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English Medium

Digest DECEMBER - 2023

Coverage from 1st November to 25th November-2023

Current Affairs



VINAY SIR
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Booker Prize 2023

Irish author **Paul Lynch's** Novel
'Prophet Song' wins Booker Prize 2023



Miss Universe 2023

Sheynnis Palacios from
Nicaragua Crowned **Miss Universe 2023**



ICC Hall of Fame 2023

Indian Cricketers **Virender Sehwag**, **Diana Edulji** and
Sri Lanka's **Aravinda de Silva** Inducted into **ICC Hall of Fame 2023**



Vajra Prahar 2023

14th Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise
'Vajra Prahar 2023' Commenced at Umroi, Meghalaya.



Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award

Indian-born British-American author **Salman Rushdie**
Received the first-ever "Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award".



ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023

Australia Won the 13th Edition of the **ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup 2023** by Defeating **India** in the Final. This Win for **Australia** Marks Their **Sixth ODI World Cup Title**.



'Amini'

Indian Navy Launched
4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft 'Amini'



Subrata Roy

Subrata Roy, the Founder and Chairman of Lucknow Based
Sahara India Pariwar, Passed Away at the Age of 75



Justice Fathima Beevi

India's 1st Woman Judge of Supreme Court,
Justice Fathima Beevi Passed Away.

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CONTENTS

- The Booker Prize 2023

- ROAD ACCIDENTS IN INDIA-2022

- INTERNATIONAL

- NATIONAL

- STATES

- ECONOMY AND BANKING

- RBI UPDATES

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- DEFENCE

- AWARDS AND HONOURS

- SPORTS

- PERSONS IN NEWS

- APPOINTMENTS

- REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKINGS

- IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

- CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CURRENT
AFFAIRS
DECEMBER
2023

SHEYNNIS PALACIOS of Nicaragua Becomes MISS UNIVERSE 2023



- Sheynnis Palacios of Nicaragua has won the 72nd Miss Universe 2023 title. She is the first woman from Nicaragua to be crowned Miss Universe. ★
- Miss Universe 2022, R'Bonnie Gabriel of USA crowned Sheynnis Palacios on stage ★
- First runner-up: Antonia Porsild, Thailand
- Second runner-up: Moray Wilson, Australia ★
- Shweta Sharda (resident of Chandigarh) represented India in The 72nd Miss Universe pageant 2023 ★
- The 72nd Miss Universe pageant was hosted by American television presenters Jeannie Mai and Maria Menounos along with Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo. ★
- The 72nd Miss Universe pageant was held at the José Adolfo Pineda Arena, San Salvador, El Salvador. ★
- India has won this title a total of three times in this competition. The first crown was won by Sushmita Sen in the year 1994 while the second was won by Lara Dutta in the year 2000 and the third by Harnaz Sandhu in the year 2021.

About Nicaragua (Country in Central America)
 Capital: Managua
 Currency: Nicaraguan Córdoba
 President: Daniel Ortega



The Prophet Song, written by 46-year-old Paul Lynch of Ireland, won the prestigious 2023 Booker Prize, beating London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo’s debut novel “Western Lane. Paul Lynch becomes the fifth Irish writer to win the high-profile literary prize.

- ✓ The winning prize money of £50,000 and the trophy were presented to Paul Lynch by the 2022 winner, Shehan Karunatilaka of Sri Lanka, at a ceremony held in London on 26 November 2023.
- ✓ Shehan Karunatilaka won the Booker Prize in 2022 for his book “Seven Moons of Maali Almeida”.

Other 5 Shortlisted Books for the 2023 Booker Prize

The Bee Sting by Paul Murray (Ireland)
Western Lane by Chetna Maroo(Britain-Indian-origin)
The Other Eden by Paul Harding (American)
If I Survive You by Jonathan Escoffery (American)
Study for Obedience by Sarah Bernstein (Canada)

About Prophet Song Book :It took Paul Lynch 4 years to write the 'Prophet Song', which tells the story of a family dealing with a terrifying world in which the democratic norms they are used to begin to disappear. According to the author Paul Lynch, the book Prophet Song was inspired by the Syrian civil war and the ensuing refugee crisis. Prophet Song is Paul Lynch's fifth book.

Indian/ Indian origin winners of the Booker Prize

- ✓ In total, 10 Indian/ Indian origin people have won the Booker Prize over the years include V.S. Naipaul, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Rohinton Mistry, Kiran Desai, Indra Sinha, Arvind Adiga, Amitav Ghosh, and Jeet Thayil.
- ✓ The first Indian to get the Booker Prize was **Arundhati Roy** for her book “**The God of Small Things,**” published in 1997.

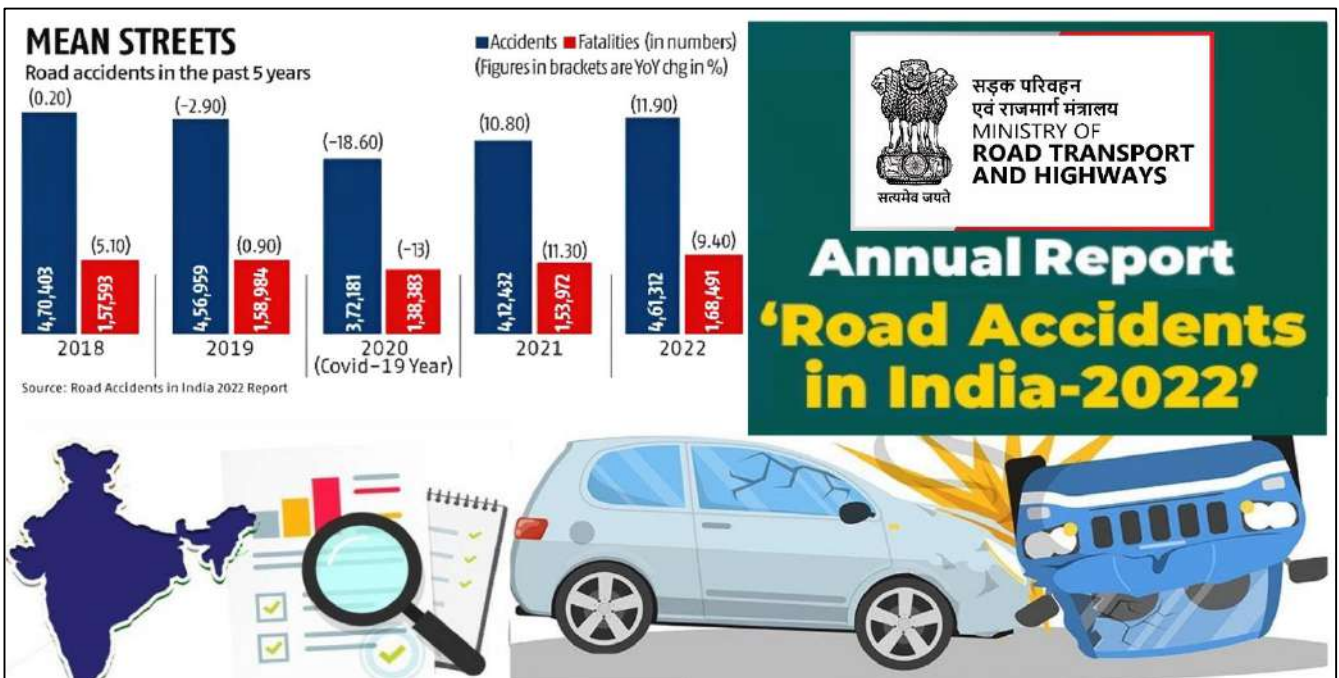
- ✓ VS Naipaul is the first person of Indian Origin to win a Booker Prize in 1971 for his novel ‘**In a Free State**’.
- ✓ **Salman Rushdie** is the first India Born British Indian to win the Booker Prize in 1981 for his novel ‘**Midnight's Children**’. Salman Rushdie has been nominated for the Booker Prize seven times,

About Booker Prize

- ✓ The Booker Prize is a literary prize awarded for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. The Booker Prize was set up in 1968 as the 'Booker Prize for Fiction', sponsored by a British multinational company, Booker McConnell.
- ✓ In 2002, the prize was transferred to an independent charity, the 'Booker Prize Foundation'. It was funded by Man Group, and the prize was called 'Man Booker Prize '.
- ✓ In 2020, the Man Group dropped out of the sponsorship and at present, a charitable foundation, Crankstart, is funding it.
- ✓ Sir Micheal Moritz and Harriet Heyman of the United States of America set up Crankstart.
- ✓ The first Booker Prize was awarded in 1969 to PH Newby of Britain for his book "**Something to Answer For**".

About International Booker Prize

- ✓ The Booker Foundation also gives the International Booker Prize. It is given to a book translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- ✓ The International Booker Prize was first awarded in 2004. Initially, it was awarded every two years, but since 2016, it has been awarded annually.
- ✓ Geetanjali Shree is the first Indian author to win the International Booker Prize 2022 for her Hindi novel 'Tomb of Sand' (रेत समाधि).



According to “Road Accidents in India-2022”, the annual report published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways(MoRTH). The States and Union Territories (UTs) of India reported a total of 4,61,312 road accidents during 2022. The accidents occurred during 2022 have claimed around 1,68,491 lives and caused injuries to 4,43,366 persons. Compared to 2021, the records show an increase of 11.9% in accidents, 9.4% in fatalities, and 15.3% in injuries.

Key Points

- ✓ “Road Accidents in India-2022” was prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) under MoRTH using data collected from the police departments of States/UTs during 2022.
- ✓ These data were received in the standardised formats provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu (TN) tops the list of States in Number of Accidents for the 5th consecutive year. TN has reported 64,105 (13.9%) accidents in 2022 followed by Madhya Pradesh with 54,432 (11.8%), Kerala with 43,910 (9.5%)

accidents, Uttar Pradesh with 41,746 (9.1%) and Karnataka with 39,762 (8.6%).

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of road accident fatalities on the National level in 2022 with 13.9% of fatalities followed by TN (9.8%), Maharashtra (8.1%), Karnataka (6.82%) and Rajasthan (6.81%).
- ✓ The report offers insights on several aspects of road accidents such as causes, locations and their impact on the diverse categories of road users.
- ✓ This will serve as a resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders working in the road safety sector.
- ✓ MoRTH is working with various organisations and stakeholders to devise a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety focusing on the 4Es: Education, Engineering (both roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care.
- ✓ To combat road accidents, various initiatives like the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) for real- time data analysis and automated vehicle inspection centres are being developed. The e-DAR project is aided by the World Bank.

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

UAE Inaugurates Al Dhafra Solar PV project, World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant

- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s state-owned Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant, "2 GigaWatt(GW) Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic(PV) Independent Power Project (IPP)" in Abu Dhabi, UAE. With this solar power production capacity will increase to 3.2GW.
- ✓ Al Dhafra Solar PV project was unveiled by Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ The project was co-developed by Abu Dhabi National Energy Company(TAQA), French power company EDF Renewables and Chinese solar developer JinkoPower along with procurer Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC).



30th APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Leaders Summit 2023 held in San Francisco, US

- ✓ The U.S. hosted the 30th APEC Leaders Summit which held in San Francisco. Apart from 21-member countries of APEC, India attended the summit as Guest Economy. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry represented India at the summit.
- ✓ The U.S. hosted the APEC Summit 3rd time since its formation. Earlier, The U.S. hosted the APEC Summit in 1993 and 2011.
- ✓ **Theme APEC Summit 2023:** "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All".
- ✓ **Participants:-**APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), as well as representatives of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank.



Highlights of the APEC Leaders Summit

- ✓ The Key highlight of the summit is adoption of Golden Gate declaration – It underscores the commitment to creating a resilient and sustainable future for all member countries.
- ✓ During the Summit, member countries reaffirmed their commitment to free, fair, and open trade and investment, and to advancing inclusive and sustainable growth in the region.
- ✓ APEC leaders endorsed the APEC Action Agenda on Climate Change and Energy Security.
- ✓ Along with India, Fiji and Colombia were also invited to attend the 30th APEC Leaders Summit 2023.
- ✓ At Present, Joe Biden (President, The U.S.) is the chairperson of APEC.
- ✓ Peru will host the 31st APEC Summit 2024.

About APEC

It is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. The 1st APEC meeting held in Canberra, Australia in November, 1989.

- ✓ APEC accounts for approximately 62% of World GDP and 48% of World Trade in 2021.
- ✓ APEC permanent secretariat is located in Singapore.
- ✓ **Executive Director** – Rebecca Fatima Santa Maria

Union Minister Piyush Goyal participated in the 3rd in-person IPEF Ministerial meeting held in U.S.

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal participated in the 3rd in-person Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Ministerial meeting on 14th November, 2023 in San Francisco, California in U.S. The event was hosted by U.S.
- ✓ During the meeting, the first-of its-kind IPEF Supply Chain resilience agreement was signed by the minister along with ministers from 14 other



IPEF partner countries. The agreement aims to make IPEF supply chains more resilient, robust and well integrated, and contribute towards economic development and progress of the region as a whole.

Four Pillars of IPEF

- ✓ The framework is structured around four pillars. India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.
- ✓ **i.PillarI (Trade):** Aims to promote economic growth, peace and prosperity in the region.
- ✓ **ii.PillarII (Supply Chain):** Aims to make supply chain more resilient, robust and well integrated through crisis response measures.
- ✓ **iii.PillarIII (Clean Economy):** Aiming to boost cooperation in research development, availability, accessibility and deployment of clean energy and climate friendly technologies. Facilitate investment towards climate-related projects in the region.
- ✓ Reduce global anthropogenic methane emissions by 2030.
- ✓ **iv.PillarIV (Fair Economy):** Aims to strengthen implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures.
- ✓ Adopt measures enabling the identification, tracing, freezing and seizure in criminal or civil proceedings consistent with United Nation Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- ✓ During the meeting, He co-chaired “India-USA Innovation Handshake Initiative” which aims to promote further innovation and job growth, particularly in emerging technologies.

WHO & Ministry of Ayush Signed Traditional & Complementary Medicine PCA

- ✓ On November 17, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) signed a Traditional and Complementary Medicine ‘Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA)’ during an event organized in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Under this partnership, WHO will prepare Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34 with the support of the Ministry of Ayush .

- ✓ 1st phase of the PCA, 2023-28, will prove to be a milestone in the global development of Traditional and Complementary Medical System.
- ✓ **Aim of PCA:** To standardize and integrate Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems into the National Health System, disseminating them globally.
- ✓ To advance traditional and complementary medicine by modernizing it into a globally accepted, evidence- based healthcare while preserving its rich heritage for global well-being.

India and Italy Sign Two Agreements to Boost Youth Mobility & Cultural Exchange

- ✓ Dr. S Jaishankar, India’s External Affairs Minister (EAM) has signed two agreements with the Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Tajani to boost youth mobility & cultural exchange during his two-day visit to Italy on 2nd-3rd November 2023.



Signed Agreements

- ✓ The Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to enable seamless movement of workers, students and professionals.
- ✓ The Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation (EPCC) agreement for the period 2023-27. Through EPCC, Italy and India will undergo multiple cultural exchange programs including exchange of students in language programmes and other academic courses.
- ✓ The last EPCC was signed between two countries for the period of three years 2017-2020.
- ✓ Jaishankar appreciated Italy for joining the key India-led global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), Global Bio-Fuels Alliance and India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

Russia Withdraws from Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

- ✓ Russia has formally withdrawn from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), a landmark arms control agreement that sought to limit the deployment of conventional weapons in Europe. The exit of Russia is due to North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) eastward expansion as a threat to its security.
- ✓ **About CFE:** The agreement was signed by 23 participating States – those belonging to NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO). It was signed in 1990 in Paris, France. It aims to stop United States of America and Russia (Cold War rivals) from building up forces that could be used in a swift assault.

India & UAE Sign MoU to Enhance Educational Cooperation for Students & Faculty

- ✓ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have expanded their educational cooperation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The MoU aims to enhance collaboration in education, including student and faculty mobility, exchanging educational information, and fostering academic partnerships between institutions in both countries.
- ✓ The MoU outlines various aspects, including the Exchange of Information in Education, Capacity Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) teaching staff, and Facilitation of academic collaboration between Higher Education Institutions in both countries. This collaboration will enable the introduction of Twinning, Joint Degree, and Dual Degree Programs, further strengthening educational ties between the nations.

India & Netherland Signed Mol to Regulate Medical Products

- ✓ On 8th November 2023, India and Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) for cooperation on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products and health

care services for both the nations, at the Hague, Netherlands.

- ✓ The MoI was signed during the meeting between Bhagwant Khuba, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) of India and Ernst Kuipers, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports of Netherlands.
- ✓ During his visit, Bhagwant Khuba, MoS, MoC&F led Indian delegation to participate in the 2nd World Local Production Forum (WLPF 2023) held in the Hague, from 6th to 8th November 2023.

India-France signed Lol in Public Administration & Administrative Reforms

- ✓ Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, and Ministry of Public Sector Transformation & the Civil Service of the French Republic have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Administrative Reforms for 3 years.

Afghanistan Closes Its Embassy In India Permanently

- ✓ The Afghanistan embassy in New Delhi has officially announced its permanent closure, citing persistent challenges from the Indian government as the primary reason. This decision comes after the embassy had already ceased operations on September 30, hoping for a favorable change in the Indian government's stance.

Israel Officially Designates Lashkar-e-Taiba as a Terrorist Organization

- ✓ Ahead of the 15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Israel has officially declared the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as a terrorist organization. This move is part of Israel's commitment to supporting the global war on terror.
- ✓ The announcement coincides with Israel's ongoing military operation in the Gaza Strip, initiated after the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israeli targets. Israel has been urging India to ban Hamas, but New Delhi has not taken such a step so far.

ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023 Kicks Off In South Jakarta, Indonesia

- ✓ The ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023, a collaborative effort between the Indian Mission to ASEAN and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has taken center stage in Indonesia from November 22 to 26. This festival serves as a platform to raise awareness about millets, promote culinary diversity, and foster sustainable agriculture.
- ✓ The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare spearheads a diverse delegation from India, comprising professionals deeply engaged in the Indian millet ecosystem. This includes chefs, startups, FPO representatives, industry leaders, and state officials.
- ✓ Ms. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops) at DA&FW, showcased India's leading role in celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023.



China extending the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) to Sri Lanka,

- ✓ China, in a strategic move, is actively pursuing the extension of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) to Sri Lanka. This development signals China's intent to enhance its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) influence in South Asia.
- ✓ The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) has emerged as the newest of the six land corridors under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Its prominence has grown, overshadowing the stalled Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) corridor.
- ✓ President Wickremesinghe's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing affirmed Sri Lanka's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. A joint statement highlighted Sri Lanka's commitment to the BRI proposed by China.
- ✓ Sri Lanka, a participant in the BRI, views the extension of the CMEC as an opportunity to

contribute significantly to the second phase of the initiative, enhancing economic cooperation.

