MRPL processed 17.14 million tonnes of crude oil in 2022-23, which was the highest-ever throughput processed by any single-location PSU refinery in India's petroleum refining history.

- ✓ MRPL, after its establishment in 1988 as a joint venture (JV) refinery (promoted by M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)), expanded its operations in two phases to raise its capacity to 15 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA).

### **NHA extends DHIS for hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Till Dec 31, 2023**

- ✓ On August 4, 2023, the National Health Authority (NHA) extended its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) till the 31st of December, 2023.
- ✓ Launched w.e.f. January 1, 2023, DHIS offers incentives of upto Rs 4 crores to hospitals and diagnostic labs and Digital Solution Companies (DSCs) such as Hospital/ Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Laboratory Management Information System (LMIS) for adopting and enabling transformative digitization under ABDM.

### **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Unveiled The New Logo Of The NMDC**

- ✓ On 5th August 2023, Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveiled the new logo of the Navratna Public Sector Enterprise, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), India's largest iron ore producer, in New Delhi, Delhi. The new logo signifies NMDC's commitment towards sustainable & responsible mining and also its global aspirations.

### **Kerala and UN Women organise 'Trainers of Trainer' as part of Women-Friendly Tourism**

- ✓ Kerala's state Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission) in collaboration with United Nations (UN) Women India organised the 'Trainers of Trainer' programme under the 'Women-Friendly Tourism' project.
- ✓ The two-day orientation programme for women was held in Kumarakom, Kottayam, Kerala on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1st August 2023, to focus the wide range of tourism activities in which women can play a central role.

- ✓ The programme engaged a total of 85 women trainers, who will then train women involved in tourist initiatives and other services around the state.
- ✓ This was the second in a series of training workshops planned by RT Mission that would cover the entire state.
- ✓ So far, 1850 women have participated in training sessions held as part of the project.

### **CBI Academy Joins Interpol Global Academy Network as its 10th Member**

- ✓ On 8th August 2023, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy, based in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Global Academy Network as its 10<sup>th</sup> member through a virtual signing ceremony organized between CBI and Interpol at Global Complex for Innovation, Singapore for development and delivery of joint training program and research projects.
- ✓ A letter of acceptance was signed by Deputy Inspector General(DIG) (Training) Mohit Gupta of the CBI Academy with Glenn Martindale, Director, Capacity Building and Training Directorate, Interpol in consultation with India's Union Home Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training.
- ✓ The INTERPOL Global Academy currently has 10 members: Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Colombia, India, Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Spain.

### **Maharashtra's New Amravati station Becomes Central Railway's 3rd Pink Station**

- ✓ New Amravati Railway Station (Amravati, Maharashtra) became the 3rd station within Central Railway(CR) and the 1st station in Bhusaval Division of CR to be designated as a Pink Station, fully managed by women staff.
- ✓ Central Railway became the first zone of the Indian Railways to set up all women managed station.
- ✓ Matunga suburban station in Mumbai division became the 1st railway station in India to be

operated by an all-woman staff in July 2017, followed by Ajni station in the Nagpur division in 2018.

- ✓ The New Amravati station has a staff strength of 12 women employees – 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel and 1 Station Ticket Booking Agent.

### **President of India Releases Postage Stamp in Memory of Dadi Prakashmani**

- ✓ Droupadi Murmu, The President of India, released a postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani, former chief of Brahma Kumaris, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The stamp was released under the 'My Stamp' initiative of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, to commemorate Dadi Prakashmani's 16th death anniversary. Dadi passed away on 25th August 2007.
- ✓ Dadi Prakashmani, known as Dadi Kumarka, was born in 1922 in the north Indian province of Hyderabad, Sindh (now in Pakistan). She served as the Administrative Head of Brahma Kumaris from 1969 until 2007.
- ✓ During her lifetime, the organization expanded from 1 country to 120 countries with over 5,000 centres and sub-centres around the world.
- ✓ The Brahma Kumaris, officially known as the 'Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya,' is a global spiritual movement dedicated to personal change and world rejuvenation.
- ✓ The organisation was founded by Prajapita Brahma in 1936 in Hyderabad, Sindh. It is now headquartered in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

### **Ministry of Home Affairs Renews FCRA Licence of ORF for 5 Years**

- ✓ The Observer Research Foundation (ORF), a Delhi-based foreign policy think tank, has received a five-year renewal of its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) license from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- ✓ The renewed license is valid from October 1, 2023, to September 20, 2028. ORF sought this renewal to continue receiving foreign grants from voluntary sources and foreign entities.
- ✓ The renewal of the organization's FCRA was pending with the government since March 2023. During this time, extensions were provided to various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including ORF till September 30th 2023. .
- ✓ The ORF, in adherence to the amendment made to section 17 of The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, in the year 2020, took the necessary steps to meet the new legal requirements.

### Automotive PLI Scheme Extended By Another Year Till FY28

- ✓ Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, Ministry of Heavy Industries(MHI) in 'Review of Production Linked Incentive-Auto Scheme' announced the extension of the deadline of Production Linked Incentive(PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry by another year.
- ✓ The program that was supposed to last for five years, from 2022-23 to 2026-27, will be active till 2027-28.
- ✓ Under the Automotive PLI scheme, incentives are applicable for specified sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products (vehicles and components) manufactured in India starting from April 1, 2022. These incentives will remain in effect for a continuous period of five years.

### Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 9 Years of Successful Implementation

- ✓ On 28th August 2023, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a National Mission for Financial Inclusion (FI) completed 9 years of successful implementation.
- ✓ PMJDY, the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world, was introduced by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014 (Independence Day) and was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- ✓ PMJDY aims to ensure access to financial services, namely, basic savings & deposit accounts,

remittance, credit, insurance, and pension in an affordable manner to all households in India.

- ✓ Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.

### PM Narendra Modi addresses B20 Summit India 2023 held in New Delhi

- ✓ From August 25-27, 2023, the Business 20 (B20) Summit India 2023, an official G20 (Group of Twenty) dialogue forum with the global business community, was held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, addressed the summit on 27th August 2023.
- ✓ The theme of B20 India 2023 was 'R.A.I.S.E', an acronym for 'Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable'.
- ✓ The B20 India 2023 Communique includes 54 recommendations and 172 policy actions for submission to G20.
- ✓ Throughout India's G20 Presidency in 2023, the B20 India Secretariat, represented by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), led the B20's activities.
- ✓ The Secretariat was responsible for overseeing the development and execution of the B20 process.
- ✓ The chair of B20 India is Mr N Chandrasekaran, Executive Chairman, Tata Sons.
- ✓ At the culmination of the summit, N Chandrasekaran, Chair of B20 India handed over the B20 Presidency to Brazil. India officially assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022 after taking over from Indonesia.

### First WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit under G20 Summit Held In Gujarat

- ✓ The First World Health Organization (WHO) Traditional Medicine Global Summit held between August 17 and 18 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat alongside the Group 20(G20) health ministerial meeting which concluded on August 19, 2023. India holds the G20 presidency in 2023.



- ✓ The summit also witnessed the 1st Joint Finance and Health Ministerial meeting under the Indian Presidency.
- ✓ The First World Health Organization (WHO) Traditional Medicine Global Summit, a significant international event focused on traditional medicine and its role in global healthcare, was launched by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of WHO, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat alongside the G20 health ministerial meeting.
- ✓ The summit was hosted together by WHO and the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- ✓ Theme of Summit: “Towards Health and Well-being for All”.
- ✓ WHO’s Global Centre for Traditional Medicine headquartered in Jamnagar, Gujarat, accelerates advancements in Traditional Medicine globally
- ✓ The 2023 G20 Health Ministers’ meeting took place as part of the G20 India Presidency from 17th to 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The meeting was focused on the 3 Health Priorities set under India’s G20 Presidency.

### 20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers’ Meeting Held in Semarang, Indonesia

- ✓ On August 21, 2023, the 20th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)-India Economic Ministers’ meeting held in Semarang, Indonesia which was co-chaired by the Indian representative Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Dr. Zulkifli Hasan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia.
- ✓ Before the Economic Ministers’ meeting, an AITIGA Joint Committee meeting took place. This committee discussed the roadmap for the review, outlining the Terms of Reference and the Work Plan for AITIGA Review Negotiations.

#### Agenda of Meeting:

- ✓ The agenda of the meeting was the timely review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) which was signed in 2009 amid Indian businesses’ long-standing request in order to enhance trade facilitation and mutual benefits.

- ✓ India and ASEAN have mutually decided to finalize the review of their current free-trade agreement (FTA) concerning goods by the year 2025.

### NCERT Gets Deemed University Status

- ✓ In a significant development in the realm of education, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on September 1 that The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been conferred with the status of a deemed university. This momentous announcement was made during an event commemorating the 63rd foundation day of NCERT in the national capital.
- ✓ The decision to grant NCERT the esteemed status of a deemed university marks a watershed moment in the evolution of educational institutions in India.
- ✓ This move recognizes the exceptional contributions of NCERT to the field of education and underscores its commitment to excellence.
- ✓ NCERT established in 1961 under the Society Act, NCERT has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape of India.
- ✓ It has consistently provided valuable assistance and guidance to the government in matters related to school education.
- ✓ The institution’s dedication to maintaining high standards in education has now earned it the coveted status of a deemed university.

### President to inaugurate 12-foot Mahatma Gandhi statue, ‘Gandhi Vatika’ near Rajghat

- ✓ In a momentous event that pays homage to the father of the nation, President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a 12-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi and a ‘Gandhi Vatika’ near Rajghat.
- ✓ This initiative, organized by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, carries immense significance as it coincides with India’s celebration of 75 years of independence and its tenure as the G20 presidency. Let’s explore the details of this event and its symbolic importance.

- ✓ The statue of Mahatma Gandhi, towering at 12 feet, will be unveiled at the entrance of the 45-acre Gandhi Darshan complex.
- ✓ This complex is located near the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, where the revered leader was cremated.

### Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Utkela Airport In Odisha

- ✓ On August 31, 2023, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, accompanied by Gen Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd), Minister of State for Civil Aviation, marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of Utkela Airport in Odisha. This development comes as part of the ambitious UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity across India.
- ✓ The key highlight of this inauguration is the introduction of a direct flight route between Utkela and Bhubaneswar. This air link promises to strengthen regional connectivity and stimulate economic growth within the region.

### India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

- ✓ In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity. This milestone marks a pivotal moment in India's quest for energy self-sufficiency and underscores the nation's commitment to harnessing indigenous nuclear technology.
- ✓ The Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) had initiated its commercial operations on June 30, 2023, but initially operated at only 90 percent of its capacity. On August 31, 2023, the plant finally achieved its full operational potential.
- ✓ The Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant is a testament to India's capability in developing and operating nuclear power facilities entirely on its own. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been at the forefront of this endeavor.
- ✓ The NPCIL currently operates 23 commercial nuclear power reactors across the country.

Moreover, the organization has plans to build a total of 16 700 MW PHWRs at various locations in India.

### Piyush Goyal Unveils Statue of First Finance Minister Of Independent India, RK Shanmugam Chetty

- ✓ In an event organized by the South Indian Panchayat Association in Coimbatore, Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister of Textiles, inaugurated the statue of RK Shanmugam Chetty, who served as the first Finance Minister of independent India.
- ✓ Commencing the event, a statue paying homage to RK Shanmugam Chetty, a pivotal figure in India's historical narrative and a significant administrator within the South Indian Panchayat Association, was unveiled.

### India, Asian Development Bank to set up climate change and health hub in Delhi

- ✓ India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Earlier, India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine. WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine was set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The new hub for climate change and health will facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries.

### India Is Committed To Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis By 2027

- ✓ Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative. With a focal point on 81 districts spread across nine endemic states, including Assam and Uttar Pradesh, this second phase marks a significant step forward in the battle against the crippling disease.

## STATES

### India's First AI School Launched in Kerala

- ✓ On 22nd August 2023, Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ✓ AI School was created by iLearning Engines (ILE) of the United States of America(USA) in collaboration with Vedhik eSchool which was managed by a committee of veteran professionals including former Chief Secretaries, DGPs and Vice Chancellors.
- ✓ AI School facility will be initially available to students from classes 8 to 12. The curriculum and methodology are designed in compliance with the National School Accreditation Standards, which are based on the New National Education Policy (NEP 2020).

### Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Unveiled 'A-HELP' Programme in Gujarat

- ✓ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala has unveiled the 'AHELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, along with an Infertility Camp in Gujarat. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, is spearheading these initiatives as part of the Pashudhan Jagrati Abhiyaan under Inclusive Development.
- ✓ The 'A-HELP' program is designed to empower women through their participation as skilled agents, making substantial contributions to disease control, artificial insemination as part of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance.
- ✓ It marks a significant stride towards empowering women, enhancing livestock productivity, and advancing the socio-economic landscape of the region.

### India's First Biodiversity village 'Atlas' of Mayem released in Goa

- ✓ Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, released the "Mayem Biodiversity Atlas", India's 1st Village Atlas during an event held at Mahamaya Devalaya Mandap Mayem Mayem village (Bicholim Town) in North Goa district, Goa.
- ✓ Along with the Atlas, the CM also released a dedicated website, Poster, and a logo during the event.
- ✓ The event was jointly organised by Mayem Vaigunim Gram Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee, Mayem Vaigunim, and Mayem Panlot Sangh.

#### About Mayem Biodiversity Atlas

- ✓ The biodiversity atlas is a document of 250 pages which offers details of the diverse flora and fauna found in the village of Mayem.
- ✓ The atlas was prepared based on the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) prepared by the village Biodiversity Management Committee.
- ✓ Sakharam Pednekar is the Chairman of the Biodiversity Management Committee.

### Tamil Nadu to Set Up India's First UAS Testing Centre in Kanchipuram

- ✓ Tamil Nadu (TN) is set to establish India's first Common Testing Centre for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) (drones) under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS). The centre will be established at a cost of Rs 45 crore over an area of 2.3 acres at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur in Kanchipuram district, TN.
- ✓ It would be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), which is the nodal agency for implementing the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), which aims to provide an ecosystem for the aerospace and defence industry in the region.
- ✓ At present, the lack of common test centres that can support the Aerospace and Defence Standards

outside Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU)/Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) represents a barrier to entry for many organisations.

### **Nagaland becomes First State in North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration**

- ✓ Nagaland has taken a pioneering step in the North Eastern region by launching the Aadhaar-Linked Birth Registration (ALBR) system. This groundbreaking initiative focuses on simplifying the procedures of birth registration and Aadhaar enrolment for children aged 0 to 5 years.
- ✓ The commencement of the launch was formally led by Commissioner T Mhabemo Yanthan. During the launch event, there was a live demonstration that resulted in the successful registration of two newborn infants. This achievement represents a noteworthy advancement in guaranteeing that every child can rightfully access social welfare services.

### **MP govt hikes financial aid, 35% reservation in govt jobs for women**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 27 August raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna Scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹1,250 per month. Apart from this, the MP CM also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and said cooking gas cylinders will be provided to women at ₹450 in August to mark 'Sawan'.
- ✓ Under the Ladli Behna Yojana, which started on 10 June this year, a sum of ₹3,628.85 crore has been given as financial aid to eligible women, says the government data.
- ✓ Women in the 23-60 age group get ₹1,000 per month under the scheme if they are not income tax payees and the annual income of their families is less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually.