India-bound ship hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in Red Sea

- ✓ A cargo ship named "Galaxy Leader," en route from Turkey to India, has been hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. Approximately 50 crew members from various nations were on board. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed the hijacking but clarified that the ship is not Israeli.

Islamic Arab Summit

- ✓ The Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 11, 2023. The summit was convened to address the escalating Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, opened the summit, welcoming leaders and representatives from member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States.

Chile becomes 95th member of International Solar Alliance ISA

- ✓ Chile has recently become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a significant development in the global effort to promote solar energy. During a meeting in New Delhi, Ambassador Juan Angulo of Chile handed over the Instrument of ISA ratification to Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) in the Ministry of External Affairs, reinforcing the country's commitment to solar energy cooperation.
- ✓ Currently, there are 116 countries that have signed up as signatories to the ISA, with 94 having successfully completed the necessary ratification to become full-fledged members.
- ✓ The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions.
- ✓ **Headquarters:** Gurugram, **President:** R. K. Singh
- ✓ **Founded:** 30 November 2015.

NATIONAL

DoSJE Signs MOU with ISKCON for Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

- ✓ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment(DoSJE), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(MoSJE), and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) to synergize efforts in combating drug abuse and building a healthier, addiction-free nation.
- ✓ Under this partnership, ISKCON will publicize NMBA campaign at all their meetings and gatherings. This collaboration would help in spreading the message of NMBA among the youth, women, students, etc.

About Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

- ✓ Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), launched on August 15, 2020 by MoSJE, is a campaign to reduce substance abuse in India. It extends efforts beyond educational institutions to reach and engage communities. Its aim to create awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse among the youth with a special focus on higher education institutions, and schools.

Survey of India & Genesys International Partnered for 3D Digital Twin-mapping Programme in India

- ✓ The Survey of India (SoI), the National Survey and Mapping Organization of India, and Genesys International, an Indian mapping company that provides Geospatial solutions, have formed a strategic partnership to create a three-dimensional (3D) digital twin-mapping programme in India.
- ✓ With this partnership, Genesys thus becomes the 1st company to have a public-private agreement with SoI for digital twinning. The 3D digital twin will be used by government departments for new initiatives.
- ✓ The partnership is in line with India's National Geospatial Policy 2022, promoting Atmanirbhar

Bharat (self-reliant India) in geospatial data production and usage. This also signifies a pivotal move towards delivering geospatial content aligned with the National Geodetic Framework.

About Survey of India (SoI)

Surveyor General of India– Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana

Headquarters– Dehradun, Uttarakhand

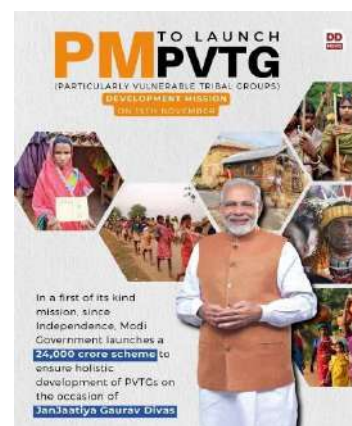
Established in– 1767

WHO & Ministry of Ayush Signed Traditional & Complementary Medicine PCA

- ✓ On November 17, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) signed a Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA)' during an event organized in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Under this partnership, WHO will prepare Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34 with the support of the Ministry of Ayush. 1st phase of the PCA, 2023-28, will prove to be a milestone in the global development of Traditional and Complementary Medical System

PM Modi Inaugurated PM-PVTG Mission

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PM PVTG) Mission, allocating Rs 24,000 crore for the comprehensive development of approximately 28 lakh individuals belonging to 75 PVTGs across India. The launch took place at Birsa College ground in Jharkhand's Khunti district.



About PM-PVTG Mission

- ✓ This mission focuses on the holistic development of around 28 lakh people of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across 18 states and union territories, residing in 22,544 villages.
- ✓ The PM PVTG Mission aims to provide essential amenities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, improved access to education, health, and nutrition, as well as sustainable livelihood opportunities to habitations of PVTGs, which are often remote and inaccessible.

PM Modi Unveils Landmark Initiatives, 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' and 'PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan,'

- ✓ PM Modi launched two significant initiatives, namely the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' and the 'PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)' from Jharkhand.
- ✓ 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' will be a medium of saturation goals of the government and the PM JANMAN will protect the tribes on the verge of extinction and nurture them.
- ✓ 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' which will continue till 26th January 2024 starting from 15th November 2023, Jayanti of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

About Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- ✓ The Viksit Bharat Campaign, among the largest outreach initiatives, aims to cover over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and 3,600 urban local bodies by January 25, 2024, reaching every district in the country.
- ✓ The Yatra focuses on creating awareness and delivering the benefits of welfare schemes to the people. These include sanitation facilities, financial services, electricity connections, LPG cylinders, housing for the poor, food security, proper nutrition, healthcare, and clean drinking water.

About PM JANMAN

- ✓ Under PM JANMAN, the government will reach out to tribal groups and primitive tribes most of whom still dwell in the forests.

- ✓ The government has identified 75 tribal communities and primitive tribes with a population of lakhs who reside in more than 22 thousand villages in India. The government is set to spend Rs 24,000 crores on this mega campaign.

PM Modi Releases Rs 18,000 Crore in 15th Installment of PM-KISAN Scheme

- ✓ During the 3rd Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, PM Modi digitally released the 15th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme at Birsa College in Khunti, Jharkhand. The event marked the disbursement of over Rs 18,000 crore to more than 8 crore beneficiary farmers nationwide.

About PM-KISAN

- ✓ PM-KISAN, launched on February 24, 2019, is recognized as one of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer schemes.
- ✓ The scheme provides income support to land-holding farmer families through DBT.
- ✓ The scheme has disbursed benefits exceeding Rs 2.61 lakh crores to more than 11 crore farmers nationwide.
- ✓ **Objective:** To provide financial support and income assistance to small and marginal farmers.
- ✓ **Financial Assistance:** Rs 6,000 per year is provided to eligible farmers in three equal instalments.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is used to transfer the funds directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- ✓ PM-KISAN AI Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) addresses farmers' grievances related to the scheme promptly and effectively.

PM Modi Unveils 1971 War Fighter Jet at Raj Bhavan in Ranchi

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi unveiled a decommissioned Mikoyan Gurevich (MiG-211) fighter jet at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi. The event was attended by Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Hemant Soren.
- ✓ The MiG-211 was inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1964 and played a crucial role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

Dharmendra Pradhan Co-chaired 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council Meet at IIT Gujarat

- ✓ Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education(MoE) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(MSDE) co-chaired the 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting with Australian Ministers- Jason Clare, Education Minister and Brendan O'Connor, Skills & Training Minister.
- ✓ The meeting was held at the Indian Institutes of Technology(IIT) Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 6th November 2023.
- ✓ The Ministers reviewed the bilateral cooperation in education and skilling and agreed to further strengthen knowledge and skilling partnerships for greater mobility, employability and prosperity of people in both countries.

Coal Ministry Amends SHAKTI Policy to Expand Coal Linkage and Promote Market Transparency

- ✓ The Ministry of Coal has amended the SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India) Policy, which allows power plants, including private generators without Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), to be granted coal linkage for a minimum of three months to a maximum of one year.
- ✓ The amendment aims to enhance a more transparent coal allocation mechanism by providing the power generated through coal linkages must be sold through power exchanges or a transparent bidding process on the Discovery of Efficient Energy Price (DEEP) portal. This amendment is expected to improve the availability and affordability of coal for power generation and enhance the overall efficiency of the sector.
- ✓ **About the SHAKTI Policy:** The Ministry of Coal introduced the Coal Linkage Policy known as Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI) in 2017 for the allocation of coal among thermal power plants transparently and objectively. The Policy provides coal linkages to power plants which lack

fuel supply agreements (FSAs) through coal auctions.

MIB Approves Comprehensive “Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023” to Empower CBC

- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has approved the Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 to enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the advertising wing of the Government of India (GoI) that operates under the MIB, to conduct campaigns in the Digital Media Space.
- ✓ Digital Advertisement Policy 2023, formulated after extensive discussions with multiple stakeholders, outlines the roadmap for enhancing the Digital Outreach of the GoI.
- ✓ The Policy acknowledges the ever-evolving digital landscape, granting CBC the authority to integrate New and Innovative Communication Platforms in the Digital Space, subject to committee approval. This introduces competitive bidding for rate discovery, ensuring transparency and efficiency. Rates discovered through bidding are valid for 3 years and will apply to all eligible agencies.

PM Modi Inaugurated the 2nd Edition of ‘World Food India’ in New Delhi

- ✓ Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2nd edition of World Food India (WFI 2023), the biennial Mega Food Event, on November 3, 2023, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The event held from November 3-5, 2023 was organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry(MoFPI). PM Modi also inaugurated Food Street as part of World Food India 2023.
- ✓ **Mascot: MillInd**, a probot/food processing robot, is the Mascot for WFI 2023.
- ✓ WFI 2023 showcased India as the food basket of the world and commemorated 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- ✓ During the event, PM Modi announced a seed capital aid of Rs 380 crore to support over 1 lakh Self-Help Group (SHG) members.

- ✓ The first edition of WFI was held in 2017 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was not organised in consecutive years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India hosts the 6th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

- ✓ On 31st October 2023, India hosted the 6th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Delhi. Union Minister Raj Kumar Singh (RK Singh) Ministry of Power (MOP) and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy(MNRE), President of ISA presided over the 6th Assembly of ISA.
- ✓ Ministers from 20 countries and delegates from across 116 countries and signatory countries participated in the Assembly.
- ✓ While addressing the Assembly, R.K. Singh emphasized the importance of Renewable Energy as a future source of energy by underlining the fact that:
 - *Around 80% of the global population which comprises about 6 billion people resides in countries that depend on fossil fuel imports.
 - * Renewable energy sources have the potential to supply 65% of the world's total electricity by 2030.
 - * Renewable energy sources can decarbonise 90% of the power sector by 2050.
- ✓ The 6th Assembly of the ISA deliberated on ISA initiatives that energy access, energy security and energy transitions, with a focus on:
 - * Universalisation of energy access through solar mini-grids.
 - * Mobilizing Finance for accelerated solar deployment.
 - * Diversifying supply chains and manufacturing for solar.
- ✓ During the 6th Assembly, ISA released 3 flagship reports to provide insights into the current state of solar energy, providing updates on Solar Technology, Solar Market and Solar Investments.
- ✓ i.World Solar Technology Report 2023: The report focuses mainly on Solar photovoltaics (PVs). Solar PVs have experienced exceptional growth, expected to capture 56.4% of total renewable energy share by 2050.

- ✓ ii.World Solar Market Report 2023: The report offers a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of the solar market, registering a 37% compound annual growth rate with significant market expansion in 2022.
- ✓ iii.World Solar Investment Report 2023: The report highlights the surge in global solar investment in 2022, exceeding USD 300 billion (a 36% increase from 2021).
- ✓ The ISA announced that the Global Solar Facility (GSF), a payment guarantee fund formed by ISA to stimulate investments into solar power projects, is set to receive a capital contribution of USD 35 million.
- ✓ The Government of India (GoI) is considering a USD 25 million investment as a capital contribution in the GSF in addition to USD 10 million from ISA. Bloomberg Philanthropies and Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) have also committed their support to the GSF.
- ✓ The 6th Assembly of ISA has decided to increase the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for solar projects across its member countries to 35% from the existing 10%.

DAY-NRLM and SIDBI Signed MoU to Promote Women Enterprises

- ✓ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote women-led enterprises in India. The MoU is set to span 2 years. DAY-NRLM functions under the Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD).
- ✓ Under this MoU, the expertise of DAY-NRLM and SIDBI will be utilised to develop a transformative initiative to promote women-led enterprises among experienced members of Self Help Groups (SHGs). The partnership aims to demonstrate on-the-ground activities that establish a reliable and sensitive support structure for the capacity enhancement of women entrepreneurs (WEs). This also aims to establish a standard protocols, systems, and procedures for streamlined access to formal finance and to develop a comprehensive framework for new financial products and schemes.

Union Minister Amit Shah Launches 'Bharat Organics' brand of National Cooperative Organics Ltd

- ✓ On 8th November 2023, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Cooperation launched the 'Bharat Organics' brand of National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), a newly established cooperative body to promote organic produce.
- ✓ The brand was launched during the one-day National Symposium on 'Promoting Organic Products through Cooperatives' organised by NCOL, in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ 6 organic products under "Bharat Organics" brand was launched during the event.
 - The 6 products are, tur dal, chana dal, sugar, rajma, basmati rice, and Sonamasoori rice.
 - These products will be sold through 150 Mother Dairy's Safal outlets and online platforms.
 - A total of 20 organic products will be launched by December 2023 and the benefits will be directed towards the farmers producing them.
- ✓ Under the concept of "Organic Under One Roof", a retail outlet network of all organic products was also initiated.

Krishi 24/7: Govt launches India's 1st AI solution for Agricultural News Monitoring

- ✓ On November 6, 2023, Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) launched Krishi 24/7, India's first AI (Artificial Intelligence)-powered solution for automated agricultural news monitoring and analysis.
- ✓ It is developed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), MoA&FW in collaboration with Mumbai, Maharashtra-based Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhvani AI) with support from Google.org.
- ✓ Krishi 24/7 is real-time monitoring system assists the Ministry of Agriculture in staying updated on relevant events, allowing them to create alerts and take prompt action in the agricultural ecosystem.

PMGKAY Scheme will be extended till 2028

- ✓ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another five years while addressing an election rally at Durg in Chhattisgarh. The scheme which was supposed to be ended by December 2023 will be ending in 2028.
 - ✓ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution had declared that the central government would allocate over ₹2 lakh crore in 2023 for food subsidies under NFSA and various other welfare programs.
- About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:
- ✓ The scheme was initially rolled out in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. PMGKAY is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. This program is a part of the existing Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana welfare initiative.
 - ✓ The scheme provides 5 kg of food grain per person per month and is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 (Antodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households) including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Previous Extensions:

- *Phase I and II (8 months) : April 2020 to November 2020
- *Phase III to V (11 months) : May 2021 to March 2022
- *Phase VI (6 months) : April 2022 to Sept 2022
- *Phase VII (3 months): October 2022 to December 2022
- *Phase VIII (12 months): January 2023 to December 2023.

India to Chair International Sugar Organisation

- ✓ India is set to take the helm as the chairman of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) in 2024, marking a significant milestone for the country. As the world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar, this leadership role reflects

India's growing influence in the global sugar sector. The announcement came during the 63rd council meeting of the ISO, headquartered in London.

- ✓ The chairmanship for 2024 brings a unique opportunity for India to lead the global sugar sector towards more sustainable practices. The focus will be on uniting member countries to adopt environmentally friendly approaches in sugarcane cultivation, sugar and ethanol production, and the efficient utilization of by-products. This initiative aligns with India's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and responsible production.

President of India Launches 'New Education for New India' Campaign in Odisha

- ✓ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the 'New Education for New India' campaign by Brahma Kumaris, Sambalpur, in Sambalpur, Odisha on November 22, 2023. The campaign aims to instill moral values in students, contributing to the creation of a better society.
- ✓ The launch of the 'New Education for New India' campaign reflects the commitment of the Indian government to the holistic development of students by integrating moral values into the education system.

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates the 8th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) in New Delhi

- ✓ Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, recently inaugurated the 8th Edition of the Indian Water Impact Summit (IWIS) on 22nd November 2023 in New Delhi. Organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga), the three-day summit from November 22 to 24, 2023, brought together scientific experts, stakeholders and government representatives to address the dynamic challenges and opportunities in India's water sector.

International Conference on Plant Health Management 2023

- ✓ The International Conference on Plant Health Management (ICPHM) 2023 is set to take place in

Hyderabad, India, from 15th to 18th November. This significant event is organized by the Plant Protection Association of India (PPAI), an institution with a rich legacy of 50 years in advancing plant protection both nationally and internationally. The conference aims to provide a platform for global collaboration in fostering innovation and sustainability in the field of Plant Health Management.

9th India International Science Festival to be Held in Faridabad in January 2024

- ✓ The 9th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) is set to be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad, Haryana from 17th January to 20th January 2024. The mega science fair promises a unique blend of scientific exploration, innovation and public engagement.
- ✓ The theme of the present edition of the science fair is 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'.

Online Coaching Platform: SATHEE

- ✓ The Ministry of Education (MoE) and IIT-Kanpur have launched SATHEE, an innovative online platform aimed at transforming entrance exam preparation in India.
- ✓ This collaborative initiative breaks the mold of traditional coaching centers by offering free, accessible coaching, leveling the playing field for aspirants from all backgrounds.
- ✓ Aligned with National Education Policy, SATHEE leverages AI to personalize learning experiences and provides a 45-day comprehensive crash course, preparing students for exams like JEE and NEET.

Silkyara-Barkot tunnel Collapse

- ✓ Recently, an under-construction Silkyara-Barkot tunnel along the Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, collapsed, trapping a significant number of workers inside. The incident raises concerns about tunnel construction, prompting closer examination of potential causes and preventive measures.

- ✓ The Silkyara-Barkot tunnel is part of the ambitious Char Dham all-weather road project of the Central Government.
- ✓ The construction of the tunnel was tendered to Hyderabad-headquartered Navayuga Engineering Company by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India.

Santhali Language and Literature

- ✓ Recently, the President of India graced the inaugural session of the 36th Annual Conference and Literary Festival of All India Santali Writers' Association at Baripada, Odisha.
- ✓ President appreciated writers and researchers who are contributing to the Santhali language and literature.
- ✓ Santali language is a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa.
- ✓ The Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003.
- ✓ Santhali literature, historically oral, saw notable contributions from Pandit Raghunath Murmu, who created the Ol Chiki script, also known as Ol Cemet.

SHREYAS Scheme for OBC & Others

- ✓ The scheme Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS), has been proposed to be implemented during the 2021-22 to 2025-26 by placing two ongoing Central Sector Schemes for OBC (Other Backward Classes) and EBC.
- ✓ These schemes are, National Fellowship for OBC and Dr.Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for OBCs and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).
- ✓ The main objective of the schemes is Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students by way of awarding fellowship (financial assistance) in

obtaining quality higher education and interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies.

- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

AINA Dashboard for Cities

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 'AINA Dashboard for Cities' portal, offering Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) a platform to voluntarily submit key data.
- ✓ AAINA aims to help cities assess their performance relative to others. It seeks to inspire cities by highlighting possibilities and areas for enhancement.
- ✓ The Dashboard categorizes data into five pillars: Political & Administrative Structure, Finance, Planning, Citizen-Centric Governance, and Delivery of Basic Services.
- ✓ ULBs will regularly submit data, including audited accounts and self-reported performance metrics, through a user-friendly portal.
- ✓ AAINA is envisioned as a permanent platform for ULB-related data, a comprehensive database of key performance metrics.
- ✓ With active ULB cooperation, the dashboard aims to become a public resource, allowing stakeholders to access and utilize the collected data.

Artificial Rain Project to Combat Delhi Pollution

- ✓ Recently, the Delhi government has been considering artificial rain through cloud seeding as a measure to combat escalating pollution levels in the city.
- ✓ IIT-Kanpur has conducted pilot projects during monsoon months, and the focus is now on winter conditions.
- ✓ A minimum requirement of 40% cloud and moisture is necessary for cloud seeding.
- ✓ The potentially favorable conditions for artificial rain are projected on November 20 and 21, 2023.
- ✓ The project involves using silver iodide and other components for cloud seeding via aircraft.
- ✓ The effectiveness of artificial rain in reducing pollution levels depends on factors like moisture and rainfall.

STATES

Kishtwar Saffron from J&K receives GI tag

- ✓ Kishtwar Saffron brand, which is cultivated and harvested in the Kishtwar Region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the GI Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ This recognition emphasizes the distinctive identity and exceptional quality of saffron grown in the Kishtwar region. The saffron is cultivated in the elevated terrains of Kishtwar and some parts of Kashmir.
- ✓ Kishtwar's saffron, locally known as Kumkum, is also a key cash crop in Jammu's isolated mountainous district of Kishtwar that has high medicinal value.
- ✓ Other noted products of J&K that got the GI tags in 2023: Basohli Pashmina Woolen Products (Textiles); Bhaderwah Rajmash (Agriculture), Ramban Sulai Honey (Food Stuff).

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy in Bhubaneswar

- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the All India Football Federation (AIFF)-International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Talent Academy at Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in the presence of Arsene Wenger, Chief of Global Football Development at FIFA and former Arsenal manager.
- ✓ This strategic initiative is a collaborative effort between AIFF, FIFA, and the Odisha government to elevate football development in India.
- ✓ A total of 50 talented football players, including 15 from Odisha, in the Under-14 category, will be selected for the AIFF-FIFA academy from across India.
- ✓ The academy will be headed by a FIFA-appointed coach along with various coaches and staff from AIFF and the Odisha government.

- ✓ The inaugural event was held during the India vs Qatar encounter in Round 2 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 joint qualification campaign in the Kalinga Stadium.

Kerala RT Mission Selected for UNWTO's Global List of Case Studies

- ✓ Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission of Kerala was selected for the global list of Case Studies of United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). UNWTO's recognition will further inspire Kerala's RT mission to promote eco-friendly tourism.
- ✓ Apart from Kerala's RT Mission, Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve project is the only other Indian case study to be featured in this UNWTO list.
- ✓ The 2 Indian case studies are among the 7 G20 (group of 20) countries to feature on UNWTO list which includes Mexico, Germany, Mauritius, Turkey, Italy, Brazil and Canada, being the others.
- ✓ UNWTO noted that Kerala's RT mission promotes the travel industry in Kerala and upholds the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN.
- ✓ Kerala RT Mission was launched on 20th October 2017 by Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala.

About UNWTO

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|---|
| ✓ Secretary-General– Zurab Pololikashvili |
| ✓ Headquarters– Madrid, Spain |
| ✓ Establishment– 1975 |

Former Indian Cricketer Sourav Ganguly Named Brand Ambassador of Bengal

- ✓ Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal (WB) named former Indian cricketer and Padma Shir Awardee Sourav Ganguly as the "Brand Ambassador of Bengal". The announcement was made during the 7th edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (GBGS 2023) held in

Kolkata(WB). Prior to this appointment, renowned Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan has been serving as the brand ambassador of Bengal since 2012.

- ✓ Sourav Ganguly, popularly known as “Dada” or “Prince of Kolkata”, represented India from 1992 to 2008. He became the captain of the Indian Cricket team in 1999 and continued till 2005.

Meghalaya Launches ‘Food Security’ Campaign to Achieve Zero Hunger

- ✓ Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Meghalaya, launched the “Food Security Campaign” to sensitise the public about the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and strive to achieve United Nations(UN)’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – ‘Zero Hunger’ by 2030.
- ✓ The campaign aims to ensure that the poorest of the poor have access to food grains by reaching out to key stakeholders.
- ✓ As part of the campaign, the people will be informed about the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), the Redressal System, the toll-free helpline number 1967, the use of the electronic point of sale (ePoS) and the linking of Aadhaar card and registered mobile number with their ration card.
- ✓ The campaign will reach out to the general public about the Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) and Priority Households under National Food Security Act of 2013.

Assam Launches App Based ASTC Cab Services & UPI Backed Digital Payment Solutions

- ✓ The Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has launched its mobile application(app) – based city cab services and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) – backed digital payment solutions to book cabs, track their rides in real-time, and make payments digitally.
- ✓ The new services were inaugurated by Assam Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya. With 9,000 city cab service taxis, ASTC aims to provide

commuters a convenient, affordable, and safe mode of travel.

- ✓ The ASTC has partnered with PhonePe Private Limited to provide UPI-based digital payment solutions for its city cab services.
- ✓ ASTC city cabs will start online cab bookings in Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, in Guwahati (Assam).

Ladakh achieves 4th GI Tag with its Seabuckthorn

- ✓ The Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.), a thorny shrub or small tree in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under “Agriculture” goods category. This becomes the 4th GI product of Ladakh.
- ✓ The other 3 are Pashmina Wool of Ladakh(Textiles); Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot(Agriculture) and Ladakh Shingskos (Wood Carving)(Handi Crafts).
- ✓ Sea buckthorn, a actinorhizal plant of the family Elaeagnaceae has the unique characteristics to grow in marginally fertile soil of cold desert.
- ✓ It is also known as Sandthorn, Sea berry, Golden Bush, and Leh berry. It is naturally distributed over 11,500 hectares in Ladakh region.
- ✓ The GI tag was granted by The Geographical Indications Registry is located at Chennai, operating under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI).

Bihar Governor Approves Bill Raising Quota for Backward Classes to 65% from 50%

- ✓ On November 17, 2023, the Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, approved the Bihar reservation amendment bill 2023, passed recently by the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Council during the winter session.
- ✓ This will result in 65% reservation to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Economically Backward Classes (EBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) for the current 50%. Combined with

the existing 10% for EWS (Economically Weaker Sections), the reservation quota will rise to 75%.

- ✓ According to the bill, quota for Extremely Backward Class (EBC) will be raised from 18% to 25%; for Backward Class (BC) from 12% to 18%; for SC from 16% to 20%; and for ST, the quota will be doubled, from 1% to 2%. The 3% reservation for BC women has been scrapped.

Chandigarh Smart City launches AI-driven Chatbot 'BIRBAL'

- ✓ Anindita Mitra, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL), launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven chatbot "BIRBAL" to provide a one-stop platform for citizens to access information and services.
- ✓ The BIRBAL is developed using CoRover.ai, a generative AI-powered conversational AI platform. The chatbot provides accurate information and guide citizens to the appropriate resources.
- ✓ It is incorporated with various features such as voice assistance, live agent support, and AI-based response updates.

J&K Police Becomes 1st in India to Use GPS Tracker Anklets for Terror-Accused on Bail

- ✓ The officials of the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) introduced Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker anklets to monitor the terror-accused people out on bail.
- ✓ With this, J&K Police became the first police department in India to make use of GPS tracker anklets.
- ✓ The tracker is a wearable device affixed around the ankle to track the movement of accused persons.
- ✓ The device is already in use in the countries like United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom(UK), South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Jharkhand Cabinet Approves Rs 1,485cr Electrification Scheme

- ✓ Jharkhand Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren approved a new electrification scheme named "Mukhya Mantri Ujjwal Jharkhand Yojana".

- ✓ The scheme aims to provide electricity facilities to un-electrified rural hamlets and households, as well as leftover urban areas. The cabinet has allocated Rs 1,485.39 crore for this scheme.

- ✓ Apart from this The Jharkhand Cabinet approved the 'Abua Awas Yojna' (AAY), a state-supported housing scheme for the poor to build 8 lakhs pucca houses for the homeless in Jharkhand in 3 phases at a total budget of Rs 16,320 crore.

Uttar Pradesh Declares November 25 as "no non-veg day"

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government recently made a significant announcement, declaring November 25 as "no non-veg day" in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Sadhu TL Vaswani, a prominent advocate for a vegetarian lifestyle. This decision involves the closure of all slaughterhouses and meat shops in the state on that day.
- ✓ The move aligns with the tradition of celebrating the birth anniversaries of great figures who promoted the doctrine of non-violence, such as Mahavir Jayanti, Buddha Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti, and now, Sadhu TL Vaswani Jayanti.

Meghalaya Launches 'Water Smart Kid Campaign' For Youth Water Conservation Awareness

- ✓ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma launched the 'Meghalaya Water Smart Kid Campaign.' This initiative, operating under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), aims to educate children about the vital importance of water conservation.

Uttarakhand To Become The First State To Adopt The Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- ✓ Uttarakhand is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). In a move towards legal uniformity and gender equality, the state government is set to convene a special session post-Diwali to clear the UCC Bill, marking a significant departure from the diverse personal laws that currently govern citizens based on their religious affiliations.

ECONOMY AND BANKING

ADB Approves USD 500 mn loan for Healthcare, Medical Education in Maharashtra

- ✓ On November 23, 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan package of USD500 million for Maharashtra Tertiary Care and Medical Education Sector Development Program which envisages to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- ✓ Apart from this, Mumbai based L&T Finance Limited(LFT), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and a subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T),signed a USD125 million financing pact with ADB to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas of India, especially for women borrowers.
 - The funding comprises a loan of up to USD 125 million from ADB and an agreement to syndicate an additional USD 125 million in co-financing from other development partners.
 - 40% is designated for women borrowers and the remainder supporting farmers, MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), and two-wheeled vehicle purchases.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

President – Masatsugu Asakawa
Headquarters: Mandaluyong City, Manila, Philippines
Establishment-1966 Members – 68

HSBC India & UK Export Finance Tie Up for 100 mn Pound Financing Program

- ✓ The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (HSBC India) have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with UK Export Finance (UKEF), the United Kingdom (UK)’s export credit agency, to establish a financing programme of up to 100 million pound. This programme will support Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and corporates for financing their imports from UK.

- ✓ HSBC India and UKEF will collaborate to originate, structure, and extend financing and credit facilities for Indian MSMEs.
- ✓ The Program also supports corporates in financing their imports from the UK, which boosts trade ties between the two countries.
- ✓ UKEF offers guarantee-backed structures, which are financial instruments that can help businesses reduce their risk when exporting goods and services to overseas markets.

About HSBC India

✓ CEO– Hitendra Dave
✓ Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
✓ Established in -1853

SEBI Chief Madhabi Buch Introduces IRRA Platform

- ✓ Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- ✓ The IRRA platform, initiated by Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) under SEBI’s guidance, aims to reduce risks faced by investors in the event of technical glitches at Trading Member (TM) ends, both at the Primary and Disaster Recovery sites.
- ✓ The soft launch of the IRRA platform took place on October 3, 2023, with official launch occurring on November 20, 2023 for the benefit of investors. This platform is specifically designed for trading members supporting Internet-based trading (IBT) and Security Trading through Wireless Technology (STWT) for their investors.

India’s GDP likely grew 7% in Q2FY24: ICRA Projection

- ✓ According to the ICRA Limited (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited), India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the second quarter of FY 2024 (Q2FY24) is estimated to grow at 7%, surpassing

the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) forecast of 6.5%. However, this growth was 7.8% in (April to June 2023) Q1FY24.

- ✓ The Gross Value Added (GVA) growth will ease to 6.8% in (July-September 2023) Q2, driven by the services sector at 8.2%, agriculture at 3.5%, and industry at 6.6%.
- ✓ ICRA maintains a GDP growth estimate of 6% for FY24, projecting a slightly lower figure than the MPC's projection of 6.5%.

Finance Ministry Notified 7 Changes in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme Rules

- ✓ On 7th November 2023, Department of Economic Affairs(DEA), under the Ministry of Finance, notified 7 changes in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme(SCSS), a government-sponsored savings instrument for individuals aged 60 years or employees aged 55 years or more but less than 60 years.

7 Changes in SCSS

- ✓ **i.Extended Time for Investing Retirement Benefits** :The government has provided 3 months to invest in SCSS for individuals aged above 55 but below 60. At present, the investment has to be made within 1 month of receipt of retirement benefits.
- ✓ **ii.Investment by Spouse of Government Employee**: Following the change in SCSS rules, the spouse of the government employee is now permitted to invest the financial assistance amount in the scheme.
- ✓ **iii.Broadened Definition of Retirement Benefits**: The rule now clearly defines the scope of retirement benefits, any payment received by the individual due to retirement or superannuation.
- ✓ This includes provident fund dues, retirement or superannuation or death gratuity, commuted value of pension, leave encashment, savings element of group savings linked insurance scheme payable by the employer on retirement, retirement-cum-withdrawal benefit under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and ex gratia payments under a voluntary or special voluntary retirement scheme.

- ✓ **iv.Deduction on premature withdrawal**:The notification has relaxed the norms on premature withdrawals from SCSS.

- ✓ Now, 1% of the deposit will be deducted if the account is closed before the expiry of 1 year of the investment.

- ✓ Previously, if the account was closed before the expiry of 1 year, interest paid on the deposit in the account was to be recovered from the deposit and the entire balance was paid to the account holder.

- ✓ **v.No limit on the extension of SCSS**: According to the revised rules, the account holder can continue to extend the account for 'n' number of block –the block being of 3 years each. An application has to be submitted for every extension.

- ✓ Prior to the notification, the extension of SCSS was allowed only once. The extension will be considered from the date of maturity or from the end of each block period of 3 years.

- ✓ **vi.Interest on Extended Deposits**: As per the new rules, While extending the SCSS account on maturity, the deposit will earn the interest rate applicable to the scheme on the date of maturity or on the date of the extended maturity.

- ✓ **vii.Maximum Deposit Amount**: The maximum deposit amount in the scheme shall not exceed the allowed deposit limit.The maximum deposit limit for SCSS has been enhanced to Rs 30 lakh from Rs 15 lakh with effective from 1st April 2023. This was announced in Budget 2023.

About SCSS

- ✓ i.SCSS, launched in 2004, is designed specifically for senior citizens to provide them with a regular income and secure investment opportunity.

Insurance Ombudsman Disposed 92.28% of Complaints in FY23

- ✓ On the occasion of Bima Lokpal Day 2023(11th November 2023), Insurance Ombudsman announced that it has disposed of over 92.28% of the complaints received from the insured during Financial year 2022-23(FY23).

- ✓ Insurance Ombudsman has settled 51,625 out of 55,946 received complaints across all 17 Insurance Ombudsman Offices.

Goldman Sachs projects India GDP Growth at 6.3% in 2024

- ✓ According to India 2024 outlook from Goldman Sachs Group, Inc, India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to decline marginally to 6.3% in 2024 from the 6.4% estimated for 2023.
- ✓ India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.5% in FY25 compared to 6.2% in FY24.
- ✓ Headline consumer price inflation(CPI) is expected to decline to 5.1% year on year(yoy) average in 2024.
- ✓ The core inflation is expected to decline to 4.5% yoy (average) in 2024 from an estimated 5.1% in 2023.
- ✓ The current account deficit will widen to 1.9% of GDP in 2024 from the 1.3% expected in 2023

India Approves USD 360 Million in Investments in IT Hardware Sector

- ✓ The Indian government has approved investments worth USD 360 million in the Information Technology (IT) hardware sector under its flagship manufacturing incentives scheme to boost India's position in the global electronics supply chain .
- ✓ This announcement comes as a major step towards realizing India's ambitious target of becoming a USD 300 billion IT hardware manufacturing hub by 2026.
- ✓ The approved investments are spread across 27 companies, including global giants like Dell, HP, and Foxconn, as well as domestic manufacturers like Dixon Technologies and VVDN.
- ✓ These companies are expected to create over 50,000 new jobs in the IT hardware sector, further strengthening India's position as a major employment provider in the electronics industry.

T-Hub unveils T-Bridge and T-Scale on Its 8th Foundation Day

- ✓ As a part of its 8th Foundation Day (16th November 2023), Telangana government led incubator, Technology Hub (T-Hub) unveiled two flagship initiatives: T-Bridge and T-Scale, aimed at further propelling the growth and success of Indian startups.

- ✓ T-Bridge: It is the International Wing of T-Hub, designed to facilitate global market access for startups and enable them to expand their reach beyond India's borders.
- ✓ T-Scale: It is a collaborative program with Factoryal Business Incubator Private Limited that will guide 25 promising startups through a 12-month journey to Series-A funding readiness.
- ✓ T-Hub, which was incorporated in 2015, is a premier innovation hub and ecosystem enabler which is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.

PNB Introduces Digital Gold Loan for Hassle-Free Credit Access

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched two PNB Digital Gold Loan schemes namely PNB Gold Loan for the retail segment and PNB Swarnim for the agriculture segment.
- ✓ The schemes aim to provide customers with hassle-free access to credit to meet their personal and agricultural needs by using gold jewellery as collateral for the loan.

InCred Holdings Ltd Becomes 2nd Unicorn of 2023

- ✓ Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based InCred Holdings Limited, the parent company of fintech startup InCred Financial Services Ltd, has become the 2nd Indian startup to become an unicorn, valued at over USD 1 billion, in 2023. InCred became an unicorn after raising funding worth Rs 500 crore in its latest round (Series D) of equity funding.
- ✓ The equity round has gathered interest from various investors, including a global private equity fund, corporate treasuries, family offices, and Ultra-High-Net-worth-Individuals (UHNI)s.
- ✓ InCred Finance plans to deploy the capital across core business verticals such as consumer loans, student loans, and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) lending.
- ✓ InCred Finance has built a loan book of Rs.7,500 crore within 6 years and has been growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of over 50% over the last 3 years.
- ✓ In August 2023, Zepto, a quick commerce platform, became the India's first unicorn of 2023. It raised

USD 200 million in a Series E round of funding at a valuation of USD 1.4 billion.

Federal Bank Introduces UPI Lite for Small-Value Digital Payments

- ✓ Federal Bank Limited has launched Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Lite, a simplified version of the UPI system which allows users to make small-value digital payments offline without entering a UPI PIN.
- ✓ UPI Lite: The UPI Lite functionality was introduced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2022. It is an 'on-device wallet' feature integrated into existing UPI mobile application.
- ✓ UPI Lite minimizes the burden on the core banking system (CBS) by enabling direct transactions between the user's mobile device and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).

Transaction Limits in UPI Lite:

- Per Transaction Limit is up to Rs 500
- Maximum Cumulative Usage per Day is Rs 4,000
- Maximum Balance in UPI Lite Account is Rs 2,000

BSNL Set to Award Rs.1000-Crore Contract to Nokia for OTN Equipment

- ✓ State-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is set to award a multi-year Rs.1000-crore purchase order to Finland's Nokia for the supply of Optical Transport Network (OTN) equipment and deployment through a local system integrator.
- ✓ The contract, part of BSNL's Phase-4 project on a turnkey basis on the pan-India level is to supply, install, and commission OTN with a 3-year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) services and comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for 8 years.
- ✓ The contenders for this contract include domestic gear vendors United Telecoms Limited (UTL) and Tejas Networks, a Tata Group company.
- ✓ Domestic telecom equipment manufacturer Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited (HFCL) has front-ended the Nokia bid as the systems integrator.
- ✓ However, Indian companies under the 'Make in India' Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

framework can potentially receive a price relaxation of up to 20% to receive 50% of the order.

India, ADB sign USD400mn loan to Create Quality Urban Infrastructure

- ✓ On November 13, 2023, the Indian government signed a USD 400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its sub-programme 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Programme.
- ✓ This program is India's urban reform agenda to create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery, and promote efficient governance systems. The Loan has a principal repayment period of 12 years.

Moody's retains India's GDP growth at 6.7% for 2023

- ✓ Global credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service (MIS) has retained India's economic growth projection at 6.7% for financial year 2023-24 (FY23-24) in its "Global Macro Outlook 2024-25 (November 2023 Update)".
- ✓ The report also projected that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at 6.1% in FY24-25 and 6.3% in FY25-26.
- ✓ This is slightly higher than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s projection of 6.5% for 2023-24.

HAL & Airbus Signs Contract to Establish MRO facility for A-320 Aircraft

- ✓ On November 9, 2023, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Airbus, the largest European aircraft manufacturer, signed a contract to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the A-320 family of aircraft at Nashik, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Airbus will provide tools and consulting services, with the facility set to be operational by November 2024. The collaboration aims to meet the rising demand for MRO services in India.
- ✓ The facility will be available for the entire Asian region after obtaining European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approval in partnership with Airbus.

DFC Offers USD 553 Million to Adani Ports-led CWIT

- ✓ The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced an offer of USD 553 million to Adani Ports-led Colombo West International Terminal Private Limited (CWIT) to support the development of the deepwater shipping Container Terminal in the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ✓ CWIT is a joint venture (JV) developed by a consortium led by Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones Limited (APSEZ) (51% stake), Sri Lankan conglomerate John Keells Holdings (34% stake), and the Sri Lankan government-run Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) (15%).
- ✓ In 2021, Adani Ports signed a USD 700-million deal with SLPA and John Keells Holdings to jointly develop the terminal project in a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) arrangement spanning 35 years.

Bandhan Bank Board Approves Reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as MD & CEO

- ✓ The board of directors at Bandhan Bank has given the green light for the reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO). The Kolkata-based private sector lender has extended Ghosh's tenure for a period of three years. The current term is set to expire on July 09, 2024.
- ✓ The reappointment is contingent upon the approval of both the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the shareholders of the bank. As per regulatory provisions, the application for the reappointment of the MD & CEO must be submitted to the RBI at least six months before the conclusion of the current term. Ghosh is set to assume his renewed role from July 10, 2024, and will not be liable to retire by rotation.

Axis Bank Partners With IRMA To Promote Financial Inclusion And Literacy In India

- ✓ Recently, Axis Bank and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish

the Axis Bank Chair for financial inclusion at IRMA. This chair will play a pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion and financial literacy in India, aligning with the vision of equitable and sustainable transformation for the nation.

- ✓ The Axis Bank Chair for Financial Inclusion has been established for a period of five years, and it encompasses several key objectives and functions:

SEBI Plans To Introduce Same Day Trade Settlement by March 2024

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has unveiled an ambitious plan to revolutionize the settlement process in the country's financial markets. In a recent announcement, SEBI Chief Madhabi Puri revealed that the regulatory body is actively working on a roadmap to implement same-day settlement of trades by March 2024. Additionally, there are plans for the introduction of an optional parallel system for instantaneous settlement.

SEBI reduces minimum issue size for social stock exchange to Rs 50 lakh

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange. In a significant move, the regulator is introducing flexibility measures to facilitate this process.
- ✓ To support NPOs on the social stock exchange, SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.
- ✓ This reduction aims to make fundraising more accessible for NPOs, fostering a conducive environment for social impact initiatives.

Blue Dart Partners with India Post to Provide Parcel Locker Service at Post Offices

- ✓ In a groundbreaking move, Blue Dart Express has announced a strategic partnership with India Post to introduce automated Digital Parcel Lockers at selected post offices. This innovative collaboration

aims to redefine the landscape of efficient and reliable logistics solutions, providing customers with an additional and convenient delivery method.

- ✓ The introduction of Digital Parcel Lockers by Blue Dart and India Post marks a significant leap in parcel delivery technology. These lockers eliminate the need for personal receipts or signing for packages, offering consignees a hassle-free and secure method to retrieve their shipments. The lockers keep contents safe and easily accessible, allowing recipients to collect packages at their convenience.

Italian Luxury Brand, Brioni, Enters Indian Market

- ✓ French luxury group Kering's esteemed menswear brand, Brioni, has officially landed in India, with the help of DS Luxury, a distinguished entity under the umbrella of Dharampal Satyapal Group Limited.
- ✓ The brand's first boutique is set to grace Delhi's upscale retail landscape at the Chanakya mall.
- ✓ Boasting a curated collection of ready-to-wear clothing and accessories, the boutique will also provide bespoke services, embodying the epitome of personalized luxury.
- ✓ Ritesh Kumar, promoter of DS Luxury, expressed confidence in patrons appreciating the sophistication and exclusivity that Brioni represents.

IndiaFirst Life Becomes the First Life Insurance Company to Obtain GIFT City IFSC Registration

- ✓ IndiaFirst Life, a Mumbai-based life insurance company, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first life insurance company to secure registration within the GIFT City International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). This registration, which was granted following approvals from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in August 2023 and subsequent registration from the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) in September 2023, positions IndiaFirst Life to expand its services beyond the borders of India.

India Set to Extend Rice Export Bans Through 2024

- ✓ India, the world's leading rice exporter, is poised to extend its restrictions on overseas sales into 2024. This decision is expected to exert continued influence on global rice prices.
- ✓ For the past decade, India has been a major player in global rice exports, constituting almost 40% of the total. However, to maintain domestic supplies and curb price surges, the Indian government has imposed export duties and minimum prices.

Nokia Partners with TATA Play Fiber to Launch India's First WiFi6-Ready Broadband Network

- ✓ Nokia, a prominent technology leader, has marked a major advancement in the Indian broadband sector through its partnership with TATA Play Fiber to unveil India's first WiFi6-ready broadband network. This initiative addresses the growing need for robust broadband connections, which are increasingly vital in both homes and businesses as digital connectivity assumes a fundamental role in everyday living.
- ✓ In this collaboration, Nokia will provide TATA Play Fiber with a comprehensive range of fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and Wi-Fi equipment to facilitate the expansion of their broadband network throughout India. Key components of this partnership include:
 - ✓ Optical Line Terminal (OLT): Nokia's state-of-the-art OLT technology, a crucial component of the fiber network, forms the backbone for high-speed data transmission.
 - ✓ Optical Network Terminal (ONT) with Wi-Fi 6: Nokia's ONT paired with Wi-Fi 6 capability ensures that end-users can experience the full potential of high-speed internet in their homes.
 - ✓ Wi-Fi Mesh Beacons: Nokia's Wi-Fi mesh technology enhances the coverage area, allowing users to enjoy seamless connectivity, even in areas with obstacles like concrete walls.
- ✓ This ensures high-speed internet access throughout large customer premises, including multi-floor residences and small office/home office (SOHO) setups.

RBI UPDATES

RBI allows banks to open current accounts for export proceeds alongside special rupee Vostro accounts

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted authorization to Authorized Dealer Category – I (AD Category – I) banks to open additional current accounts for export proceeds, supplementing the existing special rupee vostro accounts. This account is exclusively meant for the settlement of export transactions.
- ✓ The move comes as part of the RBI's efforts, initiated in July 2022, which introduced a mechanism for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in Indian Rupees (INR) through Special Rupee Vostro Accounts held by correspondent banks of partner trading countries with AD Category-I banks in India.
- ✓ The RBI's decision will allow banks to provide exporters with greater operational flexibility.
- ✓ Nostro Account: Our account with them (foreign account), held in their foreign currency.
- ✓ Vostro Account: Their account with us (domestic account), held in our domestic currency.
- ✓ Loro Account: Their account with someone else, denominated in the currency of that third party.
- ✓ Escrow Account: A temporary account for secure funds holding during a transaction.

RBI Strengthens Regulations on Consumer Lending, Mandates Higher Capital Buffers for Banks and NBFCs

- ✓ The RBI has introduced stricter rules for consumer lending, directing both banks and NBFCs to establish higher capital buffers and implement board-approved policies to monitor exposure limits in the consumer lending segment.
- ✓ This move follows concerns expressed by the RBI governor regarding the rapid growth of consumer loans, prompting a cautionary approach among lenders.

- ✓ RBI increased the risk weights on credit card exposures by 25% points to 150% and 125% for banks and NBFCs, respectively.
 - Credit card receivables from banks will now carry a risk weight of 150%, increased from the previous 125%, while NBFCs will face a risk weight of 125%, up from 100%.
 - The new regulations, will not be applicable to housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery.
- ✓ This higher risk weight applies to both existing and new credit exposure.
- ✓ Additionally, RBI has specified that all top-up loans against depreciating movable assets, such as vehicles, should be treated as unsecured loans for credit appraisal and exposure purposes.

RBI Governor Released CAFRAL 1st Report: Fintech can emerge as Substitute for Traditional Banking

- ✓ On November 7, 2023, the Shaktikanta Das, Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), released the 1st flagship publication of the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) titled 'India Finance Report 2023 (IFR 2023)'. The report stated that India's fintech sector could replace traditional banking in the near future.
- ✓ **The theme of the report** is 'Connecting the Last Mile: Non-Banking Financial Companies in India'.
- ✓ CAFRAL, promoted by RBI, is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2011 to promote research and learning in banking and finance.
- ✓ The report offers new insights on India's non-banking financial sector, helping regulators, policymakers, and other stakeholders understand its unique strengths and opportunities. For this report, monthly Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transaction data from 30 States and union territories over 2018-2022 and sector-wise lending data from CIBIL were analysed.

How Fintech Sector is growing?

- ✓ India's digitalization, driven by initiatives like India Stack and UPI, has led to rapid growth in digital and FinTech lending, enhancing financial inclusion.

However, the report emphasizes the need for tailored regulations to support this growth while ensuring stability.

Key Points:

- ✓ There is a 10% increase in per capita UPI transactions usually leads to a 4.6% rise in fintech lending and 1.5% in lending by commercial banks
- ✓ As of March 2023, UPI network has over 30 crore unique users and 400 participating banks. Transaction value grew at 163% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) from FY18 to FY23.
- ✓ Transaction volume increased at 56% CAGR during the same period.
- ✓ Average transaction size rose from Rs 120 in FY18 to Rs 1,660 in FY23.
- ✓ UPI's contribution to digital transactions grew from 4% in FY18 to 52% in FY22 (by volume).
- ✓ In October 2023, UPI recorded 1,141 crore transactions, totaling Rs 17.16 lakh crore.

RBI Imposes Penalties on Axis Bank, Manappuram Finance, and Anand Rathi Global Finance for Regulatory Violations

- ✓ RBI has levied monetary penalties on Axis Bank Ltd, Manappuram Finance Ltd, and Anand Rathi Global Finance Ltd for non-compliance with various regulatory directives.
- ✓ **Penalty on Axis Bank:** RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 90.92 lakh for multiple infractions discovered during the 'Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2022).'
- ✓ **Penalty on Manappuram Finance:** RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 42.78 lakh for non-compliance with certain provisions of the "Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016".
- ✓ **Penalty on Anand Rathi Global Finance:** RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 20 lakh for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI (KYC) Directions, 2016.

RBI Bars Bajaj Finance Lending Under eCOM and Insta EMI Card

- ✓ On November 15, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) exercise of its powers under section 45L(1)(b) of the RBI Act, 1934 barred Bajaj Finance Limited from sanctioning and disbursing loans under its two lending products viz. eCOM and Bajaj Insta EMI Card, with immediate effect.
- ✓ The reason behind this action is the non-adherence of Digital lending guidelines of RBI by the company, specifically by not providing Key Fact Statements to borrowers for two lending products.
- ✓ Additionally, Bajaj Finance will rectify the key fact statement for eCOM and Insta EMI Card.
- ✓ RBI restrictions on lending via the eCOM and Bajaj Insta EMI Card will not have a "material financial impact" on the organisation.
- ✓ The ban may lead to a decline in the assets under management (AUM) growth and related growth in profitability.

RBI returns Instamojo's Payment Aggregator Licence Application

- ✓ RBI returned Mastercard-backed fintech Instamojo's application for a payment aggregator (PA) license amid not meeting the eligibility criteria.
- ✓ Instamojo is based in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The aggregator/ payouts function will now be undertaken in partnership with other licensed Pas while its payment gateway continues to be fully functional.
- ✓ On 27th September 2023, RBI returned the Instamojo's application for the PA licence due to not meeting the eligibility criteria.
- ✓ Instamojo stopped the operations of its payment gateway business to comply with RBI rules after receiving the final status on its application in September 2023.

PayGlocal gets RBI nod for Payment Aggregator License

- ✓ PayGlocal, a cross-border payments platform, receives in-principle approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator (PA) license. This will allow

PayGlocal to onboard merchants for online payment processing.

- ✓ Founded in 2021, PayGlocal provides secure online payment solutions through various methods. The company is backed by investors like PeakXV (formerly Sequoia Capital India) and Tiger Global.

✓

RBI Announces Phased Discontinuation of Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a plan to gradually discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) in response to evolving liquidity conditions. This strategic move aims to ensure that the financial system remains stable and money markets operate smoothly.
- ✓ The RBI has outlined a phased release of the I-CRR funds. On September 9, 25% of the I-CRR will be released, followed by another 25% on September 23. The remaining 50% of the I-CRR will be released on October 7.

Origins of the I-CRR

- ✓ The RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, introduced the I-CRR, mandating all scheduled banks to maintain a 10% reserve ratio on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023, and July 28, 2023. The objective was to absorb surplus liquidity stemming from various factors, including the reintroduction of ₹2,000 notes into the banking system.
- ✓ Governor Das emphasized that the I-CRR was always intended as a “temporary measure” to address the liquidity surplus.

RBI Imposes Fine of ₹10.34 Crore on BoB, Citibank, and IOB

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India, on 24 November, took stringent measures against Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Overseas Bank, imposing penalties totaling ₹10.34 crore. The penalties were imposed for contravention of regulatory norms, shedding light on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

1. Indian Overseas Bank Faces ₹1 Crore Fine:

Indian Overseas Bank bore the brunt of a ₹1 crore

penalty for non-compliance with specific directions issued by the RBI on ‘loans and advances – statutory and other restrictions.’]

- ✓ The regulatory body emphasized the importance of adherence to its directives and imposed the penalty accordingly.

2. Citibank Hit with ₹5 Crore Penalty

- ✓ Citibank, a major player in the banking sector, faced a hefty penalty of ₹5 crore for failing to comply with various directives.
- ✓ The RBI cited non-compliance with operational guidelines, managing risks, and the code of conduct in outsourcing financial services.
- ✓ Additionally, Citibank was penalized for shortcomings related to the ‘depositor education and awareness fund scheme, 2014.’

3. Bank of Baroda Fined ₹4.34 Crore

- ✓ Bank of Baroda found itself in the regulatory crosshairs as the RBI imposed a penalty of ₹4.34 crore. The penalty was linked to non-compliance with regulations concerning ‘loans and advances – statutory and other restrictions’ and the ‘Reserve Bank of India (interest rate on deposits) directions, 2016.’

RBI Takes Action Against Mumbai-based Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank’s Governance Issues

- ✓ In a move aimed at addressing governance-related concerns, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Friday that it has superseded the board of Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank for a duration of 12 months. This action comes as a response to certain material concerns arising from observed poor governance standards within the bank. As part of the regulatory intervention, Satya Prakash Pathak, former Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, has been appointed as the Administrator to oversee the bank’s affairs during the 12-month period. The RBI clarified that while the board has been superseded, no business restrictions have been imposed on the bank. Normal banking activities will continue under the guidance of the appointed Administrator.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff & CSIR ink MoU on joint R&D in Defence Technology

- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The MoU aims to provide a framework for initiating collaborative interaction between CSIR Labs, HQ IDS, and Armed Forces (Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force).

The partnership focuses on

- Enhancing scientific understanding of defense-related technologies
- Developing dual-use technologies related to defense.
- Undertaking joint research and development in dual-use technologies

OneWeb India Becomes 1st firm to get IN-SPACe Approval for Satellite Broadband Service in India

- ✓ OneWeb India has become the first firm to receive the authorisations from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to launch Eutelsat OneWeb's commercial satellite broadband services in India.
- ✓ With this, OneWeb India aims to extend internet services to rural and unconnected areas and territorial waters of India on a 24x7 basis using the Eutelsat OneWeb constellation.
- ✓ The authorisation valid for 5 years is subject to the assignment of the spectrum by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Ministry of Communication for both the gateways and user terminal operations.
- ✓ The OneWeb constellation comprises 648 satellites orbiting Earth in circular polar orbits at 1,200-kilometer altitude and shall provide 21 Gbps throughput over India.

- ✓ OneWeb India already holds licenses from DoT and has obtained approvals to establish and operate gateways in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Eutelsat OneWeb, a part of France based Eutelsat Group is a low earth orbit (LEO) operator.
- ✓ OneWeb India is part of the Bharti Group, which operates Airtel, and subsidiary of Eutelsat Group.
- ✓ IN-SPACe is the agency of the Government of India, responsible for regulating space activities and granting authorisation for conducting space activities in India.