### **Kolkata Becomes 3rd Indian City To Get Air Quality Early Warning System**

- ✓ The Indian city of Kolkata has taken a significant step forward by adopting an Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), developed by the

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) based in Pune. This system offers both real-time air pollution data and forecasts, with the objective of enhancing readiness and facilitating measures to tackle the escalating air pollution levels within the city.

- ✓ The AQEWS in Kolkata comes equipped with an intricate network of sensors that monitor the air quality index (AQI) in real-time. This AQI is a standardized metric used to assess the level of air pollution in a specific area, with values ranging from 0 to 500. A higher AQI indicates more polluted air and an increased health concern.
- ✓ The AQEWS provides this data by analyzing the concentration of pollutants like PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller), which has been identified as a major contributor to health problems due to its ability to penetrate deep into the lungs.

### **Telangana Partners With UNESCO To Implement Recommendation On Ethics Of AI**

- ✓ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the Ethics of AI into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems.
- ✓ Weaving Ethics into the Fabric of AI: A Collaborative Mission
- ✓ This partnership is designed to cultivate a profound impact on how AI is developed and utilized, ensuring that the benefits are shared across all segments of society.

### **TN CM Stalin Lays Foundation Stone For South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant**

- ✓ In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping Chennai city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become South East Asia's largest water desalination project.

- ✓ Spearheaded by VA Tech Wabag, a renowned pure-play water technology Indian Multinational Group based in Chennai, this project is poised to revolutionize the region's water supply. With an ambitious investment of Rs 4,400 crore, this initiative holds the potential to alleviate Chennai's water scarcity concerns and elevate the city's status as a water-sustainable urban center.

### **ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya**

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has greenlit a USD 40.5 million loan to elevate early childhood development and maternal mental health in Meghalaya.
- ✓ This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of USD 15.27 million, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as Anganwadi centers.

### **Kerala Assembly Approves Resolution to Rename State as 'Keralam'**

- ✓ The Kerala Legislative Assembly appealed to the Central government for a name change to 'Keralam'
- ✓ In Malayalam, the state was denoted as 'Keralam', but in alternative languages, it is called as 'Kerala'. The necessity to unite the Malayalam-speaking communities into a harmonious Kerala gained significant prominence during the period of India's fight for freedom.
- ✓ The proposal involves a modification of the current nomenclature to 'Keralam,' a change that is sought to be instituted through the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution. This alteration would encompass the adoption of 'Keralam' as the state's official name across all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- ✓ Coinciding with the name change resolution, Kerala will commemorate 'Keraleeyam 2023' starting from November 1. This event is set to be a grand showcase of the state's accomplishments and

contributions on the global stage. As Kerala transitions to 'Keralam', it is poised to present its cultural, economic, and social achievements to the world, underlining the significance of preserving its linguistic heritage and identity.

### **Goa Becomes First State to Provide IVF Free at Govt Hospital**

- ✓ Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa inaugurated free In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) therapy at the Goa
- ✓ Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim, Goa along with Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Intrauterine Insemination (IUI). With this, Goa has become the first state in the country to offer free artificial insemination treatment.
- ✓ In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment is the most common method of artificial insemination for parents who are unable to conceive naturally.
- ✓ GMC is the first hospital in the country to offer free IVF treatment. Patients will not be charged. The entire funding will come from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The government will pay on an average Rs.5 Lakhs to Rs.7 lakhs for the IVF treatment.

### **Rajasthan CM Launched Indira Gandhi Smart Phone Scheme in Jaipur**

- ✓ On 10th August 2023, Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister (CM) of Rajasthan, launched the Indira Gandhi Smart Phone Scheme during an event organised at the B.M. Birla Auditorium in Jaipur, Rajasthan. During the event, CM also launched the 'Digital Sakhi Book'.

#### **About Indira Gandhi Smart Phone Scheme**

- ✓ Under this scheme, free smartphones with 3 years of data facility will be distributed to 1.3 crore women in Rajasthan. The beneficiaries will include girl students (class 9 to class 12) of government schools, college students, single women, and widows.
- ✓ Rs 6800 will be deposited in an e-wallet through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) for the purchase of these smartphones and SIM.

## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards

- ✓ Axis Bank has joined forces with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH.

### 'UPI Chalega 3.0': NPCI Launched 3rd edition of UPI Safety Awareness Campaign

- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched "UPI Chalega 3.0", the 3rd edition of its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Safety Awareness campaign, developed in collaboration with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem. The campaign aims to promote the adoption of UPI as a secure, easy, and instant mode of payment.
- ✓ The campaign is designed to educate users about UPI's various features, including UPI LITE for quick low-value transactions, UPI AUTOPAY for secure recurring payments, and UPI Interoperability for seamless money transfers across all UPI-enabled applications.
- ✓ In 2020, the UPI Chalega campaign was launched under the guidance of the Financial Literacy Advisory Committee (FLAC). UPI Chalega Campaign 1.0 and 2.0 had a significant impact on the adoption and understanding of UPI, making it the preferred payment method.

### SEBI reduces IPO listing timeline to 3 days

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the timeline for listing securities after the closing of an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to 3 days (T+3) from the present requirement of 6 working days (T+6).

- ✓ This will be an option for IPOs opening on or after September 1, 2023, and will be mandatory for public issues opening after December 1, 2023.
- ✓ According to SEBI, the reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers and investors.
- ✓ Under the new guidelines, companies will have to finalise allotment before 6 pm on T+1 day. The transfer of funds will be made to unsuccessful applicants on T+2 day.

### PNB & Amul Signs MoU To provide Finance Through MUDRA

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMFL) also known as Amul, to finance Amul's retailers, wholesale dealers/area milk distributors and exclusive Amul preferred outlets-milk parlours.
- ✓ The financing is made through small ticket financing under Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency (MUDRA).
- ✓ By the association, both the partners extend assistance to over 11 lakh retailers, wholesale dealers, and numerous other stakeholders.
- ✓ Additional offerings encompass the seamless incorporation of diverse digital mediums such as QR codes, point of sale (POS) systems, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), along with digital supply chain finance and electronic collection of Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) and facilitation of working capital limits.

### SBI Partners With IIT-B to Strengthen its Data Analytics, AI Capabilities

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) is contributing Rs 22.5 crore through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm, SBI Foundation, to set up a Banking Data and Analytics Hub at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), Mumbai, Maharashtra, to tackle the distinct challenges facing by the Indian banking and financial services

industry. The collaboration will boost SBI's AI (Artificial Intelligence) capabilities and promote the exchange of innovative concepts through cooperation between the banking industry and academia.

- ✓ The partnership's positive impact will extend to the entire Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance sector (BFSI) sector, facilitating the incorporation of emerging technologies such as ChatGPT.
- ✓ The hub is designed to encompass a laboratory area of 10,000 square feet. Its primary focus will be on supporting research and skill enhancement in the fields of data analytics and AI.
- ✓ SBI, founded through a parliamentary Act on July 1st, 1955. Recently, it celebrated its 68th Bank Day. Dinesh Kumar Khara is the Chairperson of SBI.

### **Airtel Payments Bank Launches India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card**

- ✓ On 8th August 2023, India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.
- ✓ The debit cards will be crafted from recycle- Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified ecofriendly material, against normal PVC cards.
- ✓ The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.
- ✓ Each production batch of 50,000 cards will result in a reduction of 350 kgs of carbon emissions compared to the traditional PVC cards commonly used in the market.

### **Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees**

- ✓ Axis Bank, a prominent player in India's private banking sector, has taken a groundbreaking step by launching the 'Infinity Savings Account.' This innovative savings account variant is designed to cater to the needs of digitally savvy customers who are avid users of subscription-based services. With the 'Infinity Savings Account,' Axis Bank is set to

redefine the banking experience, offering exclusive privileges and removing barriers that traditionally accompanied banking services.

- ✓ The 'Infinity Savings Account' comes with a range of exclusive privileges that aim to provide customers with a seamless and transparent banking journey.

### **IDFC First Bank Grabs 3-Year Title Sponsorship for BCCI Matches at Rs 4.2 Crore Per Match**

- ✓ On 25th August, the Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years. The IDFC First Bank will provide a sum of Rs.4.2 crore per international match.
- ✓ The agreement between IDFC First Bank and BCCI covers a total of 56 matches, spanning across the next three years. This exciting lineup includes 15 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 15 test matches and 26 T20 matches.
- ✓ IDFC First Bank's sponsorship is not limited to just the matches that take center stage on the international platform. The agreement also encompasses various domestic cricket events organized the BCCI such as the prestigious Irani Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Ranji Trophy tournaments. Additionally, junior cricket matches including those in the Under 19 and Under 23 categories, held in India, fall under the purview of this partnership.

### **SBI launches Aadhaar-Based Enrolment For Social Security Schemes**

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant step towards enhancing financial inclusivity and social welfare by introducing an innovative Customer Service Points (CSP) functionality. This functionality allows customers to seamlessly enrol in essential social security schemes using just their Aadhaar cards.
- ✓ The move was unveiled by SBI's Chairman, Dinesh Khara, who emphasized the bank's commitment to

breaking down barriers to financial security through technology-driven solutions.

### **HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card with Marriott**

- ✓ In a groundbreaking collaboration, HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy, the acclaimed travel program by Marriott International, to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'.
- ✓ This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on the esteemed Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country.

### **Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App**

- ✓ YES BANK has introduced its groundbreaking mobile banking app, IRIS by YES BANK. This innovative app is poised to redefine the way customers engage with their financial institutions, offering an unparalleled combination of convenience, efficiency, and personalization. With over 100 features and services available at the touch of a button, iris by YES BANK represents a quantum leap in digital banking.
- ✓ The app's sleek and intuitive user interface is crafted to provide a simplified banking experience to users of all age groups and backgrounds. Beyond its user-friendly design, the app is fortified with state-of-the-art safety features, including Biometric Authentication, Sim-Binding, and a 2-factor Verification system, ensuring utmost security for customers' financial data.

### **Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Gets Navratna Status**

- ✓ Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), an Indian government-owned enterprise headquartered in Mumbai, was granted 'Navratna Status' by the Department of Public Enterprise (DPE).
- ✓ Navratnas constitute a group of public sector firms endowed with the financial independence to invest up to Rs 1000 crore without necessitating approval from the central government. Prior to this, the

company had attained 'Miniratna Status' from the Department of Public Enterprise.

- ✓ Navratna Companies, a select group of nine esteemed public sector enterprises in India, are renowned for their outstanding performance and significant contributions to the nation's economy. These companies enjoy substantial financial independence, granting them the authority to make investment decisions for projects up to a specific threshold without requiring government approval.
- ✓ Chairman & MD of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF): S. C. Mudgerikar

### **Tata Steel and ACME Group Join Forces For India's Largest Green Hydrogen Project**

- ✓ ACME Group, a prominent renewable energy company, has joined forces with Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL) to establish an expansive green hydrogen and green ammonia project within Odisha's Gopalpur Industrial Park. This venture is poised to become the largest facility of its kind in India, marking a significant stride towards sustainable energy production.
- ✓ Green hydrogen represents a pivotal advancement in the hydrogen industry. Unlike the conventional "grey" hydrogen production, it is generated through electrolysis using renewable energy sources.

### **Zepto is first Indian unicorn of 2023, raises \$200 million at \$1.4 billion valuation**

- ✓ Online grocery delivery startup Zepto has successfully raised \$200 million in a Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of \$1.4 billion. This achievement marks Zepto as the first unicorn of 2023. The funding was led by StepStone Group, a US-based private markets investment firm, and is StepStone Group's inaugural direct investment in an Indian company.
- ✓ Zepto, established in response to the pandemic, was founded in 2021 by Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra, both dropouts from Stanford University.
- ✓ The startup had previously raised \$200 million in a Series D funding round in 2022, led by Y Combinator's Continuity Fund, which valued the company at \$900 million.



- ✓ Zepto's founders have also expressed their intention to list the company on public markets within the next two to three years.

### Hyundai Motor to Acquire General Motors' Talegaon Plant

- ✓ Hyundai Motor Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intention to acquire General Motors' Talegaon plant located in Maharashtra. This strategic move not only allows General Motors to exit the Indian market but also presents Hyundai with the opportunity to increase its annual production capacity.
- ✓ With its existing manufacturing facility in Sriperumbudur, Hyundai is already a notable presence in the Indian automobile sector. The inclusion of the Talegaon plant in its portfolio is expected to contribute significantly to Hyundai's cumulative production capacity. The company aims to reach an impressive milestone of manufacturing up to one million units annually from its earlier capacity of 820,000 units in the first half of the current year.

### UPI Records Landmark 10 Billion Monthly Transactions in India

- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 10 billion monthly transactions in August. This achievement was confirmed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Reserve Bank's non-profit agency. UPI has been a key driver of digital payments in India, and its rapid growth is noteworthy.
- ✓ In August, UPI recorded an impressive milestone of 10 billion monthly transactions, as confirmed by NPCI. This signifies the increasing popularity and adoption of digital payments in India.
- ✓ UPI's growth trajectory has been remarkable, with monthly transactions exceeding 10.24 billion by the end of August. This represents a significant increase from the 6.58 billion transactions recorded in August of the previous year, marking a growth rate of over 50% year-on-year.
- ✓ In the competitive landscape of UPI apps, PhonePe, a domestic fintech and e-commerce platform, led the market share in June, with over 47% of all UPI

transactions occurring through this platform. Google Pay (35%) and Paytm (14%) secured the second and third positions, respectively, in terms of market share.

### Centre's Fiscal Deficit for April-July Reaches 33.9% of FY24 Target

- ✓ In the first four months of the 2023-24 financial year, India's fiscal deficit has surged, surpassing a third of the full-year target. This financial imbalance, measured as the difference between government expenditure and revenue, is a critical indicator of the government's borrowing needs.
- ✓ As of the end of July, the fiscal deficit in absolute terms stood at Rs 6.06 lakh crore, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- ✓ This represents a significant increase compared to the same period in the previous financial year, where the deficit was at 20.5% of the Budget Estimates (BE).

#### Government's Fiscal Target

- ✓ In the Union Budget for 2023-24, the government aimed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP).
- ✓ In the prior financial year (2022-23), the deficit had reached 6.4% of the GDP, slightly lower than the initial estimate of 6.71%.

#### Revenue Collection

- ✓ During the April-July period of the current fiscal year, the net tax revenue amounted to Rs 5.83 lakh crore, constituting 25% of the BE.
- ✓ This reflects a decrease compared to the same period in the previous year when the net tax revenue collection was 34.4% at the end of July 2022.

#### Government Expenditure

- ✓ The central government's total expenditure in the first four months of the financial year reached Rs 13.81 lakh crore, equivalent to 30.7% of the BE.
- ✓ In comparison, in the previous year, expenditure had reached 28.6% of the BE during the same period.
- ✓ Of the total expenditure, Rs 10.64 lakh crore was allocated to the revenue account, while Rs 3.17 lakh crore was earmarked for the capital account.

## RBI UPDATES

### RBI's 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY24; India's real GDP to grow at 6.5% in FY24

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on August 8-10, 2023, and released the 'Monetary Policy Statement, 2023-24 Resolution of the MPC' which kept India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth retained at 6.5% in FY24 (2023-24) with FY24's Q1 at 8%, Q2 at 6.5%, Q3 at 6%, and Q4 at 5.7%. This is attributed to the growth in rural and urban areas, a rise in investment activity, and the government's intention to increase capital expenditure.
- ✓ This marks the 3rd MPC meeting in FY24, following the bimonthly policy reviews held in April 2023 and June 2023.
- ✓ Real GDP growth for Q1FY25 (April-June, 2024-25) is projected at 6.6%.
- ✓ The focus of the MPC's 3rd FY24 meeting is to prioritize withdrawal of accommodation to guide inflation towards the target gradually, while simultaneously supporting growth.
- ✓ RBI's Policy Rates: The MPC kept the policy rates unchanged in August 2023.

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

#### Inflation

- ✓ Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation or retail inflation is projected at 5.4% for FY24 from the 5.1% forecast in June 2023. The projections for specific quarters of FY24 are Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2%.
- ✓ This forecast is on the assumption of normal monsoon.

- ✓ CPI inflation for Q1FY25 is projected at 5.2%.
- ✓ RBI set an objective of achieving the medium-term target for CPI inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth.
- ✓ CPI headline inflation increased to 4.8% in June 2023 from 4.3% in May 2023 amid higher prices of vegetables, eggs, meat, fish, cereals, pulses and spices.
- ✓ Core CPI (i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel) was steady in June 2023.
- ✓ Fuel inflation softened during May-June 2023, primarily reflecting the fall in kerosene prices.
- ✓ Domestic Economy:
  - ✓ As on August 4, 2023, the total area sown under kharif crops was 0.4% higher than in August 2022.
  - ✓ ii. The index of industrial production (IIP) expanded by 5.2% in May 2023 while core industries output rose by 8.2% in June 2023.
- ✓ The composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to a 13-year high in July 2023.
- ✓ The daily absorption of liquidity under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) averaged Rs 1.8 lakh crore during June-July 2023 as compared with Rs 1.7 lakh crore in April-May 2023.
- ✓ Money supply (M3) expanded by 10.6% y-o-y as on July 28, 2023 as against 10.1% on May 19, 2023.
- ✓ Bank credit grew by 14.7% y-o-y as on July 28, 2023 as compared with 15.4% on May 19, 2023.
- ✓ India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 601.5 billion as on August 4, 2023.
- ✓ Cement production and steel consumption recorded robust growth.
- ✓ **Global Economy**
  - ✓ In mid-July 2023, the US dollar dropped to a 15-month low due to predictions of an early end to the monetary tightening cycle. While it partially recovered afterwards, certain emerging market economies face growth risks due to factors like low external demand, high debt, and limited external funding. The worldwide economy is slowing down, with growth differing across regions.

- ✓ India is contributing approx 15% to global growth. Banks to maintain 10% incremental CRR from August 12, 2023 RBI mandates banks to hold an Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR) of 10% on increase in deposits between May 19 and July 28, 2023 with effect from the fortnight starting Aug. 12, 2023.
- ✓ This measure intends to absorb liquidity added to the banking system due to a return of 2000-rupee denomination notes. Rs 3.14 lakh crore worth of Rs 2,000 banknotes, or 88% in circulation, had returned to the banking system by July 31, 2023.
- ✓ ICRR is a temporary measure to overcome a sudden increase in deposits by draining off the liquidity.

### **RBI; raises payment limit via UPI lite to Rs 500 from Rs 200**

- ✓ In order to encourage wider adoption of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) Lite, RBI has increased the transaction limit to Rs 500 from Rs 200. This will eliminate the need for multiple transactions for users.
- ✓ However, overall limit is retained at Rs 2000 to contain the risks associated with relaxation of twofactor authentication.
- ✓ UPI Lite is an 'on-device wallet' feature that will allow users to make real-time small-value payments without using a UPI PIN. It was launched in September 2022.
- ✓ To harness the new technologies for enhancing digital payments experience for users
- ✓ The RBI has set a cap of Rs 200 per transaction and a total limit of Rs 2000 for each payment method for smallvalue offline digital payments, such as National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and UPI Lite. This eliminates the requirement for two-factor authentication in these cases, making them faster, reliable, and contactless options for routine small payments and transit fares. However, there have been requests for these limits to be increased. Therefore, the above change has been made.

### **RBI allows offline payment of UPI by using Near-Field Communication**

- ✓ RBI proposed to introduce Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to facilitate offline payments. This move aims to support digital

payments when internet connectivity is weak or not available, ensuring swift transactions with fewer declines. Conversational payments in UPI

- ✓ RBI plans to introduce 'conversational payments' on UPI, allowing users to securely initiate and finalize transactions through AI-powered conversations. This feature will be accessible on both smartphone and feature phone UPI platforms, aiding the expansion of digital adoption across India. Initially in Hindi and English, it will later be available in additional Indian languages. Development of Digital Public Tech Platform
- ✓ Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is developing a digital Public Tech Platform to facilitate easy lending by providing necessary digital data to lenders. It will have an open architecture, allowing financial players to connect seamlessly using open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) in a 'plug and play' model.

### **RBI proposes framework for allowing borrowers to switch to fixed interest rate regime**

- ✓ RBI unveils framework allowing borrowers to switch to fixed interest rate from floating interest rate, providing relief to home, auto loan borrowers.
- ✓ The framework envisages that lenders should clearly communicate with the borrowers for resetting the tenor and/or Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI), provide options of switching to fixed rate loans or foreclosure of loans, transparent disclosure of various charges incidental to the exercise of these options, and proper communication of key information to the borrowers.

### **Non-Food Bank Credit grew to 16.3% in June 2023, for Aviation its 93.4% Hike: RBI Data**

- ✓ On July 31, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit – June 2023' showcasing a Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) growth of non-food bank credit to 16.3% in June 2023 as compared with 15% in June 2022.
- ✓ This rise is due to the strong demand for credit from sectors such as services, retail and agriculture, and allied activities.

- ✓ On the other hand, the food bank credit shows a decline of -25.4% in June 2023 as compared to a decline of -55% in June 2022.
- ✓ The Total Bank Credit (Food Credit + Non-food Credit) grew at 16.2% in June 2023 from 14.5% in June 2022.
- ✓ Basis of Assessment: Data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for the month of June 2023 collected from 40 select Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), accounting for about 93% of the total non-food credit deployed by all SCBs.

### **RBI approves Amalgamation of Navanirman Co-op Urban Bank with Rajadhani Co-op Urban Bank**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of The Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana with Rajadhani Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana. The Scheme of Amalgamation is with effect from August 3rd, 2023.
- ✓ The Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd branch (Hyderabad, Telangana) will function as a branch of the Rajadhani Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd (Hyderabad, Telangana) with effect from August 03, 2023.
- ✓ The Scheme has been sanctioned in the exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **RBI selects McKinsey and Accenture to use AI & ML To Improve Regulatory Supervision**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India(RBI) awarded the contract worth Rs. 91 Crores to McKinsey and Company India LLP (Limited Liabile Partnership) and Accenture Solutions Private Limited India for the use of advanced analytics, artificial intelligence(AI) and machine learning(ML) to analyse its huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks and Non Banking Financial Services(NBFCs).

- ✓ AI and ML technologies are used for real-time data reporting, effective data management and dissemination.

### **RBI Launches Pilot 'Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit**

- ✓ On August 17, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) commenced its digital lending pilot project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit which is developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.
- ✓ It enhances lending efficiency through cost reduction, quicker disbursement, and scalability.
- ✓ During the pilot phase, the platform concentrates on products including Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower, Dairy Loans, unsecured MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) loans, Personal loans, and Home loans.
- ✓ As a pilot, bank will offer KCC in MP and will be available to customers for upto Rs. 1.6 lakh to start
- ✓ with. MSME loans will be available India and will offer loans upto Rs. 10 lakh to customers.

### **RBI launches centralised web portal 'UDGAM' for Unclaimed Deposits**

- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das introduced a centralized web portal called "उद्गम UDGAM" (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation) to simplify the process for the public to locate their unclaimed deposits in various banks through a single platform.
- ✓ Through this portal, users can retrieve unclaimed deposit amounts or make their deposit accounts operative with their respective banks.
- ✓ This centralised web portal was announced as a part of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated April 06, 2023.
- ✓ Developers:
- ✓ Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS) and participating banks have collaborated to develop this portal.
- ✓ Currently, users will access the details of their unclaimed deposits in respect of seven banks presently available on the portal viz. State Bank of

- India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Central Bank of India (CBI),
- ✓ Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd., South Indian Bank Ltd., DBS Bank India Ltd., Citibank N.A.
  - ✓ The search facility for remaining banks on the portal will be made available in a phased manner by October 15, 2023.

### **RBI releases guidelines for IDF-NBFC; Resets Floating Interest Rate on EMI based Personal Loans**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India (GoI), has reviewed guidelines for Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs) to enhance their role in infrastructure financing and align regulations across NBFCs in this sector.
- ✓ The updated regulations for IDF-NBFCs will be effective from August 18, 2023.
- ✓ An IDF can be established either as a trust or a company. If structured as a trust, it is designated as an IDFMutual Fund (IDF-MF) and is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). If established as a company, it's labeled as an IDF-NBFC and is subject to regulation by RBI.
- ✓ IDF-NBFCs must maintain a Net Owned Fund (NOF) of at least Rs 300 crore.
- ✓ Minimum Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 15%, with Tier 1 capital of at least 10%.

### **RBI Reset Floating Interest Rate on EMI based Personal Loans**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all regulated entities (REs), including banks and NBFCs, to give personal loan borrowers an option to switch over from a floating rate to a fixed rate at the time of resetting interest rates. The RE must ensure that the new norms were extended to the existing as well as new loans by December 31, 2023.
- ✓ These rules will enhance transparency by necessitating the disclosure of principal and interest recovered to date, remaining EMIs, EMI amounts, and the annualized rate of interest/Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for the entire loan duration to the borrowers at the end of each quarter.

- ✓ RBI issued these instructions under sections 21, 35A and 56 of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949, sections 45JA, 45L and 45M of the RBI Act, 1934, and sections 30A and 32 of the National Housing Bank (NHB) Act, 1987.
- ✓ Personal loan interest rates are offered on both fixed and floating rate basis. The interest rate will remain the same throughout the tenure on a fixed rate loan. Whereas, the interest rates will vary as per the market movement in a floating rate loan.

### **RBI approves the Voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank with Kranti Cooperative Urban Bank**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) sanctioned the Scheme of Voluntary Amalgamation of Hyderabad (Telangana) based Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Limited with Hyderabad (Telangana) based Kranti Cooperative Urban Bank Limited.
- ✓ RBI has the authority to approve the voluntary amalgamation of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) based on its discretion.
- ✓ This authority is granted under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ✓ These sections were modified through an amendment introduced by the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act 2020 (Act No. 39 of 2020).
- ✓ The Scheme of Amalgamation came into force from 23rd August, 2023.
- ✓ The branch of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank will function as a branch of Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank.

### **RBI Authorises Bandhan Bank for Disbursing Civil Pension**

- ✓ Bandhan Bank Ltd has been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an authorized bank for pension disbursement for civil pensioners on behalf of the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), an entity under the Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank will soon be integrating with the office of the CPAO to operationalise the disbursement process.

## CABINET APPROVALS

### Cabinet Approves Rs 1.39 Lakh cr for a Last-Mile Broadband Connectivity Plan

- ✓ On 4th August 2023, the Union Cabinet approved Rs 1.39 lakh crores for a last-mile broadband connectivity plan for 6.4 lakh villages across India as part of the BharatNet project. It will involve a change in execution strategy, with a focus on providing optical fiber-based connections to the last mile through villagelevel entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The last-mile connectivity will be delivered by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), an arm of state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), in partnership with village-level entrepreneur (VLE).
- ✓ This partnership aims to ensure effective and efficient broadband connectivity reaching the grassroots level in the villages.
- ✓ BharatNet is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world. Around 1.94 lakh villages have been connected at present, and the balance is likely to be connected over 2.5 years.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the BharatNet Project on 25th October 2011, one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world implemented to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in India for providing nondiscriminatory access to broadband connectivity to all the telecom service providers.
- ✓ Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the implementing agency of Bharat Net Project.
- ✓ Under the BharatNet programme, the government has a target to provide broadband connectivity to 250,000 gram panchayats by 2025.
- ✓ The approval of the recent package marks the third such initiative for BharatNet by the Centre.
- ✓ In 2017, the total funding of the BharatNet (Phase-I and Phase-II), approved by the Cabinet, is Rs 42,068 crores. In 2021, the Cabinet allocated another Rs 19,041 crore to implement the last-mile connectivity project under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

- ✓ which, however, failed to generate significant interest.

### Cabinet Approves 7 Railway Projects worth Rs 32,500 Crore

- ✓ The Cabinet committee on Economic Affairs approves seven multi-tracking projects of Indian Railways with an outlay of Rs 32,500 crore. These projects are fully funded by the Central Government.
- ✓ These will add 2,339 kilometres to the existing network of Indian Railways. These seven multi-tracking projects aimed at easing operations and reducing congestion by covering cover 35 districts across 9 states of Andhra Pradesh (AP), Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and West Bengal (WB).

### Cabinet approves 'Vishwakarma Yojana' to benefit individuals skilled in Traditional Craftsmanship

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the 'Vishwakarma Yojana' to benefit individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship/artisan works. These include Weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and such families. Around Rs 13,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore will be allocated for the scheme.

### Cabinet approves Digital India Programme's extension with outlay of Rs 14,903 cr

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved extension of Digital India programme with an outlay of Rs 14,903 crore. The Digital India programme was launched on 1st July 2015 to enable digital delivery of services to citizens. Under the extended project 6.25 lakh IT (Information Technology) professionals will be re-skilled and up-skilled, and 2.65 lakh persons will be trained in information security under the Information Security & Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Program.

## Central Govt. approves Rs 20,000-crore project for FSVs

- ✓ The Central Government has approved Rs 20,000 crore project for the construction of five Fleet Support Vessels (FSVs) for Indian Navy (IN). These will be manufactured by the Visakhapatnam (AP)-based Hindustan Shipyards Limited (HSL). This decision has been taken to bolster India's naval capabilities. Each of these ships will weigh approximately 45,000 tonnes, and are expected to be ready by the next decade.

## Cabinet approves "PM-eBus Sewa" for augmenting city bus operations

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the bus scheme 'PM-eBus Sewa' for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses (electric buses) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- ✓ The Scheme will support bus operations for 10 years till 2037, and also generate 45,000 to 55,000 direct jobs.
- ✓ Under this scheme priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service, and will cover cities having a population of 3 lakh and above.
- ✓ Its estimated cost is Rs 57,613 crore, out of which support of Rs 20,000 crore will be provided by the Central government, and the rest will be borne by the State Governments.
- ✓ There will be two segments of the scheme. Under Segment A, 10,000 e-buses will be deployed on PPP model in 169 cities. Under Segment B, Infrastructure will be upgraded in 181 cities under the Green Urban Mobility Initiatives(GUMI).

## Cabinet approves MRA of Authorized Economic Operators between India and Australia

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) between the Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and the Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force, Australian Government.
- ✓ The deal is part of a global effort by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) through its SAFE

Framework of Standards to secure and improve global trade, and strengthen end-to-end security of supply chains. This MRA will benefit Indian exporters to Australia and enhance the trade relationship between the two nations.