New Frog Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ A new species of music frog 'Nidirana Noadihing' (Noa-Dihing music frog) was discovered near the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Gandhigram, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It was published in the November 15 edition of the Science journal Zootaxa.
 - The new species was named after the Noa-Dihing River, which is near where the specimens were discovered.
 - The discovery of the Noa-Dihing music frog validates the presence of the genus Nidirana from India.

About Nidirana Noadihing

- ✓ The new frog is distinct from its congeners in several ways, including its size, its oval toe tips, the tubercles on its back, and its unique call.
- ✓ The frog inhabits in swamps, ponds, and paddy fields. They often construct nests to lay their eggs.
- ✓ Nidirana species frogs are found in Japan, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.
- ✓ The discovery was made by a team of scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (Uttarakhand), the University of Wolverhampton (United Kingdom – UK), and the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department. The species was also discovered in 2022 in the surrounding marshy habitat of Glaw Lake in the Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.

ISRO Launches Robotics Challenge For Aspirants Interested In Space Missions With Cash Prize Of Rs 5 Lakh

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a robotic challenge program “ISRO Robotics Challenge-U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) 2024 (IRoC-U 2024)” with a tagline of “Let’s build a space robot” to build robots to compete in an extra-terrestrial-inspired arena.

- ✓ The program will help the student community to design and realise a ‘Wheeled/Legged Rover’ encompassing the development of complete hardware and software.
- ✓ The registrations for the challenge will start on November 20 and will conclude on December 15, 2023.
- ✓ The winning team will be awarded the cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs.
- ✓ The solutions provided by the students will be incorporated into ISRO’s future interplanetary robotics missions.

AAPA Aims for 5% SAF Usage by 2030

The Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has passed a resolution to adopt a collective target of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) use by 2030 among its 14 member airlines.

- ✓ The resolution was made in its 67th Assembly of Presidents of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines which was held in Singapore.
- ✓ This aims to reduce the aviation industry’s carbon footprint, as SAF can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 80% compared to fossil-based jet fuels.
- ✓ The adoption of SAF is a critical step in aviation industry’s journey towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches Dashboard of DST for Effective Parliament Business

On 14th November 2023, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of

Science & Technology(MoST) launched the software application Department of Science and Technology (DST), “Dashboard”, for real-time, prompt and effective Parliament business.

- ✓ This portal streamlines real-time Parliament business, including questions, Acts, Cabinet Notes, and Gazette Notifications of the Government of India related to DST.
- ✓ It will serve as a dashboard for all activities of DST.

DoT granted Jio and OneWeb with Licences for Satellite Internet Services in India

- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC) has granted the requisite licenses to Jio Satellite Communications Limited and Bharti Enterprises-owned Eutelsat OneWeb.
- ✓ DoT allocated Internet Service Provider (ISP)-A and a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) licence to OneWeb and ISP license to Jio.
- ✓ Both Jio and OneWeb possess the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence.

ICMR-NIP Unveils DISHA Portal to Make Diagnostic Services Through Geo-Mapping labs services in India

The Indian Council of Medical Research’s (ICMR) National Institute of Pathology (NIP) in New Delhi, Delhi launched “DISHA” – Diagnostic Services in Healthcare : Availability & Geo-mapping of Laboratory services in India portal (www.icmrdisha.in) to assist the public to identify and locate nearest diagnostic health facilities.

- ✓ The free and dynamic DISHA portal lists the diagnostic public healthcare facilities across India.
- ✓ ICMR-NIP is gathering data on diagnostic public healthcare facilities and creating a user-friendly online map to access suitable laboratory facilities.
- ✓ The portal also identify areas with an imbalance between population densities and diagnostic facilities. The data from the portal can help public health experts and government policymakers to empower existing labs, and create new facilities where necessary.

ICAR Researchers Discovered 2 New Seer Fish Species in Indian Waters

Researchers from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have discovered two new species of seer fish: *Scomberomorus avirostrus* (Arabian Sparrow seer fish) and *Scomberomorus leopardus* (Russell's Spotted Seer Fish) in Indian Waters.

- ✓ This discovery brings the total number of seer fish species in Indian waters to 6 from the existing 4 species.
- ✓ Prior to this discovery, the spotted seer fish (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) was thought to be a single species.
- ✓ However, the Researchers have found that it is actually a complex of three distinct species. These 3 species are:
 - The newly discovered seer fish (Arabian sparrow)
 - The resurrected seer fish (Russell's spotted)
 - The existing spotted seer fish

CRS-29: SpaceX Launched Its 29th Cargo Mission To ISS

On 9th November 2023, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and SpaceX jointly launched Dragon's 29th Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-29) to the International Space Station (ISS).

- ✓ CRS-29 Dragon spacecraft was launched atop a Falcon 9 Rocket from Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center(KSC) in Florida, the United States of America(USA).
- ✓ This is the 9th SpaceX launch under the Commercial Resupply Services-2 (CRS) contract. The spacecraft carried cargo weighing about 6,500 pounds (2948 kg) of scientific research, crew supplies, and hardware to ISS.
- ✓ The Falcon's first stage made a successful landing at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's Landing Zone 1 (LZ-1). The launch marked the second flight for the stage, which previously launched Crew-7.

Ashok Leyland is the First OEM to Manufacture LNG Engines

Ashok Leyland becomes the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) engine named as 'AVTR 1922'.

- ✓ Ashok Leyland has delivered first batch of 12 LNG-powered haulage trucks to Mahanagar Gas Limited in Hosur, Tamil Nadu(TN).

About AVTR 1922

- ✓ The AVTR 1922 is a customizable engine powered by a 6-cylinder H-series 'Hino' engine. The engine is compliant with Bharat Stage Six (BSVI) Stage II emission standards.
- ✓ It is also built on the AVTR platform, which is India's first and only fully modular truck platform. The engine shares many components with Ashok Leyland's current diesel trucks engines. It meets all safety standards and has a full metal front end for added safety and easier repairs.

A New Species of Wasp Discovered in Kerala

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of *Taeniogonalos Schulz* (wasp – a winged insect) named *Taeniogonalos dhritiae*, in the Western Ghat Ranipuram Hills area of Kerala. The species is named after Dr Dhriti Banerjee, a noted entomologist and the 1st Woman Director of ZSI.

- ✓ The new species *Taeniogonalos dhritiae* belongs to the genus *Taeniogonalos*, which is a genus of wasps in the family *Trigonalyidae*.
- ✓ *Trigonalyidae* is a small family of Hymenoptera, a large order of insects, comprising sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants.
- ✓ There are approximately 122 known species of *Trigonalyidae*, distributed across 16 genera worldwide of which 8 species are from India.

Google Introduces AI Chatbot 'Bard' For Teenagers

Google is taking a significant step in catering to the educational needs of teenagers with the launch of its AI chatbot, Bard. In a blog post by Tulsee Doshi, Google's Product Head for Responsible AI, the company outlined

its commitment to creating a secure and engaging learning experience for younger users.

- ✓ While the minimum age for managing a Google Account is 13, the accessibility of Bard will be subject to regional regulations, which may set slightly higher age benchmarks. The AI chatbot has undergone training to identify and filter out unsafe content, prioritizing the well-being of its young users.

‘Mika’ Becomes World’s First AI Human-Like Robot CEO

In a groundbreaking move, Hanson Robotics and Dictador, a Polish run company, have appointed the world’s first humanoid robot CEO named Mika. This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the unique values of the company. While this development sparks excitement about the potential of AI in leadership roles, it also raises concerns among workers about job security.

- ✓ Dictador, in collaboration with Hanson Robotics, has introduced Mika as the “official face” of the company. Mika utilizes advanced AI and machine learning algorithms to swiftly and accurately process data. However, concerns have been raised about a “significant delay” in Mika’s response time, highlighting the evolving nature of AI technology.

Cyclone ‘Michaung’ To Hit Bay Of Bengal, The Fourth Storm This Year

The Bay of Bengal is once again on high alert as meteorological conditions indicate the potential development of another cyclonic storm, closely following the impact of cyclonic storm ‘Midhili’ on several northeastern states. According to the latest updates from Skymetweather, the upcoming cyclonic storm is poised to be the fourth to hit the Bay of Bengal this year, marking the sixth storm overall in Indian waters. The affected regions are anticipated to include India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

- ✓ Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal typically occur between April and December. May witnesses a pre-monsoon surge in cyclonic conditions, while November experiences a post-monsoon peak.

IIT Ropar Discovers Rare Metal ‘Tantalum’ In Sutlej River, Punjab

- ✓ A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar. Led by Dr. Resmi Sebastian, an assistant professor at the institute’s Civil Engineering Department, the team has identified the presence of tantalum, a rare metal, in the sand of the Sutlej River in Punjab.
- ✓ Tantalum, with the atomic number 73, is a rare and remarkable metal. The metal is ductile in its pure form, allowing it to be stretched into thin wires without breaking. Notably, tantalum has an extremely high melting point, surpassed only by tungsten and rhenium.

Cyclone ‘Midhili’ Makes Landfall On Bangladesh’s coast

- ✓ The Northeast Bay of Bengal is currently under the influence of a cyclonic storm named “Midhili,” causing widespread concern and disruptions in the region. Government authorities in several northeastern states have issued alerts following substantial rainfall, and the impact of the storm has been felt across various areas, affecting not only daily life but also cultural events.
- ✓ The cyclonic storm, initially a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, has escalated into a significant weather event
- ✓ Mizoram, Tripura, and Assam have experienced varying levels of rainfall, leading to disruptions in the Meghalaya Cherry Blossom Festival on its inaugural day.

IIT Kanpur’s Innovative Solution: ‘Artificial Rains’ to Tackle Delhi’s Air Pollution Crisis

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has a quick-fix solution to offer to Delhi and its neighbouring regions choking in toxic air – it can help the city wash down pollutants and dust with “artificial rains”.
- ✓ Artificial rain, also known as cloud seeding, is a weather modification technique that has been developed to induce precipitation by altering the microphysical processes within clouds.

DEFENCE

Indian Armed Forces Participates in Exercise “AUSTRAHIND-23” in Australia

- ✓ The Indian Armed Forces takes part in the 2nd edition of the Joint Military Exercise with Australian Army in “AUSTRAHIND-23,” it was held in Perth, Australia from November 22nd to December 6th, 2023.
- ✓ Exercise “AUSTRAHIND” is an annual exercise that will be held alternatively in India and Australia.
- ✓ The 1st edition of the “AUSTRAHIND” was held in 2022 in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Mahajan, Rajasthan.
- ✓ **Participants**
- ✓ Indian contingent includes 60 personnel from a Battalion of the Gorkha Rifles regiment of the Indian Army, One officer from the Indian Navy(IN), and 20 personnel from the Indian Air Force(IAF).
- ✓ The Australian contingent includes 60 personnel from the 13th Brigade of the Australian Army, 20
- ✓ personnel each from the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

Ex Vajra Prahar 2023: 14th Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise commenced at Umroi, Meghalaya

- ✓ The 14th edition of the India – United States of America(USA) Joint Special Forces exercise, Vajra Prahar 2023, commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi Cantonment, located in Ri Bhoi district of the north eastern state of Meghalaya.
- ✓ The 2023 edition is a 21-day (3-week) training program happening from 21st November 2023 to 11th December 2023.
- ✓ The Indian Army (IA) contingent is led by Special Forces personnel from the Eastern Command.
- ✓ The US contingent is being represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) of US Special Forces.
- ✓ Exercise Vajra Prahar is an annual exercise between India and the US to share the best practices and

- ✓ experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted in two phases:
 - Phase 1 – Combat conditioning and tactical-level special mission training exercises.
 - Phase 2 – Validation of training received by the joint forces in Phase 1 through a 48-hour exercise.
- ✓ The 13th edition of this exercise was conducted at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh (HP) in August 2022. The first edition of the joint exercise was conducted in 2010.

DRDO & Indian Navy Conducts 2nd Flight-test of ‘NASM-SR’ from SeaKing

- ✓ On 21st November 2023, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in cooperation with the Indian Navy (IN) successfully tested the indigenously designed & developed Guided Naval Anti-Ship Missile- Short Range (NASM-SR) from IN’s Seaking 42B Maritime Helicopter.
- ✓ This marked the 2nd test of the missile, which was first tested at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha on 18 May 2022, from an IN Seaking Mk42B helicopter.
- ✓ The test involved the firing of the missile from a Seaking 42B helicopter, showcasing its precision guidance technology.
- ✓ The NASM-SR was first revealed to the public in 2018 in the Lok Sabha by then-Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (now Union Minister, Ministry of Finance)

Indian Navy Launched 4th MCA Barge, LSAM 10 (YARD 78) at M/s SEPPL in AP

- ✓ On 20th November 2023, Indian Navy (IN) launched the Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78), the 4th vessel in the 08 x MCA Barge project, at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh(AP).
- ✓ The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Shanmugam Sabesan, CRO (East).

- ✓ The barge was built by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL), Visakhapatnam(AP).

MITRA SHAKTI-2023: 9th Edition of India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise held in Pune

- ✓ MITRA SHAKTI-2023, the 9th edition of the joint military exercise between the armed forces of India and Sri Lanka was held at the Foreign Training Node in Aundh, Pune, Maharashtra from 16th November 2023 to 29 November 2023.

Participants

- ✓ Indian Army: Contingent of 120 personnel from India, primarily representing the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment.
- ✓ Sri Lankan Army: Personnel from the 53rd Infantry Division,
- ✓ Additionally, 15 members from the Indian Air Force (IAF) and 5 from the Sri Lankan Air Force are also partaking in this joint exercise.
- ✓ The Mitra Shakti was started in 2012 as a counter to China's effort to increase its influence in South Asia and Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

Indian Navy's 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft 'Amini' Launched

- ✓ On November 16, 2023, the Indian Navy (IN) launched 'Amini', the 4th in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC), at shipbuilding facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE).
- ✓ As a part of contract, on June 13, 2023, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Anjadip, the 3rd of eight indigenously built ASW-SWC was launched. The first ASW-SWC namely INS Arnala was launched in December 2022 while the second one INS Androth was launched on March 21, 2023.
- ✓ Amini, a Arnala class ship, is named after Amini island in Lakshadweep due to its strategic significance. It is designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and low intensity maritime operations (LIMO), and mine laying operations.

- ✓ The launch ceremony was presided over by Vice Admiral (VAdm) Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, IN.
- ✓ As per maritime tradition, Mrs. Manju Naithani, wife of Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, launched the ship to the invocation from Atharva Veda.

India & Bangladesh Navies Undertook 5th CORPAT & Bongosagar 23 in Northern Bay of Bengal

- ✓ The 4th edition of the Bilateral Exercise between the Indian Navy(IN) and Bangladesh Navy(BN), BONGOSAGAR 23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted from 7th to 9th November 2023 in the Northern Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ Bongo Sagar exercise was first conducted in 2019 while 1st edition of IN-BN CORPAT was held in 2018.

Participants

- ✓ IN- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kuthar, an indigenously built guided-missile Corvette, INS Kiltan, an indigenously built anti-submarine Corvette, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier
- ✓ BN- Bangladesh Navy Ship (BNS) Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaidah and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier.

Indian Army is Set to Induct Hermes 900 Starliner Drones of Israel

- ✓ The Indian Army (IA) is set to induct the Hermes 900 Starliner drone a Multi-role, Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aircraft System(UAS) from Israel-based defence company Elbit Systems to boost surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.
- ✓ Hermes 900 Starliner is capable of carrying a maximum payload of 450 kg, attaining an altitude of 30,000 ft and it can also fly continuously for up to 36 hours. It is equipped with an Air RADAR sensor which detects both cooperative and non-cooperative aircraft, as well as a Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS).

Gujarat CM unveils Crest of Indian Navy warship 'Surat'

- ✓ On November 6, 2023, Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, unveiled the crest of the Indian Naval Ship(INS) Surat, indigenous under-construction, guided missile destroyer of Project 15B, at the ceremony conducted under the aegis of Western Naval Command by Gujarat Naval Area, in Surat, Gujarat.
- ✓ This is the 1st capital warship to be named after the city of Gujarat and this is also the first time that unveiling of the crest of a warship is held in the city, it has been named after.
- ✓ INS Surat is the 4th ship & last ship of the indigenously designed and constructed Project 15 Bravo (15B) (Vishakhapatnam Class) destroyers. It has been constructed using innovative block construction methodology, where the ship's hull is assembled at different geographical locations before being integrated at the Mazagaon Docks Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

EAC Conducts its Annual Exercise Poorvi Akash

- ✓ The Shillong-headquartered Eastern Air Command (EAC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its annual Command level exercise called Exercise Poorvi Akash from 30 October to 5 November 2023 to check its combat preparedness.
 - The exercise was held in the northeastern region.
 - The day and night exercise comprised the application of Air Power in all its roles.
 - The exercise also comprises joint operations with the Eastern Command (EC) of the Indian Army(IA).
 - The indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand also participated in the exercise.

Swedish Firm Saab AB Becomes India's first 100% FDI in Defence Sector

- ✓ Swedish defence company Saab AB has become the first foreign company to get Government of India (GoI)'s approval for 100% foreign direct investment(FDI) in defence sector.

- ✓ The FDI proposal is valued at around Rs 500 crore. With this, Saab is set to establish a facility to manufacture Carl-Gustaf M4 rocket launchers in India. The facility will support the production of the Carl-Gustaf M4 for the Indian Armed Forces as well as components for users of the system around the world.

Indian Army and Air Force Contingent Set Off for 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'

- ✓ In a significant development, a contingent from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, comprising 120 personnel, embarked on a mission to Kazakhstan today. Their objective is to participate in the 7th edition of the Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023.' This collaborative endeavor will take place in Otar, Kazakhstan, spanning from 30th October to 11th November 2023.

17th Edition of India- Nepal Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN

- ✓ The 17th edition of the Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN is set to strengthen the longstanding ties between India and Nepal as military contingents from both nations converge in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, for this annual event. The exercise, scheduled from 24th November to 7th December 2023, alternates between the two countries, underscoring their commitment to mutual cooperation.

Participating Forces

- ✓ The Nepal Army contingent, comprising 334 personnel, has arrived in India for this collaborative endeavor. Represented by the Tara Dal Battalion, they join hands with the Indian Army contingent of 354 personnel, led by a Battalion from the esteemed KUMAON Regiment.

Rajnath Singh to Participate in 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Jakarta

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to attend the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) in Jakarta, Indonesia, spanning from November 16th to November 17th, as announced by the Ministry of Defence.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

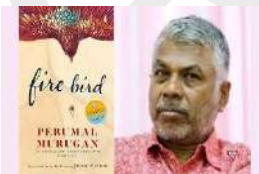
REC Honoured With 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by ASSOCHAM

- ✓ REC Limited (Formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) received the "Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" Award.
- ✓ It was awarded at the 4th Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conclave 2023 organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ REC was awarded for its commitment to creating a workplace that accommodates differences, fosters innovation, and promotes equal opportunities for all employees.