## Cabinet approves MoU on Cooperation in Sports between India and Australia

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Sports between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS), India; and the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Government of Australia.
- ✓ Under the MoU, There will Bilateral exchange programs in the field of sports between both nations, sharing of knowledge and expertise in the area of sport sciences, technologies and infrastructure; athlete and coach training and development; sports governance and integrity; grassroots participation in sport; major sporting events;

## Central Govt approves reduction of LPG prices by Rs 200 per cylinder

- ✓ Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs(CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the price reduction of 14.2 kg LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) cylinder by Rs.200 per cylinder for all consumer across the country with effective from August 30,2023.
- ✓ This will also be applicable to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which means, PMUY beneficiaries will now get a total subsidy of Rs 400 per 14.2kg-LPG cylinder. The decision will ease the financial burden on citizens and promote the welfare of households. There are more than 31 crore domestic LPG consumers in India including 9.6 Cr PMUY beneficiary families

### About PM Ujjwala Scheme

- ✓ Nodal Ministry : Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas AIM: To provide LPG connections to women from BPL households.
- ✓ Launch Date & Place : 1st May, 2016 at Ballia, UP
- ✓ Ujjwala 2.0 :- Launch Date: 10th August,2021 at Mahoba, UP

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ISRO Successfully Launched Aditya-L1: India's 1st Mission to the Sun

- ✓ On 2nd September 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Aditya-L1 (Lagrange Point 1), India's 1st observatory-class space-based



solar mission, launched by PSLV-C57 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) rocket from the Second Launch Pad (SLP), Satish Dhawan Space Centre – SDSC (formerly Sriharikota Range – SHAR) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- ✓ **PSLV-C57** is the 59th flight of PSLV and the 25th mission using the PSLV-XL configuration.
- ✓ The PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 Mission's objective is to study the Sun, the nearest star and the largest object in the solar system, over the next 5 years.
- ✓ **Mission Director:** Nigar Shaji, an ISRO woman scientist from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu is the Mission Director of the Aditya-L1 mission.
- ✓ **Journey:** The spacecraft is planned to be stationed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million kilometres (km) from the Earth.
- ✓ The Aditya-L1 mission will take around 4 months to reach the designated point (L1) from where it will study the sun.
- ✓ The Aditya-L1 weighing about 1,4807.7 kg has successfully separated from the PSLV and began its 125-day journey towards L1.
- ✓ The spacecraft will perform orbital maneuvers using its Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) to reach Sun-Earth L1.

- ✓ The Aditya-L1 will stay in the Earth-bound orbits for 16 days and undergo 5 maneuvers to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.
- ✓ Aditya-L1 will undergo a Trans-Lagrangian1 insertion maneuver and begin its 110 day trajectory to L1.
- ✓ The satellite at the halo orbit around the L1 point will have the advantage of continuously viewing the sun without any occultation or eclipse.
- ✓ This will enable us to observe solar activities continuously.
- ✓ **Science Objectives**
- ✓ To study Coronal Heating and Solar Wind Acceleration.
- ✓ To understand the initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), flares and near-earth space weather.
- ✓ To understand the coupling and dynamics of the solar atmosphere.
- ✓ To understand solar wind distribution and temperature anisotropy.
- ✓ **Mission's Uniqueness:**
- ✓ This is the 1st spatially resolved solar disk in the near Ultra-Violet (UV) band.
- ✓ CME dynamics close to the solar disk (~ from 1.05 solar radius). This provides information in the acceleration regime of CME which is not observed consistently.
- ✓ iOn-board intelligence to detect CMEs and solar flares for optimised observations and data volume.
- ✓ Directional and energy anisotropy of solar wind using multi-direction observations.
- ✓ **Payloads:**
- ✓ The spacecraft carries **seven payloads** to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors.
- ✓ 1. Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
- ✓ 2. Solar Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)
- ✓ 3. Aditya Solar wind Particle EXperiment (ASPEX)
- ✓ 4. Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)



- ✓ 5. Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)
  - ✓ 6. High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS)
  - ✓ 7. Magnetometer
  - ✓ **Functions of the Payloads:**
  - ✓ The science payloads of Aditya-L1 were indigenously developed by various laboratories across India.
  - ✓ **VELC**, developed at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics(IIA), Bengaluru, Karnataka, will study the solar corona and dynamics of Coronal Mass Ejections. VELC will send around 1140 images of the sun every day to the ground station.
  - ✓ **SUIT**, developed at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics(IUCAA), Pune, Maharashtra, will image the Solar Photosphere and Chromosphere in near UV and also measure the solar irradiance variations in near UV.
  - ✓ **APEX**, developed at Physical Research Laboratory(PRL), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and PAPA, developed at Space Physics Laboratory(SPL), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre(VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, will study the solar wind and energetic ions, as well as their energy distribution.
  - ✓ **SoLEXS and HELIOS**, developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, and the Magnetometer payload at the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems, Bengaluru, will study the X-ray flares from the Sun over a wide X-ray energy range.
  - ✓ **The Magnetometer** will be used to measure the interplanetary magnetic fields at the L1 point. These payloads were developed in close collaboration with ISRO centres.
  - ✓ **Trajectory to L1:** Initially, the Aditya-L1 mission will be placed in low earth orbit. The orbit will be made more elliptical and later the spacecraft will be launched towards L1 using onboard propulsion
  - ✓ **About the Sun:**
  - ✓ Estimated age: 4.5 billion years.
  - ✓ Distance from Earth to the sun: 150 million Km
  - ✓ The visible surface of the sun known as the photosphere is relatively cool and has a temperature of about 5,500 degrees Celsius.
  - ✓ Solar Wind:
  - ✓ The constant flow of particles from the sun is known as solar wind and is mostly composed of high-energy protons.
  - ✓ The solar wind along with other explosive/ eruptive solar events like Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) affects the nature of space.
  - ✓ **About Lagrange Point:** The Lagrange points are named after Joseph-Louis Lagrange, a French-Italian mathematician, who discovered their existence during his study of planetary physics in the 18th century.
  - ✓ Lagrange points are imaginary points in space where objects sent there will stay put.
  - ✓ .At Lagrange point, the gravitational pull of the two large bodies equals the necessary centripetal force required for a small object to move with them
  - .A total five Lagrange points denoted as L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 are there.
- India's Chandrayaan-3 scripts history, becoming the first country to soft land successfully near moon's south pole**
- ✓ August 23, 2023 will always be remembered for the successful soft landing near moon's South Pole by the Vikram(Valour) Lander Module (LM) of 'Chandrayaan-3 (Moon Craft)', making India the first country to land spacecraft near Moon's South Pole at 70 degrees latitude.
  - ✓ It was Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) third lunar mission which resulted in unprecedented milestone in space exploration. Chandrayaan 1 was launched in 2008, and Chandrayaan 2 in 2019.
  - ✓ With this successful landing, India became the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Luna-25 crashed into the Moon; Russia's 1st Moon mission in 47 years Failed

- ✓ Russia's first lunar mission in 47 years, Luna-25, failed as the space craft spun out of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit (orbital maneuver).

### Reason behind the Crash

- ✓ Roscosmos, State Space Corporation of Russian Federation, announced that the initial analysis of the moon lander indicates that a difference between the planned and actual propulsion maneuver caused the spacecraft to move into an unintended orbit.
- ✓ Luna-Glob-Lander (Luna-Glob-1), also known as Luna-25, was launched on 10th August 2023 atop a Soyuz-2.1b rocket (Soyuz-2 Fregat) from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia.
- ✓ It was anticipated to land near the lunar south pole on 21st August 2023.

### About Luna-25

- ✓ The objective of Luna-25 is to Explore the composition of the polar regolith and to Investigate the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere for one year.
- ✓ The main landing site was north of Boguslavsky crater and the reserve landing site was to the southwest of Manzini crater in Moon.
- ✓ Luna 25 was launched as a precursor for more advanced lunar endeavors, paving the way for the upcoming Luna-26 and Luna-27 missions.
- ✓ Luna 25 was named in continuation of robotic probe programme of Soviet Union – Luna 24 mission which brought back moon rock back to earth in 1976.

## Nitin Gadkari Launched World's 1st BS 6 Stage II 'Electrified Flex Fuel Vehicle'

- ✓ Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched the world's first prototype of BS-VI (Bharat Stage Six) Stage II compliant "Electrified Flex Fuel vehicle", Toyota Innova Hycross. It is a variant of Toyota's Innova, developed by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited (Toyota Kirloskar).

- ✓ This is also India's first flex-fuel electrified vehicle that can run in either electric mode or 100% ethanol. This launch is in line with India's target to increase ethanol blending in petrol by 20% by 2025-2026.
- ✓ The new Electrified Flex Fuel vehicle (FFV) is based on the Innova Hycross and is designed and developed to comply with the emission standards of India.

## C-DOT's 40th Foundation day: Communication Minister Launched Security systems – TRINETRA

- ✓ On the occasion of the 40th Foundation day of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) (25th August 2023), Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Communication, launched C-DOT's TRINETRA, an indigenously developed cyber threat detection and resolution system.
- ✓ During the event, MoS Devusinh Chauhan also inaugurated the C-DOT's Enterprise Security Operation Centre (ESOC) at C-DOT campus New Delhi, Delhi. He also inaugurated the technical conference centered on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML)" organised by C-DOT.
- ✓ The TRINETRA solution provides 24x7 near real-time actionable cyber-security status and quickly deals with cyber-threats like viruses, malware, and spyware.

## PSLV-C56/DS-SAR Mission: ISRO successfully launched 7 Singapore satellites including DS-SAR into Space

- ✓ On 30th July 2023, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the PSLV-C56/DS-SAR Mission, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C56) carrying 7 Singapore Satellites – DS-SAR as primary satellite along with 6 co-passengers, from the First Launch Pad (FLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ✓ This is a Dedicated Commercial Mission conducted by ISRO under a contract with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore.

- ✓ This marks's the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th flight of PSLV in core alone configuration.
- ✓ This was the 431st foreign satellite launch from India by ISRO and the 4th dedicated PSLV mission for Singapore government.
- ✓ The launcher placed all 7 satellites from Singapore into a circular Near-equatorial Orbit (NEO) at an altitude of 535 km with 5 degree orbital inclination.

#### **About DS-SAR Satellite**

- ✓ The DS-SAR satellite, weighing 352 kg, is a Radar Imaging Earth Observation Satellite. It was developed in partnership with the Government of Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and ST Electronics, a part of major regional defence and engineering group ST Engineering, Singapore.
- ✓ DS-SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) based in Lod, Israel.
- ✓ Synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) is a form of radar that is used to create two-dimensional images or three-dimensional reconstructions of objects.

#### **Bharat Dynamics Limited Hands Over 1st 'Radio Frequency Seeker of Akash' to DRDO**

- ✓ On 2nd August 2023, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of the Akash Next Generation(Akash-NG) Missile to the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- ✓ The 1st RF Seeker was handed over by Commodore A Madhavarao (Retired), Chairman and Managing Director of BDL to Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development and Chairman DRDO.
- ✓ About Seeker: Seeker is a crucial and technologically advanced subsystem used in the terminal phase of Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking.
- ✓ About Akash Next Generation(Akash-NG) Missile: Akash-NG Missile is the short-range mobile surface-to-air missile system (SRSAM) developed by DRDO. It has an Operation range of 4.5 km to

25 kmand can travel up to 2.5 times the speed of sound (2.5 Mach).

#### **ISRO Transfers IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to ADTL**

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) announced that it's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) transferred the Indian Mini-Satellite 1 (IMS-1, a low-cost microsatellite imaging mission of ISRO) Bus Technology to Bengaluru(Karnataka) based Alpha Design Technologies Private Limited(ADTL).
- ✓ The Technology Transfer Documents had been formally handed over by Shri. D Radhakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director of NSIL, to Col. H. S.
- ✓ Shankar (Retd.) VSM, Chairman and Managing Director of ADTL.
- ✓ ADTL is one of the two private players identified to receive the transfer of this technology through Interest Exploratory Note (IEN).
- ✓ Aim of Transfer: The BUS technology is being transferred to the private sector with the aim of bolstering India's industrial growth in the space sector and fostering technological self-reliance.

#### **NASA & Axiom Space Have Signed a Mission Order for Ax-4**

- ✓ NASA and Axiom Space have signed a mission order for the 4th private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), named Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) scheduled to launch in 2024 on Falcon 9 rockets from National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Kennedy Space Center in Florida, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Ax-4 is part of Nasa's broader strategy to transition low Earth orbit activities.
- ✓ The Ax-4 mission will involve a team of four crew members.
- ✓ The mission helps in laying the groundwork for the world's first commercial space station, Axiom Station.
- ✓ Axiom Space is obtaining Nasa services through both a mission-specific order and a reimbursable Space Act Agreement.

## SpaceX's Falcon 9 launched 22 starlink satellites to LEO; sets new Launchpad Turnaround Record

- ✓ On 6th August 2023, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) launched a Falcon 9 rocket carrying 22 Starlink satellites from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Base in Florida, the United States of America (USA), to Low-Earth Orbit (LEO). This launch have set the new record for the swiftest turnaround ever achieved from a single launchpad. It was 3 days 21 hours and 41 minutes since the launch of Intelsat's Galaxy 37 mission from pad 40.
- ✓ This was the 4th launch and landing for this Falcon 9 first-stage booster, which previously launched
- ✓ Crew-6, SES O3b mPOWER, and one Starlink 4-4 mission.

## GRSE launched Neerakshi, India's first Indigenous AUV to Detect Mines

- ✓ On 28th July 2023, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence(MoD) launched "Neerakshi"(Eyes in the Water), India's first of its kind indigenous Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) to detect mines in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).
- ✓ It is developed through a collaboration between Kolkata-based warship maker GRSE Ltd and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) entity Aerospace Engineering Private Ltd (AEPL).
- ✓ About AUV Neerakshi: The orange-colored prototype of the cylindrical unmanned vehicle is 2.1 meter long, about a foot (0.30 meter) in diameter and weighs around 45 kilograms.

## Defence Ministry to Replace Microsoft Windows with Indigenous Maya OS

- ✓ The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all the computers with internet connectivity with the

new indigenously developed OS "Maya" based on open-source Ubuntu, by the end of 2023.

- ✓ Maya OS offers several features such as cloud storage integration, full disk encryption, digital signature, biometric authentication, and a feature named "Chakravyuh."
- ✓ Chakravyuh, a security feature of Maya, is an end-point detection and protection system. It creates a virtual layer between the user and the internet, thus, preventing cyber criminals and cyber attackers from accessing sensitive data.
- ✓ The development of the Maya OS began in 2021 and is developed collaboratively by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), National Informatics Centre (NIC), along with Indian software companies and academic institutions within 6 months.

## Scientists at IIA Bengaluru Discovered a Unique CEMP Star "HE 1005-1439"

- ✓ Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics(IIA) in Bengaluru, Karnataka have discovered a unique star named "HE 1005-1439". This star defies the conventional classification of stars and stands out as a carbonenhanced metal-poor (CEMP) star, a rare class of chemically peculiar stars.
- ✓ CEMP stars have [C/Fe] (Carbon/Iron) > +1, compared to the Sun CEMP stars have carbon enhanced at least 10 times more than iron, and [Fe/H] (Iron/Hydrogen) < -1, meaning that iron is less than a 10th that in the Sun.

### Discovery of HE 1005-1439:

- ✓ The discovery of the new star challenges the previous understanding of star formation processes. For the first time, scientists have discovered an object that shows signs of having been formed through a combination of 2 different neutron capture processes such as slow (s-) and intermediate (i-).
- ✓ slow (s-) – occurs in low-mass stars during a particular phase called asymptotic giant branch (AGB).

- ✓ intermediate (i-) – the proposed site of i- process is low-metallicity low-mass AGB stars.

### India's 1st Long-Range Side Swing Revolver 'Prabal' Launched

- ✓ On 18th August 2023, India's first long-range side swing revolver 'Prabal' with "twice the range of other revolvers", manufactured by Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd. (AW&EIL), was launched at the Small Arms Factory (SFA) in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh for civilians and arms dealers.
- ✓ AW&EIL, a Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) based fully government-owned enterprise ultimate weapon system provider
- ✓ Prabal revolver is a lightweight .32 caliber 'side swing' revolver.
  - Weight: 675 grams (without cartridges).
- ✓ • Accuracy: Can hit targets up to 50 meters, double the range of other civilian handguns.
- ✓ • Features: Chrome-plated barrel of 76 millimeters length.
- ✓ • Dimensions: Overall length of 187.7 millimeters.

### Indian Army Inducts Swathi Mark II Mountain Variant WLR

- ✓ Indian Army inducted the first Swathi Mark II Mountain variant Weapon Locating Radar(WLR), a lighter and compact version WLR for mountains & high-altitude areas.
- ✓ The WLR was flagged off by Lieutenant General JB Chaudhari, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (CD&S) in Agra, Uttar Pradesh(UP).
- ✓ Swathi Mk II was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited(BEL), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise(PSE) under the Ministry of Defence(MoD), in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ The SWATHI WLR mountain version is the result of a collaborative effort between Radar House Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a premier laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with BEL.
- ✓ This is a state-of-the-art system that caters to the unique challenges posed by the mountain and high-altitude terrains.

### India's First Hydrogen Bus Hits the Public Roads in Leh, Ladakh

- ✓ NTPC has begun the trial of India's 1st hydrogen bus in Leh, Union Territory (UT) Ladakh. This marks India's 1st-ever use of hydrogen buses on public roads. The first hydrogen bus arrived in Leh, marking the initiation of a 3-month process involving field trials, roadworthiness tests, and necessary regulatory steps.
- ✓ NTPC is working towards achieving carbon-neutral Ladakh by establishing a hydrogen fuelling station, a solar plant, and introducing five fuel cell buses for local transport within the city of Leh. This is part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainability in the region.
- ✓ The first of its kind Green Hydrogen Mobility Project at 11,562 ft is co-located with dedicated Solar plant of 1.7 MW for providing renewable power. The fuel cell buses are designed for operation in sub-zero temperature in rarefied atmosphere, typical to such altitude locations which is a unique feature of this project.
- ✓ NTPC aims to achieve 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2032 and play a significant role in Green Hydrogen Technology and Energy Storage. The company is taking up several initiatives towards decarbonization such as Hydrogen blending, Carbon Capture, EV buses, Smart NTPC Townships etc.

### Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Indigenous E-Tractor, CSIR Prima ET11

- ✓ Union Minister of State(MoS) Dr.Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science & Technology, launched CSIR Prima ET11, India's 1st indigenous e-Tractor. It was developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, West Bengal.
- ✓ He also released a book by CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) and a compendium on 75 technologies developed by CSIR.

- ✓ This event highlights the introduction of advanced technology in the form of electric tractors to promote sustainability and innovation in the agricultural sector.

### Iran Unveils “Mohajer-10” New domestically Built Attack Drone

- ✓ The Iranian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics unveiled Mohajer-10, the new domestically build attack drone (unmanned combat aerial vehicle – UCAV) with enhanced capabilities.
- ✓ The drone was unveiled in the presence of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi at an exhibition celebrating Defense Industry Day.
- ✓ Mohajer-10 is the upgraded version of the “Mohajer6” and resembles the MQ-9 Reaper drone of the United States of America(USA).
- ✓ The word “Mohajer,” originating from Farsi, translates to “immigrant.” This has been the label for the drones series produced by Iran since 1985.

### NASA & SpaceX Launched International Crew-7 Astronaut Mission to ISS

- ✓ On 26th August 2023, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully launched the international Crew-7 astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS).The agency’s SpaceX Crew-7 mission is the seventh commercial crew rotation mission for NASA.
- ✓ The 4 astronauts of the Crew-7 mission lifted off atop a brand-new SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ The Crew-7 team will ride on the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, Endurance, which is a trained spaceflight, that previously completed missions as part of SpaceX’s Crew-3 and Crew-5 missions to the ISS.
- ✓ The journey from Earth to the ISS is estimated to take nearly 30 hours.
- ✓ The Crew: A crew of 4 astronauts from 4 different (countries’) space agencies is a rare occurrence in the history of spaceflight and is the most

international crew to fly with SpaceX to date and are:

- ✓ Commanding Crew -7 is NASA’s Jasmin Moghbeli, who is making her first spaceflight, and is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iranian-American to fly to space, after Anousheh Ansari;
- ✓ European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Andreas Mogensen, from Denmark, serves as Crew-7’s pilot, and he’s the first ESA astronaut to hold that title as part of a Dragon crew.
- ✓ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Satoshi Furukawa and Konstantin Borisov, of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, are flying as Crew-7 mission specialists.
- ✓ Crew-7 will join the space station’s Expedition 69 crew of NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen, Woody Hoburg, and Frank Rubio, as well as UAE (United Arab Emirates) astronaut Sultan Alneyadi, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Prokopyev, Dmitri Petelin, and Andrey Fedyayev. For a short time, the
- ✓ number of crew aboard the space station will increase to 11 until Crew-6 members Bowen, Hoburg, Alneyadi, and Fedyayev return to Earth a few days later.

### NewSpace India Limited partners with Tata Play to commission GSAT-24

- ✓ In a strategic partnership, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) teams up with Tata Play to introduce GSAT-24. The objective of this partnership is to augment satellite broadcasting capabilities and provide high-quality entertainment to every part of the nation. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in India’s telecommunications sector, propelled by state-of-the-art indigenous technology.
- ✓ The inclusion of GSAT-24 satellite will increase the bandwidth of Tata Play to deliver an even sharper picture and superior sound quality to its users. This strategic collaboration also empowers Tata Play to accommodate a staggering 50 percent more channels.
- ✓ GSAT-24, is an Indian Communication Satellite crafted by ISRO. It is a 4-tonne class communication satellite conceived by ISRO to facilitate DTH services.

## DEFENCE

### Zayed Talwar 2023, a Bilateral Naval Exercise Between India & UAE held in Dubai

- ✓ “Zayed Talwar 2023”, a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise was held between the Indian Navy (IN) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy from 8th to 11th August 2023 in Dubai, UAE.
- ✓ From India, INS (Indian Navy Ship) Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand participated. The delegation of IN was commanded by Rear Admiral Vineet McCarty, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF).
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam is an indigenously developed destroyer, and is commanded by Captain Ashok Rao, whereas INS Trikand, an advanced stealth frigate, is commanded by Captain Pramod G Thomas.
- ✓ Aim: To enhance the interoperability and synergy between the IN and UAE Navy by cross-training on tactics, techniques and procedures while also developing stronger professional bonds

### INS Chennai Participates in PASSEX with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail

- ✓ On 5th August 2023, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Chennai participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted off the coast (Red Sea) of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia which included tactical manoeuvres, seamanship evolutions and communication drills that contributed to reinforcing mutual trust, cementing operational understanding, and enhancing interoperability between the Indian and Saudi navies.
- ✓ INS Chennai, a P-15A Guided Missile Destroyer, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 2016. It was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra

### IAF To Host Mega Multilateral Air Exercise ‘Tarang Shakti’ in Mid-2024

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF), the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces, is set to host a mega multilateral military exercise in mid of 2024. It was initially scheduled for October-November 2023.
- ✓ The exercise, named Tarang Shakti, is scheduled to be the largest air exercise ever conducted in India and will be its 1st edition.
- ✓ Participating air forces from countries including France, the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, the United States(US), and Japan are expected to take part.
- ✓ Additionally, six other nations have been invited to observe the exercise.

### India, Japan, US, Australia hold 27th Malabar Naval Exercise off Australian Coast

- ✓ The 27th edition of naval Exercise MALABAR 2023 was held at East Coast of Australia off Sydney, between the Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) from August 11-21, 2023.
- ✓ The exercise was hosted by RAN and held in Australia for the first time.
- ✓ Aim: To enhance interoperability, share maritime security best practices.
- ✓ Representatives from India: Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sahyadri– It is the third vessel of the indigenous Project-17 class frigates, commanded by Capt Rajan Kapoor.
- ✓ INS Kolkata– It is the first in the Project-15A class destroyers, under the command of Capt Sharad Sinsunwal.
- ✓ Both ships, built at Mumbai, Maharashtra’s Mazagon Dock Ltd, are armed with advanced weaponry and sensors for comprehensive threat detection and response.

- ✓ P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft – It was manufactured by Boeing specially for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ MALABAR 2023 was conducted in two phases Harbour and Sea. The harbor phase took place from 11-15 August 2023, followed by the sea phase from 16-21 August 2023.
- ✓ The Harbour Phase involved cross-deck visits, exchanges, sports, planning.
- ✓ The Sea Phase includes various complex and high intensity exercises in all three domains of warfare, encompassing surface, air and under sea domains including live weapon firing drills.

### **INS Vagir Achieves Longest Scorpene Submarine Deployment, Travels 7,000 Km to Australia for Exercises**

- ✓ Indian Navy's INS Vagir, the 5th Kalvari class submarine, sets a new record for the longest deployment of a scorpene-class submarine, covering 7,000 km to reach Australia for joint military exercises.
- ✓ The submarine, commissioned in January 2023, arrived in Fremantle, Australia on August 20, 2023, to engage in exercises alongside RAN units.

### **Ex BRIGHT STAR-23: Maiden Multilateral Exercise of IAF Held in Egypt from August 27 to September 16, 2023**

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent will be participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023, towards encouraging global defense cooperation with Egypt. This is the first time that IAF is participating in Ex Bright Star-23.
- ✓ The participation of IAF showcases India's commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships and enhancing joint operational capabilities. IAF contingents engaging in flying exercises abroad make them true Diplomats in Flight Suits.
- ✓ Indian Participants: The IAF contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.

- ✓ Personnel from the IAF's Garud Special Forces, as well as those from the Numbers 28, 77, 78, and 81 Squadrons, will be participating in the exercise.

### **LCA Tejas Test-Fires Indigenous ASTRA Air-to-Air Missile off Goa Coast**

- ✓ On 23rd August 2023, India's Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) LSP-7 aircraft successfully test fired the ASTRA indigenous state-of-the-art Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air missile (AAM) off the coast of Goa.
- ✓ The missile release was carried out by Tejas at an altitude of about 20,000 feet(ft).
- ✓ It was a flawless test book launch and all test objectives were met.
- ✓ This will significantly enhance the combat skills of Tejas and reduce their dependency on imported weapons.
- ✓ **Features of ASTRA:**
- ✓ ASTRA is designed to be mounted on a fighter aircraft and engages and destroys highly manoeuvring supersonic aerial targets.
- ✓ It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other laboratories of DRDO.
- ✓ It is built to function across weather conditions, and during both day and night, the system is being developed to meet specific requirements.
- ✓ The indigenous Astra BVR firing from homegrown Tejas fighters is a major step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

### **Indian Air Force receives Israel's Spike Non Line of Sight Missiles**

- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) received air-launched Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles(ATGM) from Israel which can hit targets upto 50 km from a helicopter and 32 km from the ground.
- ✓ The NLOS missiles will be integrated with the fleet of Russian-origin Mi-17V5 helicopters, manufactured by Kazan Helicopters
- ✓ It was designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.



## LCA Navy Prototype NP5 Trainer Aircraft Completes Successful Maiden Flight

- ✓ The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Naval Trainer Prototype 'NP5' successfully completed its maiden flight in Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) Airport, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ LCA Navy is designed and developed jointly by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and HAL.
- ✓ **Features of LCA Navy NP5:**
- ✓ The LCA Navy NP5 is equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a fly-by-wire flight control system, a glass cockpit, and modern mechanical systems.
- ✓ It features modern hands-free ski jump take-off and landing flight control modes.
- ✓ It can operate with Air-to-Air weapons for combat missions and also capable of operating both during the day and night.
- ✓ NP5 is a production-ready version of the LCA aircraft including all the improvements identified during the testing of NP1 and NP2.
- ✓ The flight testing activities of NP5 aircraft will provide designers vital inputs towards the design and development of the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF).
- ✓ **About Previous Prototypes:**
- ✓ i.The first trainer prototype NP1 was flown on 27 April 2012 and the fighter prototype NP2 was flown on February 7, 2015.
- ✓ Both Naval Prototypes (NP1 and NP2) have achieved major landmark milestones like ski jump takeoff and arrested landing demonstrations on Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) at Dabolim Airport, Goa.

## India's indigenous Nag ATGM and Helina Dhruvastra Missiles Set to Join Indian Armed Forces

- ✓ India's indigenous Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian

army and Indian Air Force (IAF) after clearing all the trials.

- ✓ Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ✓ Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.
- ✓ **About Nag ATGM:** NAG also known as Prospina, is a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile with Fire and Forget top attack capability.
- ✓ Nag ATGM developed under the integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP), which also includes four other missiles—Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.
- ✓ The Nag has an operational range of up to 4 km and is armed with a tandem High-Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead.
- ✓ Nag ATGM measures approximately 1.834 meters in length, has a diameter of 0.158 meters, and weighs around 44 kilograms.
- ✓ **About Helina (Dhruvastra):**
- ✓ Helina is an Air to Surface Missile system launched from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). ALH is fitted with two Twin launchers, one on each side, each carrying eight missiles.
- ✓ It has the operational range up to 7km and length of 1.946m, and a diameter of 0.150m.
- ✓ It has a High Resolution Imaging Infrared Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) mode and capable of automatic target detection and tracking in adverse weather conditions.

## Indian Navy Successfully Undertook the Maiden Test Drop of SARK

- ✓ The Indian Navy successfully undertook the maiden test drop of the Search and Rescue Kit (SARK) from the Boeing P-8I long-range patrol aircraft on 15th August 2023 (77th Independence Day of India). The Test flight was conducted by the Indian Navy's INS (Indian Navy Ship) Hansa-based Indian Naval Air Squadrons (INAS) 316 squadron.
- ✓ SARK is an indigenous (Made in India) kit that can be dropped from aircraft with the help of parachutes to carry out rescue missions in the deep sea.

- ✓ It was developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment(ADRDE), a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Agra, Uttar Pradesh(UP).
- ✓ This will enable the Indian Navy to undertake search and rescue operations from long ranges off the coast and strengthen India's position as a Preferred Security Partner in the Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

### President of India Droupadi Murmu Launches INS Vindhyagiri

- ✓ In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyagiri. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- ✓ Following the launch of INS Vindhyagiri, the vessel will join its sister ships, INS Himgiri and INS Dunagiri, at the Outfitting Jetty at GRSE.
- ✓ The vessel derives its name from the mighty Vindhya mountain range, symbolizing strength, determination, and unwavering resolve. As INS Vindhyagiri touches the waters of the River Hooghly for the first time, it embarks on a journey that mirrors the resilience of the mountains after which it is named, upholding the cherished values that define our nation.