Fire Bird, Authored by Perumal Murugan & Translated by Janani Kannan won JCB Prize for Literature 2023

- ✓ Fire Bird, originally written in Tamil as "Aalanda Patchi" by renowned Tamil Writer Perumal Murugan won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature. The book was translated into English by Janani Kannan and was published by Penguin Random House India.
- ✓ The book explores themes of displacement and the human desire for stability in a changing world. Fire Bird is the 5th translated work to win JCB Prize for Literature.



About JCB Prize for Literature

- ✓ The JCB Prize for Literature, established in 2018, is an annual award presented to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian author.
- ✓ The prize is funded by JCB, the global construction equipment manufacturer, and administered by the JCB Literature Foundation. The author of the winning book receives a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh

cash prize and a trophy, "Mirror Melting" designed by artist duo Thukral and Tagra.

51st International Emmy® Awards: India's Vir Das wins Emmy for Comedy & Ektaa Kapoor wins Directorate Award

- ✓ On 20th November 2023, The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the winners of the 51st International Emmy® Awards (2023) in New York City, United States of America(USA). A total of 15 Emmy and 2 Special Awards (Founders Award & Directorate Award) were presented during the event
- ✓ Indian Comedian and actor Vir Das won the Emmy under the Comedy category for his Netflix stand-up special show "Vir Das: Landing". With this, he became the first Indian Comedian to win the Emmy Award.
- ✓ Ektaa R. Kapoor, Co-Founder of Balaji Telefilms was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for her contribution to the world of arts and entertainment. She became the first Indian Woman Filmmaker to win the Directorate Award.
- ✓ Previously, Subhash Chandra, the founder of Zee Group, received the Directorate Award(2011) for his contribution to India's television industry.
- ✓ The International Emmy Awards, annually presented by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, recognise excellence in television programming produced outside of the USA. For the 2023 International Emmy Awards, 56 Nominations were listed for 14 categories from 20 countries.



About International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

- ✓ President & CEO– Bruce Paisner, Estd –1969
- ✓ Hq– New York City, United States of America

Emmy Awards 2023 Winners	
✓	Best Drama Series: “The Empress”
✓	Best Actress: Karla Souza in “La Caida” (Dive)
✓	Best Actor: Martin Freeman in “The Responder”
✓	Best TV Movie/Mini-Series: “La Caida” (Dive)
✓	Best Non-Scripted Entertainment: “A Ponte – The Bridge Brasil”
✓	Best Short-Form Series: “Des Gens Bien Ordinaires” (A Very Ordinary World)
✓	Best Live-Action – For Kids: “Heartbreak High”
✓	Best Factual And Entertainment For Kids: “Built To Survive”
✓	Best Documentary: “Mariupol: The People’s Story”
✓	Best Sports Documentary: “Harley and Katya”
✓	Best Arts Programming: “Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On”
✓	Best Telenovela: “Yargi” (Family Secrets)
✓	Best Animation for Kids: “The Smeds and The Smoos”

BrainAlive Co-Founder Sujit Roy Wins NASA Impact Planet Award 2023

- ✓ Sujit Roy, Co-Founder of Noida(Uttar Pradesh) based BrainAlive Research Pvt. Ltd., was honoured with National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA) Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (IMPACT) Planet Award 2023 for his outstanding contribution to the Geospatial artificial intelligence (AI) Foundation Model project.
- ✓ NASA and IBM Research collaborated to create NASA’s first open-source geospatial AI foundation model for Earth observation data. Sujit Roy was part of the NASA’s research team.



Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Presented to COVID-19 warriors

- ✓ On November 19, 2023, the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022 was jointly awarded to the New Delhi, Delhi headquartered Indian Medical Association (IMA)

and the New Delhi based Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in India.

- ✓ The award for the same was presented to Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, President, IMA, and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President, TNAI by Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari.
- ✓ This award acknowledges every doctor, nurse, paramedic and karamchari for their selfless service during challenging times.
- ✓ Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, it is given annually to recognize individuals or organizations contributing to international peace, disarmament, and development.



Deepti Babuta becomes the First Woman to Bag Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature

- ✓ Punjabi-author Deepti Babuta won the Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature 2023 for her Short stories collection titled “Bhukh Eon Sah Laindi Hai (‘Hunger Breathes Like This’). She become the first woman to win The Dhahan Prize.
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of CAD 25,000.
- ✓ The awards were presented during the 10th annual Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature ceremonies, held on 16th November 2023, at Northview Golf and Country Club in Surrey, Canada.
- ✓ The other 2 finalists Jameel Ahmad Paul and Balijit were awarded CAD 10,000.
- ✓ The Dhahan Prize is the largest international literary award for fiction books in the Punjabi language. It was conceptualised in 2013 by the Canada-India Education Society (CIES) and the University of British Columbia (UBC).
- ✓ Deepti Babuta has also received the Dalbir Chetan Yadghari award for the same book.



Maharashtra Govt Honoured Singer Suresh Wadkar with Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award 2023

- ✓ Government of Maharashtra honoured veteran playback singer and Padma Shri awardee Suresh Ishwar Wadkar with prestigious 'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' also known as Lata Mangeshkar Award for the year 2023.
- ✓ The Lata Mangeshkar Award is an annual award given by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs of the Maharashtra Government in memory of the legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar.
- ✓ The award recognises an artist who has made consistent and invaluable contributions and achievements in the field of music and singing.
- ✓ The award includes a cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs, a certificate, and a memento.
- ✓ Suresh Wadkar is an Indian playback singer who performs in Hindi, Marathi, Konkani and Bhojpuri Films. He won a significant singing competition in 1976, a contest judged by veteran musicians Ravindra Jain and Jaidev.



India's Bina Agarwal & Mexico's David Barkin won the 2023 Kenneth Boulding Award

- ✓ The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) honoured Indian economist & Padma Shri awardee Bina Agarwal with 2023 Kenneth E. Boulding Memorial Award for Ecological Economics. Bina Agarwal is a Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the University of Manchester in Manchester, United Kingdom (UK).
- ✓ Along with Bina Agarwal, David Barkin, a professor at the Metropolitan University in Mexico City was declared as the joint recipient of 2023 award.
- ✓ The award was presented during the IESS's 2023 Biennial Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia held from 23 to 28 October 2023.

- ✓ Kenneth Boulding Award recognises individuals who embody the exceptional qualities of Kenneth E. Boulding (American economist and educator), aiming to preserve and perpetuate the wisdom he imparted to ISEE members and beyond.

GAIL Bags Two Awards At The Asian Oil And Gas Awards 2023

- ✓ Asian Power Magazine presented The 19th Asian Power Awards, 3rd Asian Oil & Gas Awards, and inaugural Asian Water Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 2023.
- ✓ GAIL India Limited won the 'Innovation Award – India' for reduction in LNG Shipping cost & emissions through Ship-to-Ship (STS) transfer of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with backhauling.
- ✓ It also won 'Midstream Project of the Year – India' for the installation of the first floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP). These awards are presented under the Asian Oil & Gas Awards.

Madhuri Dixit receives award at 54th IFFI

- ✓ Legendary actress Madhuri Dixit has been honored with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, along with MoS Information & Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.



Pakistan-Based Startup She-Guard Wins Top Climate Innovation Competition

- ✓ In a groundbreaking achievement, Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard emerged victorious at the 'ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific' finals, showcasing their innovative biodegradable and plastic-free sanitary product. The startup's mission is to transform banana crop waste into affordable, eco-friendly sanitary napkins, addressing the

interconnected challenges of climate change, public health and solid waste management in Pakistan.

Salman Rushdie Honored With First 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award'

- ✓ World-renowned author Salman Rushdie, celebrated for groundbreaking works like 'The Satanic Verses,' received the inaugural 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award' from the Vaclav Havel Center. Simultaneously, Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah was honored with the 'Disturbing the Peace Award for a Courageous Writer at Risk' during a ceremony held on November 14.
- ✓ Rushdie's presence at the event was unexpected, with only a handful of the 100 attendees aware of his attendance. Having recently received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, Rushdie humorously pondered on which side of "the fence" this new accolade placed him. Recently, Rushdie unveiled the publication of his latest book titled 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder.'
- ✓ The Vaclav Havel Center also bestowed the 'Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk' upon Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah. Despite being imprisoned, Abdel-Fattah remains a symbol of resistance against Egypt's authoritarian regime. Acclaimed author Adhaf Soueif, Abdel-Fattah's aunt, accepted the award on his behalf, highlighting his appreciation for the award's name, "Disturbing the Peace."



Grammy Awards 2024: Falguni Shah's 'Abundance in Millets' Nominated for Best Global Music Performance

- ✓ Falguni Shah, a Grammy Award-winning Indian vocalist and songwriter, has been nominated for the Best Global Music Performance category at the 2024 Grammy Awards for her song "Abundance in Millets", which features a speech written and delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Apolinaris D'Souza Honored With The 19th 'Kalakar Puraskar' Award

- ✓ The 19th edition of the prestigious 'Kalakar Puraskar,' organized by the Carvalho Household of Kundapura in association with Mandd Sobhann, Mangaluru, was awarded to Apolinaris D'Souza, a prominent Konkani singer, lyricist, and composer. The award ceremony took place on the 5th of November 2023, during a public event held at Kalaagann, Mangaluru.

96th Oscars: Jimmy Kimmel to Host Academy Awards for the Fourth Time

- ✓ The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has announced that Jimmy Kimmel will return as the host for the 96th Academy Awards in 2024, marking his second consecutive year and fourth overall. This decision comes after Kimmel's successful stint in 2023, where the ceremony garnered 18.7 million viewers, the highest since the pre-pandemic broadcast in 2020.


IFFI 2023: 'Endless Borders' Wins Golden Peacock

- ✓ The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa ended on November 28 with an award ceremony. The nine-day festival concluded at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa.

List of the winners of IFFI 2023
Golden Peacock Best Film: 'Endless Borders'
Best Actor-Male: Pouria Rahimi Sam for 'Endless Borders'
Best Actor (Female): Melanie Thierry for 'Party of Fools'
Best Director: Stephan Komandarev for 'Blaga's Lessons'
Special Jury Award: Rishab Shetty For 'Kantara'
Best Debutant Director: Reger Azad Kaya for his Syrian-Arab Republic film 'When the Seedlings Grow'
Best Web Series: 'Panchayat Season 2'
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Douglas

SPORTS

Novak Djokovic Defeats Jannik Sinner to Win his seventh ATP Finals title

- ✓ Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Jannik Sinner (Italy) to win the men's singles title in Nitto Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) finals 2023, held from 12th -19th November 2023 at the Pala Alpitour stadium in Turin, Italy. 
- ✓ This marks Novak Djokovic's 7th ATP finals title, which includes 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, and 2023. With this, Djokovic broke Roger Federer's record of six ATP Finals titles.
- ✓ Djokovic is at the top of the list of winning the most number of Grand Slams with 24 titles while Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are in the second and third position with 22 and 20 Grand Slams respectively.
- ✓ Djokovic also became the first player to hold the No. 1 ATP ranking (Total Weeks At No. 1) for 400 weeks (November 19 2023), Roger Federer(310 weeks) was the only other player who held the No. 1 rank for more than 300 weeks.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic also won his eighth ATP Year-End No. 1 presented by Pepperstone when he defeated Holger
- ✓ Rune in his opening match at the Nitto ATP Finals.
- ✓ Rajeev Ram(United States of America-USA) and Joe Salisbury(United Kingdom-UK) won the ATP Finals men's doubles 2023 title by defeating Marcel Granollers(Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) in the finals. This marks Ram and Salisbury's pair second ATP Finals title including their win in 2022 and 2023.
- ✓ Rohan Bopanna(India) and Matthew Ebden(Australia) pair lost to Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos in the semifinals of the ATP men's Doubles Finals.
- ✓ **About the ATP Finals:** The ATP Finals is the final event of the ATP Tour season and the finals will be

played by the world's best eight qualified singles players and doubles teams. The first edition of the ATP finals was held in 1970, Tokyo, Japan.

Iga Swiatek Wins the Women's singles title at the WTA Finals 2023

- ✓ Iga Swiatek(Poland) defeated Jessica Pegula(U.S.A) to win the women's singles title at the 2023 GNP Seguros Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Finals. 
- ✓ The first-time WTA Finals title winner Iga Swiatek was given the WTA Finals Billie Jean King Trophy.
- ✓ The 22-year-old Iga Swiatek was the youngest WTA Finals title winner since Petra Kvitova(Czech Republic) won in 2011 at the age of 21.
- ✓ Iga Swiatek was named the year-end No. 1 ranking (Women's Singles) by WTA
- ✓ Women's Doubles: Laura Siegemund(Germany) and Vera Zvonareva(Unflagged – Russia) defeated Nicole Melichar- Martinez(U.S.A) and Ellen Perez(Australia) to win the Women's Doubles title at the WTA Finals.
- ✓ The winning women's doubles pair was presented with the WTA Finals Martina Navratilova doubles trophy.
- ✓ **About WTA Finals:** The 2023 GNP Seguros WTA Finals was held from 29th October – 5th November 2023 in Cancun, Mexico. The event witnessed the participation of the WTA's top 8 singles players and doubles teams.

About ATP
✓ Chairman – Andrea Gaudenzi
✓ Headquarters – London, United Kingdom(UK)
✓ Established – 1972

India Wins One Silver and Two Bronze Medals in World Wushu Championship 2023

- ✓ India won three medals(one silver and two bronze) in the 16th edition of the World Wushu Championships(2023) was held from 16th to 20th

November 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, United States of America(USA).

- ✓ The Indian medalists were Naorem Roshibina Devi (silver), Kushal Kumar (bronze), and Chhavi Ruhela(bronze).
- ✓ Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women’s sanda 60kg category after she lost to Thi Thu Nguyen(Vietnam) in the finals.
- ✓ Kushal Kumar from Punjab won the bronze medal in the men’s 48kg Sanda category
- ✓ Chhavi Ruhela from Uttar Pradesh won the bronze medal in the women’s 48kg Sanda category.

Anurag Singh Thakur announces First-Ever Khelo India Para Games

- ✓ Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, announced the first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023, it will be held in New Delhi, Delhi from December 10 to 17, 2023. About Khelo India Para Games
- ✓ The Khelo India Para Games is organised to develop para sports and to identify talented para-athletes.
- ✓ The games will feature seven disciplines such as para-athletics, para-shooting, para-archery, para-football, para-badminton, para-table tennis, and para-weight lifting.

ICC Introduces Stop Clock in Men’s ODI and T20I Cricket to Regulate Time Taken Between Overs

- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced a “stop clock” in men’s One Day International (ODI) and Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket matches to regulate the time taken between overs. This announcement was one of the decisions, made at a board meeting of ICC at Ahmedabad(Gujarat) on 20th November 2023. About the Stop Clock rule
- ✓ The bowling teams in men’s ODIs and T20Is will be imposed a five-run penalty if the bowler fails to bowl the next over within 60 seconds after the completion of the previous over for the third time in an innings.
- ✓ The Stop Clock will be introduced on a trial basis from December 2023 to April 2024. The stop clock

rule is set to improve the pace of the game and enhance the spectator experience.

- ✓ ICC also announced equal match-day pay for both female and male umpires from January 2024. This initiative promotes gender equality in cricket.

ICC Men’s ODI World Cup 2023: Australia Wins the 6th title by Defeating India

- ✓ The Australian Men’s cricket team led by Pat Cummins won the 13th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men’s One Day International



(ODI) Cricket World Cup(CWC) 2023 by defeating Rohit Sharma led India in the finals held in Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- ✓ The ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023 was hosted by India across 10 venues from 5th October to 19th November 2023. This win for Australia marks their sixth ODI World Cup title including 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, and 2023.

Awards

Player of the Tournament – Virat Kohli
Player of the Match(Finals) – Travis Head (Australia)
Highest run-scorer – Virat Kohli(765 runs)
Highest Wicket-taker – Mohammed Shami(24 wickets)

Highlights

- ✓ **Virat Kohli:**The 2023 ODI World Cup highest run-scorer Virat Kohli has scored 765 runs, the most runs scored ever in a single edition of an ODI World Cup, and breaks Sachin Tendulkar’s previous record of 673 runs set in the 2003 edition.
- ✓ Kohli has scored nine half-centuries in the 2023 World Cup which breaks Sachin Tendulkar’s record of seven half-centuries in the 2003 edition. Kohli also broke Tendulkar’s (49 centuries) record of the most number of centuries in ODI matches, while Kohli scored his 50th century against New Zealand in the semi-final.

- ✓ **Mohammed Shami:** Mohammed Shami becomes the first Indian bowler in an ODI match to take seven wickets, having achieved this feat against New Zealand in the semifinal.
- ✓ Mohammed Shami also made the record for the most number of wickets for India in a single edition of the ODI World Cup with 24 wickets in the 2023 edition by surpassing Zaheer Khan's record of 21 wickets in the 2011 ODI World Cup edition. Shami also became the first Indian to take three five-wickets in this ODI World Cup.
- ✓ **Rohit Sharma:** Rohit Sharma became the highest run-scorer as captain in a single World Cup edition with 597 runs in the 2023 ODI World Cup while he broke New Zealand's Kane Williamson record of 578 runs, which came in the 2019 edition.
- ✓ Rohit Sharma tops the list of the most sixes in ODI World Cups with 54 sixes, he also leads the most sixes in the 2023 ODI World Cup with 31 sixes which is also the most number of sixes smashed in a single World Cup edition.
- ✓ **KL Rahul:** KL Rahul also made the record of the fastest century by an Indian in the ODI World Cup when he scored a century in 62 balls against the Netherlands in the group match.
- ✓ **Glenn Maxwell(Australia)** made the record by hitting the fastest century in ODI World Cup history where he scored 100 runs in 40 balls against the Netherlands.
- ✓ Maxwell became the highest individual scorer in the ODI run chase by scoring 201 runs against Afghanistan in the group-stage matches.
- ✓ **Angelo Mathews(Sri Lanka)** became the first cricketer to be dismissed by 'timed out' format in an international match.
- ✓ • timed out – According to ICC World Cup 2023 playing conditions, After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes.
- ✓ **ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 Mascots:**
 'Blaze' is a bowling female mascot
- ✓ 'Tonk' is a batting male mascot
- ✓ **Prize Money:**
- ✓ Winner – USD 4 million(approximately Rs 33 crore)

- ✓ Runner – USD 2 million(approximately Rs 16 crore)
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended its full-member Sri Lanka on the grounds of government interference in the management of the Sri Lanka Cricket(SLC). Due to the poor performance of the Sri Lankan cricket team in the 2023 ODI World Cup (Won only two out of nine matches), and corruption allegations Sri Lanka's Ministry of Sport dismissed SLC's board and replaced it with an interim committee to govern SLC.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force's(IAF) Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team(SKAT)(52nd Squadron of IAF) consisting of nine Hawk Mk-132 aircraft performed an aerial show at the beginning of the final match between India and Australia.
- ✓ Pakistan cricketer Usama Mir became the first-ever concussion substitute in World Cup history by replacing Shadab Khan.