### Naval Chiefs of India and Philippines Sign SOP for White Shipping Information Exchange

- ✓ Chief of the Naval Staff and Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for exchange of White Shipping Information on 23 August 2023. The signing of the SOP between Philippine Coast Guard and Indian Navy would facilitate the operationalization of information exchange on merchant shipping traffic, which will contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region.
- ✓ White shipping information refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

### INS Kulish Participates In Celebration Of 77th Independence Day in Singapore

- ✓ In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette INS Kulish made its presence felt during Singapore's 77th Independence Day festivities. As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore.

### IAF To Hold Multi-National Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' Next Year

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, 'Tarang Shakti', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the middle of 2024. The decision to push the exercise to next year comes as several participating air forces expressed their inability to join the wargame if held in the current year. 'Tarang Shakti' is set to draw the involvement of some prominent air forces, including those of France, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, and Japan.
- ✓ These nations will contribute their aerial assets such as fighter jets, military transport aircraft, and mid-air refuelers to the exercise. Additionally, six other countries have been invited to participate as observers, further emphasizing the exercise's significance on the global stage.

### Government clears Rs 2000 cr deal to build five warships

- ✓ In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct five fleet support ships. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing warships with essential supplies including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions. The responsibility for constructing these crucial fleet support ships has been entrusted to the Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).

# AWARDS AND HONOURS

## The 69th National Film Awards

- ✓ On 24th August 2023, the winners of the 69th National Film Awards (2023) were announced by the jury panel during the event held at the National Media Centre, New Delhi, Delhi. Anurag Thakur, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, was presented with the list of the winners.
- ✓ 69th National Film Awards honoured the best films of 2021 in Indian cinema.
- ✓ The National Film Awards are organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), under Ministry for Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
- ✓ The awards are categorised into five categories. They are Dadasaheb Phalke Award (Lifetime Achievement Award), Feature films, Non Feature films, Best writing on cinema and Most film friendly state.
- ✓ The awards were announced by Ketan Mehta (Chairperson of the Feature Films Jury), Vasanth S Sai (Chairperson of the Non-Feature Films Jury) and Yatindra Mishra (Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury).
- ✓ The awards were announced in the presence of Ms. Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ Currently the award is announced only for three categories i.e., Feature films, Non Features films, Best writing on cinema.
- ✓ **RRR (Rise Roar Revolt)**, a Telugu film directed by S. S. Rajamouli, has won the most number of awards i.e. 6 at the 69th National Film Awards.
- ✓ The Hindi movie **'Gangubai' Kathiawadi and Sardar Udham** received five awards each.
- ✓ **Rocketry: The Nambi Effect**, directed by R Madhavan won the Best Feature Film award.



**Rocketry:** The Nambi Effect is a biographical drama based on the life story of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) scientist Nambi Narayanan, who was accused in the ISRO espionage case and later exonerated.

- ✓ **Ek Tha Gaon** directed by Srishti Lakhera won the Best Non-Feature Film award.
- ✓ Ek Tha Gaon is a documentary film on a Ghost Village made in Garhwali and Hindi language.
- ✓ **The Kashmir Files** directed by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration.
- ✓ **Best Actor and Actress:**
- ✓ Telugu Actor Allu Arjun won the Best Actor award for the film Pushpa (The Rise Part I). With this, he became the first Telugu actor to win the National Award under Best Actor category.
- ✓ The Best Actress award was shared by Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon for Mimi.

### Complete Winners List

Best Feature Film	-	<b>Rocketry</b>
Best Director	-	<b>Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari</b>
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	-	<b>RRR</b>
Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	-	<b>The Kashmir Files</b>
Best Actor	-	<b>Allu Arjun, Pushpa</b>
Best Actress	-	<b>Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi</b>
Best Supporting Actor	-	<b>Pankaj Tripathi, Mimi</b>
Best Supporting Actress	-	<b>Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files</b>
Best Child Artist	-	<b>Bhavin Rabari, Chhello Show</b>
Best Screenplay (Original)	-	<b>Shahi Kabir, Nayattu</b>
Best Screenplay (Adapted)	-	<b>Sanjay Leela Bhansali &amp; Utkarshini Vashishtha, Gangubai Kathiawadi</b>
Best Dialogue Writer	-	<b>Utkarshini Vashishtha &amp; Prakash Kapadia, Gangubai Kathiawadi</b>
Best Music Director (Songs)	-	<b>Devi Sri Prasad, Pushpa</b>

Best Music Direction (Background Music) - <b>MM Keeravaani, RRR</b>	Best Production Design - <b>Dmitrii Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta, Sardar Udham</b>
Best Male Playback Singer- <b>Kaala Bhairava, RRR</b>	Best Editing - <b>Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Gangubai Kathiawadi</b>
Best Female Playback Singer - <b>Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal</b>	Best Makeup- <b>Preetisheel Singh, Gangubai Kathiawadi</b>
Best Lyrics - <b>Chandrabose, Konda Polam's Dham Dham Dham</b>	Best Stunt Choreography- <b>King Solomon, RRR</b>
Best Hindi Film - <b>Sardar Udham</b>	Special Jury Award - <b>Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan</b>
Best Kannada Film - <b>777 Charlie</b>	<b>Special Mention</b> 1. Late Shri Nallandi, Kadaisi Vivasayi 2. Aranya Gupta & Bithan Biswas, Jhilli 3. Indrans, Home 4. Jahanara Begum, Anur
Best Malayalam Film - <b>Home</b>	Best Non-feature film - <b>Ek Tha Gaon</b>
Best Gujarati Film - <b>Chhello Show</b>	Best Direction (Non-feature film) - <b>Bakul Matiyani, Smile Please</b>
Best Tamil Film - <b>Kadaisi Vivasayi</b>	Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director <b>Paanchika, Ankit Kothari</b>
Best Telugu Film - <b>Uppena</b>	Best Anthropological Film - <b>Fire on Edge</b>
Best Maithili Film - <b>Samanantar</b>	Best Biographical Film - <b>Rukhu Matir Dukhu Majhi and Beyond Blast</b>
Best Mishing Film - <b>Boomba Ride</b>	Best Arts Films- <b>T.N. Krishnan Bow Strings to Divine</b>
Best Marathi Film - <b>Ekda Kaay Zala</b>	Best Science & Technology Films- <b>Ethos of Darkness</b>
Best Bengali Film - <b>Kalkokkho</b>	Best Promotional Film - <b>Endangered Heritage 'Warli Art'</b>
Best Assamese Film - <b>Anur</b>	Best Environment Film (Non-feature film)- <b>Munnam Valavu</b>
Best Meiteilon Film - <b>Eikhoigi Yum</b>	Best Film on Social Issues (Non-feature film)- <b>Mithu Di and Three Two One</b>
Best Odia Film - <b>Pratikshya</b>	Best Investigative Film - <b>Looking For Challan</b>
Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director- <b>Meppadiyan, Vishnu Mohan</b>	Best Exploration Film <b>Ayushman</b>
Best Film on Social Issues Anunaad - <b>The Resonance</b>	Best Educational Film <b>Sirpigalin Sirpangal</b>
Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation - <b>Aavasavyuham</b>	Best Short Fiction Film <b>Dal Bhat</b>
Best Children's Film - <b>Gandhi and Co</b>	Best Animation Film <b>Kandittundu</b>
Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist) - <b>Arun Asok &amp; Sonu K P, Chavittu</b>	Best Film on Family Values <b>Chand Saanse</b>
Best Audiography (Sound Designer) - <b>Aneesh Basu, Jhilli</b>	Best Cinematography (Non-feature film)- <b>Bittu Rawat, Pataal</b>
Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track) - <b>Sinoy Joseph, Sardar Udham</b>	Best Audiography (Re-recordist of the final mixed track) (Non-feature film) - <b>Unni krishnan, Ek Tha Gaon</b>
Best Choreography - <b>Prem Rakshith, RRR</b>	Best Production Sound Recordist (Location/Sync Sound) (Non-feature film) <b>Suruchi Sharma, Meen Raag</b>
Best Cinematography - <b>Avik Mukhopadhyay, Sardar Udham</b>	
Best Costume Designer - <b>Veera Kapur Ee, Sardar Udham</b>	
Best Special Effects - <b>Srinivas Mohan, RRR</b>	

Best Editing (Non-feature film)	<b>Abhro Banerjee</b> , If Memory Serves Me Right
Best Music Direction (Non-feature film)	<b>Ishaan Divecha</b> , Succelent
Best Narration/Voice Over (Non-feature film)	<b>Kulada Kumar Bhattacharjee</b> , Hathibondu
<b>Special Mention (Non-feature film)</b>	1. Aniruddha Jatkar, Baale Bangara, 2. Srikanth Deva, Karuvarai, 3. Sweta Kumar Das, The Healing Touch, 4. Ram Kamal Mukherjee, Ek Duaa
Special Jury Award (Non-feature film)	<b>Shekhar Bapu Rankhambe, Rekha</b>
Best Book on Cinema Music by	<b>Laxmikant Pyarelal</b> : The Incredibly Melodious Journey by Rajiv Vijayakar
Best Film Critic	<b>Purushothama Charyulu</b>
Best Film Critic (Special Mention)	<b>Subramanya Bandoor</b>

### SVAMITVA Scheme Of Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Won National Award For E-Governance 2023

- ✓ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's SVAMITVA Scheme was honored with the National Award for e-Governance 2023 at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance.
- ✓ The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been honored with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services.
- ✓ The accolade was presented during the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.
- ✓ The SVAMITVA Scheme, a brainchild of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, represents a revolutionary initiative aimed at granting property ownership rights to individuals residing in village-inhabited areas.

### PM Modi honoured with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government. The citation for the award said that it was being given to PM Modi "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Greece and India". It also praised his "commitment to strengthening the ties between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural and people-to-people spheres". PM Modi is the first Indian prime minister to be conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour. He is also the first foreign head of government to be awarded the honour since 2017.



### 5 young Indians among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero award winners

- ✓ Five youths from India have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- ✓ The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.
- ✓ The International Young Eco-Hero Awards programme recognises and encourages children and teens from ages 8 to 16 who have taken action towards solving the most critical environmental issues.



- ✓ The awardees are eco-conscious youth who took the crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems. Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 20 years, “Action For Nature” has recognised 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 US states.

### Winners of India Smart Cities Awards Contest 2022

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the winners of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) organised under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), MoHUA.
- ✓ Indore topped the National Smart City Award, followed by Surat and Agra in second and third place respectively.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh topped the state award, followed by Tamil Nadu in second place, and Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in third place.
- ✓ Chandigarh has awarded best Union Territory award.
- ✓ President of India, Droupadi Murmu, will felicitate the winners of ISAC 2022 awards on 27th September 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



### Myra Grover honoured with ‘Empowered Women Icon Award’ by House of Lords, UK Parliament

- ✓ Myra Grover, a distinguished author and Secretary of the New Delhi Social Workers Association (NDSWA) has been awarded the Prestigious ‘Women Icon Award’, an international recognition and award from the House of
- ✓ Lords, the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament, for her contributions to the society in the domain of Mental Wellness.
- ✓ Dr. Gaurav Grover, Chairman of NDSWA, a Delhi based Non-Profit Organisation(NGO) has been honored with the Bharat Gaurav Samman by the House of Lords, UK Parliament.

- ✓ The ‘Women Icon Award’ by the House of Lords, UK’s upper house, honors exceptional women for impactful contributions in their fields, inspiring communities globally.

### Swachh Vayu Survekshan– 2023; 2 cities of Madhya Pradesh Among Top 5

- ✓ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) released ‘Swachh Vayu Survekshan- 2023’, an initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to rank cities on the basis of air quality.

SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2023				City Name	Assessment by city	Assessment by CPCB	Rank
Category I: Population above 10L				Indore	191	187	1
Category I: Population above 10L				Bhopal	187	181	5
Category I: Population above 10L				Jabalpur	172	172	12
Category I: Population above 10L				Gwalior	171	114	41
Category II: Population ranging from 3 to 10L				Udaipur	189	182	5
Category II: Population ranging from 3 to 10L				Sagar	188.2	170.7	9
Category III: Population less than 3L				Dewas	181	180	6

- ✓ The Information Technology (IT) hub of Indore, Madhya Pradesh stood first among 47 cities in Category 1 cities.
- ✓ This recognition is a part of the National Mission for Clean Air and takes place annually on the 7th of September, observed as the “International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.”

#### Criteria for Ranking

- ✓ The Criteria for Ranking of cities is based on population of 2011 census. 131 cities are divided into 3 categories mentioned below:
- ✓ Category 1- covers 47 cities with a population of above 10 Lakh.
- ✓ Category 2- covers 44 cities with a population between 3 to 10 lakh.
- ✓ Category 3- covers 40 cities with a population of below 3 Lakh.
- ✓ In Category 2, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh stands at 10th place in the country.
- ✓ In Category 3, Dewas in Madhya Pradesh has secured 6th position in the country.
- ✓ The two of the top five positions have been secured by Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has introduced “Swachh Vayu Survekshan,” a novel initiative aimed to rank cities on the basis of air quality and also on implementation of activities approved under city action plan in 131 non-attainment cities.

## SPORTS

### Indian Women's Hockey Team wins inaugural Women's Hockey 5s Asia Cup; defeats Thailand 7-2 in Final

- ✓ On 28th August 2023, The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the inaugural Women's Hockey5s Asia Cup by defeating Thailand (7-2) in the final match. Women's Hockey5s Asia Cup 2023, held in Salalah, Oman from 25th to 28th August 2023, was the qualifying tournament FIH(Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Women Hockey 5s World Cup 2024.
- ✓ With this victory, India qualifies for the FIH Women Hockey 5s World Cup 2024, the inaugural edition of FIH Hockey5s World Cup, which is to be held in Muscat, Oman from 24th to 27th January 2024.
- ✓ Mariana Kujur (2nd, 8th minutes) and Jyoti (10th, 27th) scored a brace for India, while Monika Dipi Toppo (7th), skipper Navjot Kaur (23rd) and Mahima Choudhary (29th) were the other goal scorers. For Thailand, Kunjira Inpa (5th) and Sanpoung Kornkanok (5th) were on target.
- ✓ Player of the Tournament was Aunjai Natthakarn (Thailand) and Goalkeeper of the Tournament was Rumbiak Iryani (Indonesia).

### WR Chess Team Wins FIDE World Rapid Team Championship 2023

- ✓ WR Chess team won the 1st edition of World Chess Federation (FIDE) World Rapid Team Championship 2023 held in Dusseldorf, Germany from 25th to 28th August 2023.
- ✓ Team Freedom finished second, while the Indian squad of MGD1 was third.
- ✓ The team Columbus Energy Kings Of Chess from Kraków(Poland) won 12,500 Euros as the best-performing team with a rating below 2400.
- ✓ The special prize 'Rainer Niermann Cup' for the best game by a youngster was won by 12-year-old Christian Glöckler of Germany for his victory over South African Grand Master(GM) Kenny Solomon.

### F1 Dutch GP: Max Verstappen Wins 11th Title of 2023 Season

- ✓ Max Verstappen, the Red Bull driver (Dutch-Belgian) won the title at the Formula 1 (F1) Heineken Dutch Grand Prix(GP) held at Circuit Zandvoort, Amsterdam, the Netherlands from 25th to 27th August 2023.
- ✓ Spain's Fernando Alonso(Aston Martin ) won second place and France's Pierre Gasly finished in third place for the first time with Alpine.
- ✓ This also marks Verstappen's 11th victory of the 2023 season out of 13 and 46th of his career.
- ✓ This marks his 9th consecutive F1 win of the 2023 season equals German racing driver Sebastian Vettel's record in 2013 with Red Bull.

### Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold Medal in the World Athletics Championships 2023

- ✓ The 2020 Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has won the gold medal in the men's javelin with an 88.17 meter (m) throw in the World Athletics Championships 2023.
- ✓ The 19th edition of the World Athletics Championships (2023) was held in (Venue – The National Athletics Centre) Budapest, Hungary from 19th to 27th August 2023.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra finished first followed by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem (87.82m) in the second and Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m) of the Czech Republic in the third.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian to win gold at the World Athletics Championships.
- ✓ Other Indian athletes Kishore Jena (84.77m) and DP Manu (84.14m) finished fifth and sixth respectively in the finals.
- ✓ This marks India's third medal at the World Athletics Championships after Anju Bobby George's long jump bronze at Paris 2003 and Neeraj's silver at Oregon 2022.



## Badminton : Kunlavut Vitidsarn Wins Men's Singles Title at the BWF World Championships 2023

- ✓ Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and An Se-young of South Korea won the men's singles and Women's singles titles respectively in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2023.
- ✓ The TotalEnergies Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2023 held in Royal Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark from 21st to 27th August 2023.
- ✓ India's HS Prannoy won the bronze medal in the men's singles at the BWF World Championships 2023.
- ✓ **Men's Singles:** Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand won the men's singles title by defeating Naraoka Kodai of Japan. It marks Thailand's first men's singles title at the BWF World Championships.
- ✓ The final match lasted about 109 minutes marking the the second-longest World Championship men's singles final after the 124-minute match between China's Sun Jun and Denmark's Peter Rasmussen in the inaugural World Championships in 1977.
- ✓ **Women's Singles:** An Se-young of South Korea won the women's singles title by defeating the 2016 Rio Olympics gold medalist Carolina Marin of Spain.
- ✓ It marks South Korea's first women's singles title at the BWF World Championships.
- ✓ **Men's Doubles:** South Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae won the men's doubles title by defeating Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark.
- ✓ **Women's Doubles:** China's Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan won the women's doubles title by defeating Apriyani Rahayu and Silva Ramadhanti of Indonesia..



- ✓ **Mixed Doubles:** Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung of South Korea won the mixed doubles title by defeating Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong of China.
- ✓ Seo Seung Jae won two titles in the 2023 BWF World Championships including men's doubles along with Kang Min Hyuk.

## FIDE World Chess Cup 2023: Magnus Carlsen Wins First Chess World Cup Title Defeating Praggnanandhaa

- ✓ Norwegian Grandmaster (GM) and World No. 1 player Magnus Carlsen won his first International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Cup title by defeating India's GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 finals.
- ✓ The 10th edition of the FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 was held from 29th July to 24th August 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ✓ Fabiano Caruana of the United States of America (USA) defeated Nijat Asabov of Azerbaijan to secure the 3rd place.
- ✓ Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in the tie-breaker after the two classical games ended in a stalemate.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa becomes the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand to reach the Chess World Cup final in 2002.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa's performance in the World Cup earned him a spot in the 2024 FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto, Canada.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa (18-year-old) is the third-youngest player to qualify for this event after Carlsen and GM Bobby Fischer.
- ✓ This was the first time four Indians qualified for the quarterfinals including Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, D. Gukesh, and Arjun Erigaisi.
- ✓ **FIDE Women's World Cup 2023**
- ✓ Alongside FIDE World Cup 2023, the 2nd edition of the Women's only version of the Women's World Cup 2023 took place in Baku, Azerbaijan from 29th July to 22nd August 2023.





- ✓ Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia won the 2023 FIDE Women's Chess World Cup title by defeating Nurgul Salimova of Bulgaria in the finals.

**About FIDE:**

- ✓ President – Arkady Dvorkovich
- ✓ Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland
- ✓ Established – 1924

**India Wins 14 medals in World Under-20 Wrestling Championships 2023**

- ✓ India wrestlers won a total of 14 medals(4 golds, 3 silver and 7 bronze) in the World Under-20 Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Amman, Jordan from 14th to 20th August 2023 .
- ✓ India also claimed its first women's team title at the World Under-20 Wrestling Championships 2023 with seven medals(3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze).
- ✓ The 19-year-old Antim Panghal from Haryana won the gold in Women's 53kg event defeating Mariia Yefremova of Ukraine .
- ✓ She is the first Indian woman to become an Under20 (U-20) wrestling world champion in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2022.
- ✓ She became the first Indian woman wrestler to win two U-20 world championships.
- ✓ Priya Malik won the gold in women's 76kg category by defeating Laura Celine Kuehn of Germany.
- ✓ She became the second Indian woman to win the U-20 world championship.
- ✓ Mohit Kumar became the U-20 world champion in the 61kg freestyle category (Men's) by defeating Eldar Akhmadudinov of Russia
- ✓ Savita Dalal won the gold in the Women's 62kg category against Venezuela's Astrid Paola Montero Chirinos.
- ✓ She had also won the under-17 World crown in Istanbul, Turkey in 2023.
- ✓ Indian Men's team ranked 3rd in Freestyle category, Iran stood 1st.



**FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Spain Defeated England to win their 1st Women's World Cup**

- ✓ Spain Women's football team (nicknamed La Roja) won the Fédération Internationale de football Association(FIFA) Women's World Cup 2023 by defeating England 1-0 in the finals at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia on 20th August 2023.
- ✓ This marks Spain's 1st title at the senior level and they won 1st Under-20 FIFA World Cup in 2022 and two U-17 FIFA World Cup in 2018 & 2022.
- ✓ Medal Winners of 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup: Spain – **Gold**, England – **Silver**,Sweden- **Bronze**.
- ✓ The 9th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup was co-hosted for the first time by Australia and New Zealand from 20th July to 20th August 2023. 32 teams participated in this edition.



**Pakistan Fast Bowler Wahab Riaz Retires From International Cricket**

- ✓ Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz announced his retirement from international cricket across all formats. He continues to play in franchise cricket.
- ✓ He has been serving as the caretaker Sports Minister of the Punjab province in Pakistan since January 2023.
- ✓ Wahab Riaz made his international debut in an ODI against Zimbabwe in 2008.
- ✓ He also made his T20I debut against Bangladesh at Karachi, Pakistan in 2008.
- ✓ In 2010, he made his Test debut at the Oval, London in the United Kingdom.He has 83 wickets in 27 tests, 120 wickets in 91 one-day internationals (ODIs)and 34 wickets in 36 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- ✓ He played his last international match against New Zealand in 2020 in a T20I at Hamilton, New Zealand. He was part of the Pakistan team in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's World Cup (ODI) in 2011, 2015 and 2019.

## Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023: Indian Men's Hockey Team won by Defeating Malaysia

- ✓ The 7th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 held from 3rd to 12th August 2023 in the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Indian Men's hockey team clinched the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 Title by defeating Malaysia (4-3) in the finals held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Malaysia secured the Silver Medal in the tournament.
- ✓ This victory marks India's 4th win in the tournament including 2011, 2016, 2018, 2023 and becomes the Successful team in the tournament surpassing Pakistan (2012, 2013, 2018).
- ✓ Japan's men's hockey team defeated South Korea to secure the Bronze Medal (3rd place).
- ✓ India and Pakistan shared the 2018 Title due to rain affecting the final.

## FISU World University Games 2023: India finishes with 26 Medals

- ✓ India finished 7th with 26 medals (11 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze) at 31st edition of the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) World University Games 2023 held in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, from 28th July to 8th August 2023.
- ✓ China finished 1st in the medal tally with 178 medals (103 gold, 40 silver and 35 bronze).
- ✓ FISU World University Games, formerly known as 'Universiade' was organised by International University Sports Federation.
- ✓ Jyothi Yarraji won the bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles and set a new national record with a timing of 12.78 seconds in the women's-only 100m hurdles.

## Australian Badminton Open 2023: HS Prannoy Wins Silver Medal in Men's Singles Finals

- ✓ India's Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar settled to silver medal in the men's singles after losing the finals against China's Weng Hong Yang at the Sathio Group Australian Open 2023 (Australian

Open 2023) held at the state sports centre in Sydney, Australia from 1st to 6th August 2023.

- ✓ HSBC Badminton World Federation (BWF) Australian Open 2023 is the World Tour Super 500 tournament.
- ✓ **Men's Singles:** China's Weng Hong Yang won the men's singles title defeating India's HS Prannoy.
- ✓ HS Prannoy defeated Priyanshu Rajawat (India) in semifinals to enter 2023 Australian Open finals.
- ✓ Previously, Prannoy defeated Weng Hong Yang in the finals of Malaysia Masters Super 500 in May 2023 to win his first BWF World Tour title.
- ✓ **Women's singles:** Chinese born American Beiwen Zhang won the women's singles title by defeating Kim Ga Eun of South Korea.

## World Archery Championships 2023: India won Gold for the 1st time & Topped Medal Tally with 4 medals

- ✓ India topped the medal tally with 4 medals (3 gold and 1 bronze) at the 52nd edition of the Hyundai World Archery Championships 2023, held in the Berlin Olympic Park in Berlin, Germany from 31st July to 6th August 2023.
- ✓ India won the gold medal for the first time since its 1st edition that held in 1931.
- ✓ South Korea secured 2nd position in the medal tally with 3 medals (2 gold and 1 bronze) followed by Germany, Poland and Türkiye in 3rd position each with 2 medals (1 gold and 1 silver).
- ✓ This event marks the first major qualifier event in archery for the 2024 Paris Olympic.
- ✓ The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur won the gold medal beating Mexico in the final.
- ✓ This marks India's first-ever gold medal in the World Archery Championships.

## England Bowler Stuart Broad Retires From all Forms of Cricket

- ✓ The 37 year old England Cricketer Stuart Christopher John Broad announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket on 29th July 2023 during the midway of England vs Australia's 5th Ashes Test at The Oval stadium, London, United Kingdom (UK).

## PERSONS IN NEWS

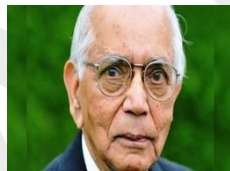
### Rajasthan's Priyan Sain Crowned Miss Earth India 2023

- ✓ Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held on August 26 in New Delhi. The 20-year-old student, dancer, and taekwondo player from Jaipur, Rajasthan succeeds last year's winner Vanshika Parmar, and will now prepare to represent India at the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December. She received her crown from reigning Miss Earth from Korea Mina Sue Choi who was invited as a special guest along with Miss Earth Air from Australia Sheridan Mortlock.



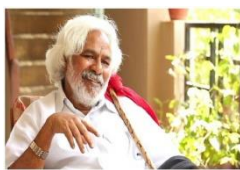
### Legendary statistical scientist CR Rao passes away at the age of 103

- ✓ C Radhakrishna Rao, one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious "International Prize in Statistics-2023", often referred to as the "statistics" equivalent of the Nobel Prize".
- ✓ C R Rao was born into a Telugu family in Ballari, which was part of the Madras Presidency and is now in Karnataka. In 1941, he completed his MSc in Mathematics from Andhra University and joined Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta in 1943 as research scholar.



### Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away

- ✓ Renowned folk singer and activist Gaddar, who had been battling severe heart disease, passed away at the age of 74. He had been undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the past 10 days following a cardiac arrest.



- ✓ Gaddar, also known as Gummadi Vittal Rao, gained popularity primarily through his stage name. He earned the title of the people's singer due to his songs that brought attention to various issues faced by the common people. Additionally, he showcased his acting skills in a few films, including "Maa Bhoomi" and "Rangula Kala".

### Indian English poet Jayanta Mahapatra passes away

- ✓ Jayanta Mahapatra, one of India's best known English poets, passed away at the age of 95. The legendary poet has left an imprint in the Indian English poetry with his writings spanning over 50 years. He was born in Cuttack, Odisha, India, in 22 October 1928. He studied at the Ravenshaw College in Cuttack and the University of Delhi. After graduating, he worked as a teacher and journalist.



- ✓ Mr. Mahapatra, a physics teacher, fell in love with English poetry in his late 30s. After publishing of his first collection 'Swayamvara and Other Poems' in 1971, he never looked back. His poetries 'Close the Sky Ten by Ten' catapulted him to the top league of writers.

### ISRO scientist N Valarmathi, voice behind Chandrayaan-3 countdown, passes away

- ✓ N Valarmathi, an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist, who lent her voice to countdowns for rocket launches in Sriharikota, died after a cardiac arrest. She was last heard during the countdown announcement for the launch of Chandrayaan-3 that made a historic landing on the Moon. Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 14. Chandrayaan 3 was her final countdown announcement.



# APPOINTMENTS

## Jaya Verma Sinha 1st Woman Chairperson to Head the Railway Board

- ✓ The government appointed Jaya Verma Sinha as the first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board, the top decision-making body for the Ministry of Railways. Ms. Sinha is the first ever woman to head the Board in its 118-year-old history. The Railway Board came into effect in 1905. She will assume office on or after September 1, and before this she was the Member (Operations and Business Development). She was at the forefront while handling the aftermath of the tragic Balasore accident which killed 291 people. Her tenure will be till August 31, 2024.



## Former CJI NV Ramana appointed as member of International Mediation Panel

- ✓ Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana has been appointed as member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC). Chairman of SIMC George Lim presented Justice Ramana the letter of appointment on Tuesday in Singapore. The former CJI is in Singapore to take part in the “Singapore Convention Week”, the annual convention organised by Singapore’s Ministry of Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and over 20 partner organisations.
- ✓ Justice Ramana met representatives of SIMC and four top Indian corporate majors Tata, Reliance, Mahindra and Aditya Birla groups, who came forward to sign ‘Declaration of Intent’ to support mediation at the initiative of Justice Ramana.



## Geetika Srivastava becomes India's First Woman Charge d'Affaires In Pakistan

- ✓ Geetika Srivastava, currently serving as joint secretary at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), will be India’s new charge d’affaires at its high commission in Islamabad, Pakistan. She will succeed Suresh Kumar, who is likely to return to New Delhi. After 77 years of Independence, India has appointed a female head of mission in Pakistan.

## Infosys Signs Tennis Stars Rafael Nadal & Iga Swiatek As Its Ambassadors For 3 Years

- ✓ Infosys announces a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, appointing him as the brand ambassador and the face of Infosys’ Digital Innovation. This partnership not only marks a milestone for Nadal but also signifies Infosys’ dedication to transforming the tennis landscape through cutting-edge technologies.
- ✓ women’s tennis World No. 1, Iga Swiatek. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women worldwide.

## Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon

- ✓ Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a “national icon” of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar in the national capital on Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness.



- ✓ The EC's decision to appoint Tendulkar as its national icon is a significant step towards encouraging greater voter participation in India. Tendulkar's popularity and influence among the youth make him a powerful force for good, and he is sure to make a positive impact on the electoral process.