About International Cricket Council (ICC)

- ✓ Chairman – Greg Barclay
- ✓ Headquarters – Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- ✓ Established in -1909

Red Bull's Max Verstappen Wins F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix 2023

- ✓ Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the Dutch-Belgian driver, won the Formula 1 (F1) Las Vegas Grand Prix(GP) 2023 held at Las Vegas Strip Circuit in Nevada, the United States of America(USA) from 16th November 2023 to 18th November 2023.
 
 - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco) secured 2nd place while Red Bull's Sergio Perez (Mexico) secured 3rd place.
 - This win also marks Verstappen's 18th win out of 20 races of the 2023 season.
 - Max Verstappen broke his own record for the most F1 race victories in a single season in 2023 by winning 18 races.
 - Max Verstappen leads the F1 World Championship in 2023 with 549 points in the F1 driver standings.

IOC Awards Olympic Cup 2023 to Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the 2023 Olympic Cup to the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF) in recognition of its long-term commitment to empowering refugee athletes and refugees worldwide through taekwondo.
- ✓ Thomas Bach, IOC President, presented the Olympic Cup to World Taekwondo President Chungwon Choue in a ceremony at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

37th National Games Goa: Maharashtra Tops Medal Tally With 228 medals

- ✓ Maharashtra Finished top in the medal tally with 228 medals (80 gold, 69 silver, and 79 bronze) in the 37th edition of the National Games held in Goa from October 26th to November 9th, 2023.
- ✓ Maharashtra won the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the National Games 2023, and it is also the first time Maharashtra has topped the medal tally since 1994.
- ✓ Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) finished in second place with 126 medals (66 gold, 27 silver, and 33 bronze) while Haryana finished in third place with 192 medals (62 gold, 55 silver, and 75 bronze).
- ✓ **Best Male Athlete: Srihari Nataraj(Karnataka)**
- ✓ • He won ten medals(8 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze) in the swimming event.
- ✓ **Best Female Athlete:** It was jointly awarded to gymnasts Sanyukta Prasen Kale(Maharashtra) and Pranati Nayak(Odisha).Both of them won Five medals each(four golds and one silver).
- ✓ **Newly added Sport in 37th National Games:** Beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kalliyarapattu, pencak silat, Yachtin gand taekwondo were added to the Goa National games.



- ✓ **Mascot – MOGA**
It means “Love” in the Konkani language and it symbolises the beating heart of every athlete, coach, and sports enthusiast.
- ✓ **Theme/Motto– “Get Set Goa”**
- ✓ **Official Sponsor:** Paytm
- ✓ **Official Hydration Partner-** Bisleri
- ✓ **Next Edition:** The 38th National Games is set to be held in Uttarakhand by 2024

Indian Cricketers Virender Sehwag, Diana Edulji and Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame 2023

- ✓ Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag and former Indian women’s cricket team captain Diana Fram Edulji , along with Sri Lanka’s Aravinda de Silva, were inducted into the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) Hall of Fame for the year 2023.
- ✓ Diana Fram Edulji is the first Indian woman cricketer inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- ✓ The three legends are to be presented with a commemorative ICC Cricket Hall of Fame cap during the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai (Maharashtra) on 15th November 2023.



India Finishes Asian Archery Championships 2023 with 7 Medals

- ✓ The Indian contingent finished second in the medal tally with 7 medals (3 Gold, 1 silver and 3 Bronze) in the Asian Archery Championships 2023 held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3rd to 10th November 2023.
- ✓ South Korea secured first place in the medal tally with 11 medals(6 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze) while Kazakhstan in the third place with 3 medals(1 Gold and 2 Silver) in the 23rd edition of the Asian Archery Championship.
- ✓ India’s Parneet Kaur won two gold medals in the Asian Championships include women’s compound and women’s compound team.

- ✓ In the women's compound team, she won the gold medal along with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Aditi Swami.
- ✓ In the women's compound individual event she performed better than India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam who won the silver medal in the event.
- ✓ The Indian mixed compound team comprised of 17-year-old Aditi Swami and Priyansh won the gold medal.
- ✓ Abhishek Verma, the Asian Games 2018 champion and silver medallist at Hangzhou 2022, won the Bronze medal in the men's compound event.

Serena Williams becomes 1st Athlete to receive CFDA Fashion Icon Award


- ✓ On November 6, 2023, American tennis player Serena Williams received the Council of Fashion Designers of America's (CFDA) Fashion Icon Award in 2023. With this, she becomes the first athlete to receive this award. 
- ✓ She received the award from American socialite Kim Kardashian (the recipient of 2022 CFDA Fashion icon award).
- ✓ The award was presented at the ceremony held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, United States of America (USA).
- ✓ Amazon Fashion is the Presenting Partner for the CFDA Fashion Awards.

Punjab Defeats Baroda to Win Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023-24

- ✓ The Punjab cricket team won its maiden domestic Twenty20 (T20) IDFC First Bank Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2023-2024 title by defeating the Baroda team in the final held in Inderjit Singh Bindra Stadium in Mohali, Punjab.
- ✓ The victory for the Punjab team was the first domestic title since their Ranji Trophy victory in the 1992-93 season.
- ✓ Ashutosh Sharma playing for Railways team scored 11-ball fifty against Arunachal Pradesh team in the

- ✓ group stage match. It has broken the record of Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball fifty, which he scored against England in the inaugural World T20 in 2007 in (South Africa).

Pankaj Advani wins World Billiards Championship for Record 26th Time

- ✓ Indian cueist Pankaj Advani secured his 26th IBSF World Billiards Championship title in a remarkable comeback, defeating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final. 
- Trailing 26-180 in the first hour, Advani rallied to a convincing 1000-416 victory in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur. The match showcased Advani's resilience and skill, highlighting his dominance in the world of billiards.

Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- ✓ Indian women's hockey team won the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 title by defeating Japan 4-0 in the final held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The 7th edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy was held in Marang Gomke Jaypal Singh Mundha AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand, from 27th October to 5th November 2023.
- ✓ China won the bronze medal by defeating South Korea in the Bronze medal match.

India Wins 55 Medals(21 Gold, 21 Silver & 13 Bronze) in Asian Shooting Championships 2023

- ✓ India finished second in the medal tally with 55 medals (21 Gold, 21 Silver & 13 Bronze) in the Asian Shooting Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea from 22nd October to 2nd November 2023. China topped the medals table with 76 medals (33 gold, 21 silver and 22 bronze).
- ✓ The 15th edition of the Asian Shooting Championships comprised both Junior and senior-level events, organised by Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC).

PERSONS IN NEWS

4 Indians featured on BBC 100 Women List 2023: Dia Mirza, Harmanpreet Kaur, Arati Kumar-Rao & Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo

- ✓ On November 21, 2023, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) released the 11th edition of the list of BBC 100 Women 2023 which includes four Indian women viz. Actress Dia Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati Kumar-Rao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo.
- ✓ It is list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2023. The list is organized into categories like Culture and Education; Entertainment and Sport; Politics and Advocacy; and Science, Health, and Tech.
- ✓ Harmanpreet Kaur and Dia Mirza are named under the Entertainment & Sport category while Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo is acknowledged under the category of Culture and education.
- ✓ In 2023, for the first time, this BBC 100 Women list specifically highlights 'Climate pioneers' a group of women leading the battle against the climate crisis.
- ✓ The list features 28 Climate Pioneers from across the globe who are inspiring and leading their communities to tackle the devastating impact of climate change. This includes Indian photographer Arati Kumar-Rao.



Sheyannis Palacios from Nicaragua crowned Miss Universe 2023

- ✓ Miss Sheyannis Alondra Palacios Cornejo (23) from Nicaragua was crowned Miss Universe at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2023 in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador. She is the first women from Nicaragua to win Miss Universe crown.



- ✓ She was crowned by the United States' (US) R'Bonney Gabriel, who held the title of Miss Universe for 2022.
- ✓ The first runner-up was Miss Anntonia Porsild of Thailand, and the second runner-up was Miss Moraya Wilson of Australia.
- ✓ 84 women competed in the 72nd Miss Universe. The crown is called the "Force for Good"
- ✓ El Salvador hosted the last Miss Universe Pageant in 1975.
- ✓ Miss India Shweta Sharda made it to the top 20 but didn't reach the top 10 (evening gown round).
- ✓ Miss Congeniality was awarded to Athenea Paulinha Pérez Nsué of Spain. She is the first woman of color to represent her country.
- ✓ Miss Portugal Marina Machete and Miss Netherlands Rikkie Kollé were the first transgender participants.
- ✓ .Camila Avella from Columbia became the first mother to reach top 10 at the Miss Universe contest, Miss Nepal Jane Dipika Garrett was the pageant's first plus size model.
- ✓ Pakistan participated for the first time, represented by Erica Robin, who reached the semi-final round.
- ✓ The next Miss Universe, the 73rd edition, will be held in Mexico. Michelle Dee of Philippines won the Spirit of Carnival Award at Miss Universe 2023

Time Magazine Features Sheikh Hasina, World's Longest Serving Female Head of Govt

- ✓ At 76 years old, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has earned a prominent place in global politics. In a Time cover story, she was hailed as a political phenomenon who has played a pivotal role in guiding Bangladesh's growth from a rustic jute producer to the Asia-Pacific's fastest-expanding economy over the past decade.
- ✓ Sheikh Hasina has been a prominent figure in Bangladeshi politics, serving as the country's prime minister since 2009. Prior to this, she held the same



office from 1996 to 2001. Her remarkable journey in politics has seen her win more elections than even iconic leaders like Margaret Thatcher or Indira Gandhi. With multiple terms in office and a reputation for resilience, Hasina remains dedicated to leading her country.

Justice Fathima Beevi, India's 1st Woman Judge of Supreme Court, Passed Away

- ✓ Justice M Fathima Beevi, India's 1st woman Judge of Supreme Court of India and former Governor of Tamil Nadu(TN) passed away at the age of 96 in Kollam, Kerala. She was born in April 1927 in Pathanamthitta, Kerala.
- ✓ She was the 1st Muslim woman judge to be appointed to any higher judiciary. She was also the 1st woman to become a Supreme Court Justice in an Asian country.
- ✓ Fathima Beevi started her career in 1950 as an advocate in Kerala. She topped the Bar Council exam and became the first woman to receive a Bar Council gold medal.



Former Mr. India Nongthombam Maipak Passed Away

- ✓ Nongthombam Maipak, former Mr India title holder and veteran bodybuilder of Manipur passed away in Imphal, Manipur at the age of 88. He was born on June 12, 1935 at Uripok Sorbon Thingel Sinam Leikai in Imphal West District, Manipur. He was popularly known as Mister Maipak and 'Son of Manipur'.
- ✓ He won the Mr. India title in 1970 and then represented India in the Mr. Universe competition held from September 25-26, 1971 in Paris, France.

Former RBI Governor S. Venkitaramanan Passed Away At 92

- ✓ Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S. Venkitaramanan, breathed his last at the age of 92 on November 18, succumbing to age-related



issues at a private hospital in Chennai.

- ✓ Assuming the role of RBI Governor in December 1990, Venkitaramanan faced the daunting task of navigating a severe balance of payments crisis.
- ✓ His tenure coincided with rapid changes in the Central government, requiring him to exhibit determination and courage in the face of economic challenges.
- ✓ Venkitaramanan's two-year tenure witnessed the multi-crore securities scam and persistent calls for his resignation.
- ✓ However, the then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh provided a clean chit in Parliament, acknowledging Venkitaramanan's steadfast performance in the face of adversity.

Freedom Fighter and Communist Leader N Sankaraiah Passed Away At the Age Of 102

- ✓ N Sankaraiah, one of the oldest communist leaders in the country and freedom fighter, passed away at the age of 102, he had dedicated his life to the principles of communism and the struggle for a just society. Leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) confirmed his demise, marking the end of an era.



Sahara Group Founder Subrata Roy Passes Away at 75

- ✓ Sahara Group's visionary founder and chairman, Subrata Roy, breathed his last at the age of 75. Subrata Roy, born in Bihar's Araria in 1948, founded Sahara India Pariwar in 1978. With a humble beginning capital of ₹2,000, Sahara India Pariwar evolved into a prominent entrepreneurial venture.
- ✓ Despite the company's success, Sahara faced significant challenges related to funds, now famously known as the "Sahara chit fund scam." The legal battles, particularly involving the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Himachal Pradesh High Court, persisted for years.



APPOINTMENTS

UN Panel of External Auditors: India's CAG Girish Chandra Murmu Elected as Vice-Chair for 2024

- ✓ Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, was elected as the Vice-Chair of the United Nations (UN) Panel of External Auditors for 2024.
- ✓ The Panel has elected Pierre Moscovici, First President of Cour des comptes, French Republic, as its Chair for 2024. The announcements were made during the 63rd session of the Panel held at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America (USA) from 20-21 November 2023. The session was chaired by Isma Yatun, chair of the panel (2023) and Chairperson of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia.
- ✓ The Panel of External Auditors comprising of Heads of 12 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) globally, oversees the external audit of the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programmes, and Specialized Agencies.



RBI Approves Appointment of Five Hinduja Group Representatives as Directors on Reliance Capital board

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to the appointment of five Hinduja Group representatives including Amar Chintopanth, Shardchandra V Zaregaonkar, Moses Newling Harding John, Bhumika Batra, and Arun Tiwari as directors on the board of Reliance Capital.
- ✓ RBI also announced its no objection to the transfer of control of Reliance Capital Ltd to IIHL banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) (India) Ltd (wholly owned subsidiary of IndusInd International Holdings Ltd). Hinduja Group firm IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) has won the bid for acquisition of the debtladen Reliance Capital in an insolvency proceeding to recover unpaid loans in June 2023.

Luc Frieden named as 23rd Prime Minister of Luxembourg

- ✓ On November 17, 2023, Luc Frieden (60), a member of the Christian Social People's Party (CSV), sworn in as the 23rd Prime Minister (PM) of Luxembourg. He succeeds Xavier Bettel of Liberal Democratic Party (DP), who served as PM of Luxembourg from 2013 to 2023.
- ✓ The PM and the new ministers of the coalition government (CSV-Liberal DP) took oaths of office during a ceremony officiated by Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg (Head of State).
- ✓ During the National elections held in October 2023 to elect all 60 seats of the Chamber of Deputies, CSV party won 21 seats and DP took 14 seats. The coalition holds a majority of 35 seats in the Parliament.



ACC Approves Appointment of Vinay M Tonse as MD of SBI

- ✓ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has approved the appointment of Vinay M Tonse as the Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI) for two years till November 2025.
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, Vinay Tonse was serving as the Deputy MD (Corporate Account Group) of SBI. The post (MD of SBI) fell vacant in June 2023 after the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Javier Milei Elected as the President of Argentina

- ✓ Javier Milei (53) of Libertarian Party was elected as the new president of Argentina. He will succeed the current Argentina President Alberto Fernández after assuming office on December 10, 2023. Milei won the election with 56% votes against 44% for his rival, Peronist Economy Minister Sergio Massa.

Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez Re-elected as Prime Minister of Spain

- ✓ On 16th November 2023, Pedro Sánchez of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party(Spanish acronym: PSOE) was re-elected as the Prime Minister (PM) of Spain, officially President of the Government of Spain.He was elected for the 2nd term with a majority in the Spanish parliament. He got 179 votes in the 350-seat lower house of the Parliament.
- ✓ He has been serving as the Acting PM of Spain since 25th July 2023.
- ✓ He served as the PM of Spain/President of the Government of Spain from 2018 to 2023.

Venkat Nageswar Chalasani Appointed as New Chief Executive of AMFI

- ✓ The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for the Mutual Fund (MF) industry in India appointed Venkat Nageswar Chalasani, former Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of the International Banking Group of State Bank of India (SBI), as its new Chief Executive.
- ✓ He will replace N.S. Venkatesh, who has served 2 consecutive terms of 3 years each since October 2017. As a new Chief Executive, Venkat Nageswar Chalasani would focus on the MF industry's growth aspects and AMFI 2.0 strategy.

NPCI Appoints Bollywood Actor Pankaj Tripathi as 'UPI Safety Ambassador'

- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi as its 'UPI(Unified Payments Interface) Safety Ambassador' to strengthen safety awareness and security on digital payment platforms.
- ✓ This initiative underscores the importance of the security and safety of digital payment platforms, especially in the context of the UPI.
- ✓ Various initiatives implemented by NPCI, including UPI, RuPay, and the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), aimed at simplifying and securing digital transactions.

Goverdhan S. Rawat & Ajay K. Sood Appointed as Dy MDs of NABARD

- ✓ The Government of India has appointed Goverdhan S. Rawat and Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood as Deputy Managing Directors(Dy MDs) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), an apex development bank administered by the Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ Goverdhan S. Rawat has been appointed for a tenure of 5 years with effect from the taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Ajay Kumar Sood will hold the post till his superannuation on 31st August 2027.

Heeralal Samariya sworn in as Chief IC of CIC by President Draupadi Murmu

- ✓ On 6th November 2023, Heeralal Samariya sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (Chief IC) of the Central Information Commission (CIC). He becomes the first Dalit Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer to hold the post.
- ✓ Draupadi Murmu, President of India, administered the oath of office at the function at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi. He succeeds Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, whose tenure as chief of CIC ended on 3rd October 2023.

RBI Appoints Manoranjan Mishra as New Executive Director

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Manoranjan Mishra as its Executive Director (ED) with effect from November 1, 2023. As the ED, Manoranjan Mishra will oversee three Departments namely Enforcement, Risk Monitoring, and External Investments & Operations.

RBI Approves Appointment of Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur & Hitesh Sethia as Directors of Jio Financial Services

- ✓ On 15th November 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the appointment of Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur, and Hitesh Kumar Sethia as Directors of Jio Financial Services

Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) backed by Reliance Industries Limited(RIL).