### Justice Prakash Shrivastava appointed as NGT chairperson

- ✓ Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Shrivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. He Practised on Tax, Civil and Constitutional sides in the Supreme Court of India at New Delhi. He was later appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 15, 2010.



### Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairman of UIDAI

- ✓ The Centre has announced the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mr. Mishra, known for his expertise in economics and research, currently serves as the Chief Economist of Axis Bank and also holds the position of Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.

### PR Seshadri appointed new MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023.
- ✓ PR Seshadri is an accomplished banker with experiences spanning multiple businesses, functional lines and geographies. He has significant experiences in enterprise level management and in

the management of all key commercial banking business lines and he has substantial experience in successfully managing investors, boards and regulatory relationships in multiple geographies.

### Parminder Chopra appointed as CMD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- ✓ Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14, 2023. She earlier held additional charge as CMD from June 1, and was Director (Finance) from July 1, 2020. She also played a key role in the successful implementation of a Rs 1.12 lakh crore Liquidity Infusion Scheme (LIS) for the power distribution sector, which was rolled out as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



### Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh appointed SEBI whole-time members

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members. While Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary




at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- ✓ Both Varshney and Singh have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to an order issued by the Secretariat of the ACC. At SEBI, Varshney and Singh will fill in the vacancies created by the retirement of S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua.

## Centre appoints R Doraiswamy as LIC Managing Director

- ✓ Government of India had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai. He has been appointed as managing director of LIC in place of Mini Ipe with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office on or after September 1, 2023, and up to the date of his superannuation August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the national insurer said in a regulatory filing.


## Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman

- ✓ IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri who superannuated as CBIC chief on May 31.  In an order issued on August 5, the finance ministry had appointed Agarwal, who was holding charge of CBIC member compliance management, looking into investigations.
- ✓ The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes — GST, customs, excise — is headed by a chairman and has six members in the board. The board is assisted by principal chief commissioners/chief commissioners and principal director generals/ director generals.


## SBI Life's Appointment of Amit Jhingran as MD & CEO

- ✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited. Amit Jhingran has over three decades of experience in the insurance sector and serves as the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle. He joined the company in 1991 as a probationary officer and has been with SBI Life since then. Amit Jhingran had also held the post of CEO of SBI, Chicago.

## Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its CFO

- ✓ Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down. He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post.
- ✓ Mr Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of "tremendous expansion and growth" in the company filing. 

## Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets one-year extension

- ✓ Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history. The decision was made by  the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This extension comes as a result of the relaxation of important rules, allowing him to continue in his position beyond August 30, 2023.
- ✓ The Central government has the authority to grant an extension in service to the cabinet secretary in the public interest. However, this extension cannot exceed four years in total.

## Anwarul Haq Kakar Sworn In As Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister

- ✓ Anwarul Haq Kakar, a prominent ethnic Pushtun leader with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the country's caretaker prime minister. With this appointment, Kakar is entrusted with the responsibility of heading an impartial administration, supervising the forthcoming general elections, and addressing the economic hurdles confronting the country.

## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

### All-India House Price Index Surges 5.1% in Q1FY24: RBI's Latest Data

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled its latest data, revealing a significant upswing in the All-India House Price Index (HPI). In the April-June quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, the HPI recorded a robust growth rate of 5.1%. This marks a noteworthy increase compared to the 3.4% growth observed during the same period in the previous year.
- ✓ The RBI's quarterly HPI report draws upon transaction-level data sourced from registration authorities in ten major cities across India. These cities include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai. The growth trends within these cities exhibit considerable diversity.
- ✓ Delhi Leads with 14.9% Growth: Among the cities, Delhi stands out with an impressive annual HPI growth rate of 14.9%. This substantial increase underscores the city's robust real estate market
- ✓ Kolkata Witnesses a Contraction: In contrast, Kolkata experienced a decline in house prices, with a contraction of 6.6%. This variation highlights the disparities in housing market performance across different regions.

### India ranks 6th in South Asia region for Internet Resilience

- ✓ India, a rapidly developing nation in the realm of technology and connectivity, has achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI). This achievement positions India as the sixth-ranked country in the South Asian region.
- ✓ The IRI, developed by the global non-profit organization Internet Society, provides a comprehensive assessment of a country's internet ecosystem, taking into account factors such as security, performance, infrastructure, and market readiness.
- ✓ The country's security ranking has been deemed above average, largely attributed to its exceptional

adoption of the latest Internet Protocol, IPv6. As the world grapples with the expansion of networks and the depletion of IPv4 addresses, India has taken a leading stance by embracing IPv6, which supports the ever-growing demand for internet-connected devices.

- ✓ While India's commendable internet resilience is noteworthy, several neighboring countries have exceeded it in the IRI ranking. Within the South Asian region, countries like Bhutan (58 percent), Bangladesh (51 percent), Maldives (50 percent), Sri Lanka (47 percent), and Nepal (43 percent) have achieved higher positions. These rankings offer valuable insights into the region's advancement and highlight areas where India has the potential to enhance its internet resilience.

Top 5 countries in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI)		
1	Bhutan	58 percent
2	Bangladesh	51 percent
3	Maldives	50 percent
4	Sri Lanka	47 percent
5	Nepal	43 percent

### World rice price index jumps to near 12-year high in July: FAO report

- ✓ As reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the FAO All Rice Price Index witnessed a 2.8 percent escalation in July compared to the preceding month, with an average value of 129.7 points. This reflects an approximate 20 percent surge from the same period in the previous year and marks the most elevated level observed since September 2011.
- ✓ The escalation in rice prices is being propelled by various factors, including:
- ✓ Robust rice demand is among the key drivers behind the increasing rice prices.
- ✓ An additional factor is India's recent decision to limit exports, causing a reduction in the global rice supply.

- ✓ Unpredictable weather patterns in certain rice-producing nations have resulted in diminished yields, exacerbating the supply shortage.
- ✓ Countries such as India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan are prominent rice exporters, whereas China, the Philippines, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, and Malaysia play a crucial role as rice importers.
- ✓ In the fiscal year 2022-23, India's exports of non-basmati white rice amounted to USD 4.2 million, a notable increase from the previous year's USD 2.62 million. Noteworthy destinations for India's non-basmati white rice exports encompass the US, Thailand, Italy, Spain, and Sri Lanka.

### 8 Indian Companies Featured in the 2023 Fortune Global 500 list with Reliance Industries Ranked High at 88

- ✓ Reliance Industries, led by Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, featured in the Fortune Global 500 list of 2023. Reliance Industries climbed 16 places and now holds a rank at number 88 in the Fortune Global 500 list of 2023. The company has gained 67 places in the last 2 years from number 155 in 2021.
- ✓ Among the 8 Indian Companies on the list, Reliance Industries maintained its highest ranking.
- ✓ The other Indian companies on the list are: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, State Bank of India (SBI), Tata Motors, and Rajesh Exports.
- ✓ Reliance Industries in the 2022 list held the rank at number 104. The rank at number 88 is the best ever achievement of Reliance Industries in the Fortune Global 500 list.

#### Ranking of Other Indian Firms:

- ✓ LIC was first featured in the Fortune Global 500 list in 2022. In 2023, it slipped 9 places to 107 from 98 in 2022.
- ✓ IOC jumped 48 places to rank at number 94, it was 142 in 2022.
- ✓ ONGC was ranked number 158, it was 190 in 2022.
- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd at number 233, was 295 in 2022.

- ✓ SBI was placed at number 235 on the list, it was 236 in 2022.
- ✓ Tata Motors climbed 33 positions at number 337, it was 370 in 2022
- ✓ Rajesh Motors climbed 84 places to number 353, 437 in 2022.

### WTO's WTSR 2023 Report: India Ranked 18th Among Merchandise Exports

- ✓ According to the World Trade Statistical Review 2023, (WTSR 2023) the annual flagship publication of the World Trade Organization (WTO) featuring key data on global trade in merchandise and commercial services,
- ✓ India is ranked 18th among the Leading exporters in world merchandise trade (2022).
- ✓ India is ranked 9th among the merchandise importers.
- ✓ China, the United States of America(USA), and Germany are the top 3 exporters in world merchandise trade 2022.
- ✓ USA, China and Germany are the top 3 importers in World Merchandise Trade 2022.
- ✓ WTSR replaces International Trade Statistics, the WTO's former annual statistical publication.
- ✓ India is ranked globally 7th among exporters and 9th among importers in world in commercial services 2022.

### Status of Tigers: Co-Predators & Prey in India-2022 Report: Tiger population in India estimates to be 3,925

- ✓ Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), released the detailed report of All India Tiger Estimation – 2022 titled "Status of Tigers: CoPredators & Prey in India-2022" during the event organised as a part of the Global Tiger Day (29th July 2023) at Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand.





- ✓ According to the report by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Tiger Population in India is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- ✓ India currently retains almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population.
- ✓ On 9th April 2022, during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the minimum tiger population of 3167, population estimate from the camera-trapped area.
- ✓ According to the further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers.
- ✓ Currently, more than 3/4th of the tiger population in India is concentrated within protected areas.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has the largest tiger population with 785 tigers, followed by Karnataka with 563,
- ✓ Uttarakhand with 560, and Maharashtra with 444.
- ✓ Nearly a 1/4th of the tigers were reportedly outside protected areas.
- ✓ Tigers in India are largely concentrated in 53 dedicated tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square km, spanning about 2.3% of India's total land area.
- ✓ The tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserve is highest in Corbett (260), followed by Bandipur (150), Nagarhole (141), Bandhavgarh (135), Dudhwa (135), Mudumalai (114), Kanha (105), Kaziranga (104), Sundarbans (100), Tadoba (97), Sathyamangalam (85), and Pench-MP (77).
- ✓ Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains witnessed a notable increase in tiger population, particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, necessitating targeted monitoring and conservation efforts.
- ✓ Some states, including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh, have reported disquieting trends with small tiger populations.

## Ministry of Jal Shakti Releases Report on 6th Census on Minor Irrigation Schemes

- ✓ On 26th August 2023, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Department of Water Resources (WR), River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) released the All India (volume-I) and State-wise (Volume-II) report on 6th census on Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes.
- ✓ This report will be useful for planners, researcher scholars, agricultural and groundwater scientists, and all concerned with the development of irrigation and the agricultural economy of India.
- ✓ As per the report, 23.14 million MI schemes have been reported in India, out of which 21.93 million are Ground Water (GW) and 1.21 million are Surface Water (SW) schemes.
- ✓ The report reveals that, for the first time, information regarding the gender of individual owners of MI schemes has been systematically collected. Among individually owned MI schemes, 18.1% are owned by women.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh holds the largest number of MI schemes in India followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

## FICCI-EY Report: India Loses 1.5 Million lives in Road Crashes

- ✓ According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) -EY a report titled 'Road Safety in India – Navigating through nuances', Road accidents claim around 1.5 million lives in India every year. India accounts for 11% of all road crash deaths and tops the world in road crash deaths and injuries.
- ✓ The report was released by Tukuni Sahu, Minister for Transport, Water Resources & Commerce, government of Odisha during the FICCI's Conference on Role of Corporates in Road Safety and Awards 2023 in New Delhi, Delhi on 18th July 2023.
- ✓ It states that in every 24 seconds, at least one person is lost due to a traffic accident worldwide.

# TS SI ఫలితాలలో 116 ఉద్యోగాలతో IACE ప్రభంజనం ఎవ్వరికీ అందనంత ఎత్తులో...



**PANDLA NAGARAJU**  
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Post: DEPUTY JAILOR  
OFFLINE FC  
D.O.E: JAN 21<sup>st</sup> 2021



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Post: CIVIL SI  
OFFLINE TS  
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**M KIRAN NANDITHA**  
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OFFLINE FC  
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D.O.E: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



**BURIGARI NAVEEN KUMAR**  
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Post: AR SI  
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D.O.E: FEB 24<sup>th</sup> 2021



**NANDYALA NOELRAJ**  
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**MANKALA SUNIL KUMAR**  
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**IRENI AGASYA BHARGAVA GOUD**  
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**KISHAN PATEL**  
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**UPPU RAKESH**  
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**K MAHESH**  
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D.O.E: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



**ZILLA RAJENDER**  
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**RATHOD VINOD**  
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D.O.E: OCT 31<sup>st</sup> 2022



**MOHAMMED MOHSIN SHAREEF**  
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**PONNALA GOVARDHAN**  
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**KONDA SURESH**  
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**CHADA SAMATHA**  
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**BANOTHU VENKANNA**  
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ONLINE TS  
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**K BHASKAR**  
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**DASI LIKHITHA**  
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**ANAMALLA RAMESH**  
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**VEMULA LAXMAN**  
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**MANDALA ANIL KUMAR**  
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D.O.E: JAN 4<sup>th</sup> 2022



**VENPATI PAVAN**  
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YAGNAM 2.0  
D.O.E: OCT 19<sup>th</sup> 2022



**LINGALA DILEEP**  
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**PAWAR SHIREESHA**  
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**BANDARU YELLAKRISHNA**  
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**KAVALI SAI KRISHNA**  
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**ROHITH GUNDRAPALLY**  
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**KURMA NAVEEN CHANDRA**  
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**MACHENI SIVA RAMAKRISHNA**  
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**MD FAISAL AHMED**  
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**MOOD AJAY**  
Reg No: 1086244  
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**KADAMONI SHIVA**  
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**KASTHURI BIKSHAPATHI**  
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**NEELAKANTHAM MAHESH**  
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**GADDAM VAMSHIKRISHNA**  
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**RAJU RATHOD**  
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**TALLURI KOTESWARARAO**  
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**CHILIVERU ROHITH**  
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**MD KHAJAMAINOODIN**  
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**MOHD KAREEM**  
Reg No: 1552628  
Zone: Bhadradi  
Post: CIVIL SI  
ONLINE TS  
D.O.E: JAN 1<sup>st</sup> 2023



**PEGADAPALLY KOTESWAR**  
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YAGNAM  
D.O.E: DEC 1<sup>st</sup> 2022



**KODELA SATHYANARAYANA**  
Reg No: 1112395  
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Post: TS SPF SI  
OFFLINE FC  
D.O.E: DEC 9<sup>th</sup> 2022



**SATLAPALLY POOJA**  
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**M SAI VIGNESH**  
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**GUNTI ARUN KUMAR**  
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Post: CIVIL SI  
SCHOLARSHIP TS  
D.O.E: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



**N VENUGOPAL**  
Reg No: 1095014  
Zone: Jogulambha  
Post: CIVIL SI  
SCHOLARSHIP TS  
D.O.E: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



**DARA VENU**  
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Zone: Charminar, HYD  
Post: CIVIL SI  
OFFLINE FC  
D.O.E: OCT 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022



**BANOTHU MOUNIKA**  
Reg No: 1102325  
Zone: Bhadradi  
Post: CIVIL SI  
OFFLINE FC  
D.O.E: JAN 27<sup>th</sup> 2023



**MEGHATH RAMU**  
Reg No: 1285433  
Zone: Yadadri  
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**ANANTHAGIRI MADHU**  
Reg No: 1262290  
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D.O.E: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



**KANNEGOINA SATHISH**  
Reg No: 1300288  
Zone: Yadadri  
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**SHAIK ZUBER**  
Reg No: 1070467  
Zone: Basara  
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D.O.E: JAN 26<sup>th</sup> 2023



**B RAGHU BABU**  
Reg No: 1110671  
Zone: Bhadradi  
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D.O.E: MAR 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

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