- ✓ The approval is valid for only 6 months with effect from the 15th November 2023.
- ✓ If the company fails to implement the proposed changes within this timeframe, it will need to reapply with reasons for the delay.
- ✓ **About Isha Ambani:** Isha Ambani is a key member of the executive leadership team at Reliance Retail. She played a pivotal role in conceptualizing and launching Jio in India in 2016.
- ✓ **About Anshuman Thakur:** Anshuman Thakur has over 24 years of experience in corporate strategy and investment banking, currently serving as the Senior Vice President at Jio Platforms Limited. He joined the Reliance group in 2014. Before that, he had worked with Morgan Stanley, Arthur Andersen and Ernst & Young.
- ✓ **About Hitesh Sethia:** Hitesh Sethia, a chartered accountant, has been a financial services executive with over 2 decades of experience across Europe, Asia (India & Greater China) and North America. He worked with ICICI Bank Canada, ICICI Bank Germany, ICICI Bank's operations in the UK and Hong Kong as well.

Former PM David Cameron Appointed As The UK Foreign Secretary

- ✓ The former UK Prime Minister David Cameron has returned to government as Foreign Secretary, seven years after he left Downing Street. Mr Cameron resigned in 2016 after losing the Brexit referendum.
- 
- ✓ Cameron brings a wealth of experience, having served as the country's leader from 2010 to 2016.
 - ✓ His tenure as Prime Minister was marked by the divisive Brexit referendum, ultimately resulting in the U.K.'s departure from the European Union.
 - ✓ He served as the Leader of the Conservative Party from 2005 to 2016, and held the position of Leader of the Opposition from 2005 to 2010.

Uttar Pradesh Cadre IPS officer Alok Sharma Named New Chief Of SPG

- ✓ Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Alok Sharma has been appointed as the new director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), the elite security unit responsible for safeguarding the Prime Minister.
- 
- ✓ This crucial appointment comes in the wake of the unfortunate demise of SPG chief Arun Kumar Sinha in September.
 - ✓ Alok Sharma, who currently serves as the additional director general of SPG, assumes the leadership role with immediate effect, according to a government order approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Three New Judges Take Oath, Supreme Court Back To Its Full Strength Of 34 Judges

- ✓ Justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih, and Sandeep Mehta took oath as judges of the Supreme Court . Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud administered the oath to them at a ceremony held in the Additional Complex of the Supreme Court. The recent induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34.



Santosh Kumar Jha set to be next CMD of Konkan Railway

- ✓ The Public Enterprises Selection Panel (PESB) has recommended Santosh Kumar Jha as the next Chairman & Managing Director of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), a significant PSU under the Ministry of Railways. Currently Jha was serving as the Director (Operations & Commercial) at KRCL.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKING

UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2023 insists on Accelerating Measures To Combat Global Warming

- ✓ As per the 14th edition of Emissions Gap Report 2023: Broken Record: Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again), released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the world must reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 28-42% by 2030 to limit warming to 2°C and 1.5°C, respectively.

Findings:

- ✓ The report warns that if countries fail to reduce GHG emissions, then global temperatures will be increased by 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- ✓ The report emphasizes that the only way to prevent exceeding the 1.5°C limit is to accelerate implementation action in this decade.
- ✓ If GHG emissions reduction is delayed, then this will lead to a greater future reliance on carbon dioxide (CO₂) removal from the atmosphere.

Progress:

- ✓ There has been some progress since the Paris Agreement was signed 2015.
- ✓ Earlier, GHG emissions in 2030 were projected to increase by 16%. As of now it stands at 3% which shows the progress.
- ✓ The global implementation gap for 2030 is projected to be around 1.5 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂e) for unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Earlier it was projected at 3 GtCO₂e.
- ✓ For conditional NDCs, the implementation gap is projected to be around 5 GtCO₂e, reflecting a 1 GtCO₂e decrease from the 2022 estimate.

Present Scenario:

- ✓ Under current policies, global warming is projected to reach 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2100.
- ✓ Even if countries fulfill their unconditional NDCs, warming would still reach 2.9 degrees.

- ✓ By fulfilling their conditional NDCs, temperature rise will be at 2.5 degrees.
- ✓ In a scenario where all conditional NDCs and net-zero pledges are achieved, the 2°C temperature goal could be reached

State Educational Achievement Survey 2023 by PARAKH conducted Successfully

- ✓ The State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) 2023 was successfully conducted on 3rd November 2023 among students in grades 3, 6, and 9 to identify areas where learning needs improvement.
- ✓ This is the 1st survey conducted by the Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), the national assessment regulator.

Objective:

- ✓ To assess the learning competencies of students at the end of each educational stage, i.e., foundational, preparatory, and middle with a primary focus on Language and Mathematics

Assessment:

- ✓ The SEAS 2023 surveyed 80 lakh students, 6 lakh teachers, and over 3 lakh field investigators in 5917 blocks across India. All states and Union Territories (UTs), excluding six states – Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal (WB), participated in the survey.
- ✓ The survey was conducted in collaboration with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to track the learning progress.

11 lakh children in India missed 1st Measles shot in 2022: WHO-USCDC Report

- ✓ According to “Progress Toward Measles Elimination- Worldwide, 2000–2022”, a new report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States (US) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 11 lakh

children in India missed their Measles-containing-vaccine first-dose (MCV1) in 2022.

- ✓ Globally, India is featured among the top 10 countries with highest number of children who missed their 1st dose.
- ✓ In 2022, 37 countries that witnessed large or disruptive outbreaks where India reported around 40,967 measles.

Indian Scenario:

COVID-19 strain on health services resulted in decreased immunization coverage, leading to increased measles cases, notably in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.

- ✓ •In 2022, Maharashtra reported 13 measles-related deaths.

Global Scenario:

- ✓ Global first-dose measles vaccination coverage increased from 72% in 2000 to 86% in 2019, declined to 81% in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and slightly improved to 83% in 2022.
- ✓ In 2022, it was still well under the 95% coverage with two doses that is necessary to protect communities from outbreaks.
- ✓ Measles deaths rose by 43% from 2021 to 2022, reaching 136,200, despite averting 57 million deaths through vaccination from 2000 to 2022. However, during 2000–2022, estimated measles vaccination prevented approximately 57 million deaths worldwide. Globally, 33 million children missed a measles vaccine dose in 2022

Clean Energy Overtakes Fossil Fuels in Global Job Market: IEA WEE 2023 Report

- ✓ On November 15, 2023, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released the '2nd edition of the World Energy Employment (WEE 2023) report stating clean energy jobs surpassed fossil fuel jobs for the first time in 2021 at the global level.
- ✓ Clean energy sectors added 4.7 million jobs globally between 2019-2022 and stand at 35 million, while fossil fuels jobs recovered more slowly after layoffs in 2020 and remain around 1.3 million below pre-pandemic employment levels, at 32 million.

- ✓ Clean energy jobs now represent over half of all energy sector jobs.
- ✓ An overall global energy employment in 2022 reached almost 67 million, a growth of 3.4 million from prepandemic levels
- ✓ The report was prepared by the World Energy Outlook Division of the Directorate of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks of IEA.

WHO's Global TB Report 2023: Globally 7.5mn People were Diagnosed with TB in 2022

- ✓ According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2023, 7.5 million people across the globe were newly diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) in 2022, the highest ever since records began in 1995.
- ✓ However, it also highlights a positive global recovery in TB diagnosis and treatment services in 2022, indicating a reversal of the negative impact caused by COVID-19 disruptions.

Assessment:

- ✓ The report assessed data from 192 countries and areas (out of 215) with more than 99% of the world's population and TB burden.

Highlights:

- ✓ India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, responsible for over 60% of the global decline in new TB cases in 2020 and 2021, surpassed 2019 levels of diagnosis in 2022.
- ✓ Globally, an estimated 10.6 million people developed TB in 2022, up from best estimates of 10.3 million in 2021 and 10.0 million in 2020.
- ✓ Most people who developed TB were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia (46%), Africa (23%) and the Western Pacific (18%).
- ✓ TB-related deaths in 2022, including those with HIV (Human immunodeficiency Viruses), were 1.3 million, a decrease from 1.4 million in 2021.
- ✓ TB remains the leading cause of death among people with HIV.
- ✓ COVID-19 disruptions led to nearly half a million additional TB deaths during the 2020-2022 period.
- ✓ In 2022, 410,000 people developed multidrug-resistant TB(MDR-TB) or rifampicin-resistant TB(RR-TB); only 2 in 5 accessed treatment.

FSSAI's 5th SFSI: Major States Recorded Drop in 2023 Scores from 2019

- ✓ According to the 5th edition of State Food Safety Index(SFSI 2022-2023) by FSSAI, with the inclusion of a new parameter (Improvement in SFSI Rank) in the 2023 index, 19 out of 20 large states recorded a drop in their 2023 scores from 2019.
- ✓ The index was released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on World Food Safety Day 2023 (June 7 2023).
- ✓ Adjusting for the new parameter, 15 out of 20 states recorded lower SFSI scores in 2022-2023 compared to 2019.
- ✓ Maharashtra has recorded the steepest fall in SFSI Score, from 74 out of 100 in 2019 to 45 in 2023, followed by Bihar(from 46 in 2019 to 20.5 in 2023), and Gujarat (from 73 in 2019 to 48.5 in 2023).
- ✓ The worst drop has been recorded in the 'Food Testing Infrastructure' parameter, where the average score for all large states dropped to 7 points out of 17 in 2023 from 13 points out of 20 in 2019.

UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2023

- ✓ Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) 2023: Underfinanced. Underprepared – Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed, released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reveals a concerning slowdown in the climate adaptation efforts globally. The report states that the climate adaptation finance flows from public multilateral like the World Bank and bilateral sources to the developing nations declined by 15% to around USD 21 billion in 2021. At present, the estimated global adaptation finance gap (difference between needs and actual financial flows) is USD 194-366 billion per year. The report states that the Countries need financing of USD 215 billion to USD 387 billion every year to adapt to climate change. But they are receiving only USD 21.3 billion.
- ✓ Developing countries will require USD 387 billion per year for the next decade to implement projects that will support adapting to climate change

India Ranked 117th among 129 nations in Inclusiveness Index by OBI; New Zealand Tops

- ✓ According to the Inclusiveness Index published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at California University, United States of America(USA), India was ranked 117th out of 129 countries with an overall score of 49.24.
- ✓ India was ranked 129th in religion inclusiveness, 121st in gender, 108th in disability, 87th in race, 40th in the general population, and 39th in LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or questioning, Intersex, Asexual).
- ✓ The index was topped by New Zealand for the second consecutive year with an overall score of 82.08. It is followed by 2nd place at Portugal (77.6), and the Netherlands (76.98) in the 3rd place.

QS Asia Rankings 2024: India features Highest Number of Universities; China's Peking University Tops

- ✓ On November 8, 2023, the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking: Asia 2024 was released, showcasing 148 Indian universities which is 30 more than the last edition. With this, India now holds the highest representation in Asia's higher education system, surpassing China (133) and Japan (96). India has 118 universities in 2023 ranking. This is the 16th edition of the QS World University Ranking in this category.
- ✓ Peking University, Beijing, China has retained the 1st position in the QS Asia Ranking 2024, while, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) in Mumbai, Maharashtra grabbed the top spot in India with 40th position in the Asia Ranking.

10th Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List Released; Shiv Nadar Tops

- ✓ On November 2, 2023, Hurun Research Institute and EdelGive Foundation released the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023 in which Shiv Nadar (78) of HCL Technologies retained the title of 'India's Most Generous' for the 3rd consecutive year as he donated Rs 2,042 crore during the FY2022-23. Azim Premji is ranked 2nd, as he donated Rs 1,774 crore and Mukesh Ambani, is ranked 3rd with a donation of Rs 376 crore.

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme&Details
November 1	World Vegan Day 2023	World Vegan Month is annually celebrated during the month of November .
November 3	International Day for Biosphere Reserve 2023	
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023	Theme: “Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future”..
November 7	National Cancer Awareness Day 2023	Cancer Awareness Symbol: A lavender ribbon is usually a sign of support for those living with all types of cancer.
November 7	CV Raman Birth Anniversary	The birth anniversary of the Nobel Prize Winner & Bharat Ratna awardee, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman) is annually observed on 7th November. 2023 marks the 135th birth anniversary of CV Raman. He is an Indian Physicist well known for his discovery of the Raman effect. CV Raman was born on 7th November 1888 in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, and passed away in 1970 in Bengaluru(Karnataka). In 1954 , CV Raman was awarded the inaugural Bharat Ratna for his outstanding service to the country in the field of physics. The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930 was awarded to CV Raman for his work on the scattering of light.
November 8	International Day of Radiology 2023	IDO R was created to mark the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen , a German physicist & the winner of the 1st Nobel Prize in Physics (1901), in 1895. 8 November 2023 marks the observance of the 12th International Day of Radiology(IDoR). Theme: “Celebrating Patient Safety”.
November 9	National Legal Services Day 2023	Theme: ‘Access to Justice for All: Empowering the Marginalised through Legal Awareness’.
November 6 -10	World Quality Week 2023	World Quality Week (WQW) is annually observed across the globe on the 2nd week of November to recognise the achievements of quality professionals, reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year, and share best practices for ensuring quality in all areas of lives. Theme: “Quality: realising your competitive potential”.
November 10	National Ayurveda Day 2023	Theme: “Ayurveda for One Health”
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development 2023	Theme: ‘Building Trust In Science’
November 11	National Education Day 2023	National Education Day is annually observed across India on 11 November to mark the birth anniversary of ‘Bharat Ratna’ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India. 11 November 2023 marks the 135th birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

November 12	World Pneumonia Day 2023	Theme: “Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track”.
November 6th to 12th	International Week of Science and Peace 2023	
November 13	World Kindness Day 2023	Theme: “Be Kind Wherever Possible”
November 14	World Diabetes Day 2023	Theme: “Access to Diabetes Care.” Campaign : “Know your risk, Know your response.”
November 14	Children’s Day/Bal Divas 2023	Children’s Day also known as Bal Divas is annually observed across India on November 14 to honour the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s 1st Prime Minister, who was known for his love and affection for children. 14 November 2023 marks the 134th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
November 15 to 21	National Newborn Week 2023	Theme : “Safety, Quality and Nurturing care – Birth Right of Every Newborn”.
November 16	International Day for Tolerance 2023	
November 16	National Press Day 2023	National Press Day is annually observed across India on 16th November to commemorate the day on which the Press Council of India (PCI) started its function as the moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any form of influence or threats. Theme : “Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”.
November 16	World Philosophy Day 2023	World Philosophy Day is annually observed across the globe on the 3rd Thursday of November.
November 17	International Students’ Day 2023	
November 18	National Naturopathy Day 2023	It was on this day in 1945, when Mahatma Gandhi became lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the deed to make the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people. Theme: “Naturopathy for Holistic Health.”
November 18 to 24	World AMR Awareness Week 2023	Theme: “Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together”.
November 19	National Integration Day 2023	National Integration Day, also known as Quami Ekta Divas, is observed annually on November 19 across India to mark the birth anniversary of India’s First Female Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. • 19th November 2023 marks the 106th birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi
November 19	International Men’s Day 2023	Theme: “Zero Male Suicide”.
November 19	World Toilet Day 2023	Theme: Accelerating Change”
November 20	World Children’s Day 2023	Theme: “For every child, every right.”
November 21	World Fisheries Day 2023	Theme: “Celebrating the Wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture.”
Nov.19 to 25	World Heritage Week 2023	Theme: “Heritage Changes
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023	

CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTION

1. In November 2023, the Indian Armed Forces took part in the _____ edition of the Joint Military Exercise with Australian Army in “AUSTRALIND-23,” held in Perth, Australia.
 - a) 4th
 - b) 6th
 - c) 3rd
 - d) 5th
 - e) 2nd
2. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the World Wushu Championships held in November 2023?
 - A) India won three medals (one silver and two bronze) in the 16th edition of the World Wushu Championships (2023) held from 16th to 20th November 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, United States of America (USA).
 - B) Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women’s sanda 60 kg category.
 - C) Kushal Kumar won the bronze medal in the men’s 48kg Sanda category & Chhavi Ruhela won the bronze medal in the women’s 48kg Sanda category.
 - a) Only A
 - b) Only A & B
 - c) Only B & C
 - d) Only A & C
 - e) All A, B & C
3. In November 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur announced the first-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023 to be held in _____ (state/UT) in December 2023.
 - a) Delhi
 - b) Goa
 - c) Jammu and Kashmir
 - d) Gujarat
 - e) Maharashtra
4. In November 2023, Justice _____, 1st woman Judge of the Supreme Court of India and former Governor of Tamil Nadu passed away.
 - a) Sujata Manohar
 - b) Gyan Sudha Misra
 - c) Ruma Pal
 - d) Ranjana Desai
 - e) M Fathima Beevi
5. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the visit of President of India, Droupadi Murmu to Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (AP) in November 2023?
 - A) President Droupadi Murmu attended the inaugural session of the 36th Annual Conference and Literary Festival of All India Santali Writers Association at Baripada, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
 - B) President along with Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs (MoTA) inaugurated the new Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) campus at Kuliana, Mayurbhanj (Odisha).
 - C) President addressed the 42nd Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning held at Sai Hira Convention Hall in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
 - a) All A, B & C
 - b) Only A & B
 - c) Only B & C
 - d) Only A & C
 - e) Only A
6. In which city, Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Independent Power Project (IPP), the world's largest single-site solar power plant has inaugurated in November 2023?
 - a) Aswan, Egypt
 - b) Konya, Türkiye
 - c) Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
 - d) Doha, Qatar
 - e) Ibri, Oman
7. In November 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan package of USD _____ for Maharashtra Tertiary Care and Medical Education Sector Development Program.

- a) 400 million b) 500 million
c) 250 million d) 300 million
e) 450 million
8. Which company has recently (in Nov '23) received the "Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" Award?
a) Vedanta Limited
b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
c) National Aluminium Company Limited
d) REC Limited
e) Oil India Limited
9. Name the Tennis player who has recently (in Nov '23) won the women's singles title at the 2023 GNP Seguros Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title by defeating Jessica Pegula from the United States of America (USA).
a) Laura Siegemund (Germany)
b) Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
c) Anhelina Kalinina (Ukraine)
d) Ellen Perez (Australia)
e) Iga Swiatek (Poland)
10. Which of the following Indian personality is not featured on the 11th edition of the list of BBC 100 Women 2023 released by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in November 2023?
a) Kartiki Gonsalves
b) Dia Mirza
c) Harmanpreet Kaur
d) Arati Kumar-Rao
e) Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo
11. Name the personality from India who was recently (in Nov '23) elected as the Vice-Chair of the United Nations (UN) Panel of External Auditors for 2024.
a) Shashi Kant Sharama
b) Vinod Rai
c) Rajiv Mehrishi
d) Girish Chandra Murmu
e) V.N. Kaul
12. In November 2023, _____ became the first firm to receive the authorisations from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) for satellite broadband services in India.
a) Hughes India
b) Jio Satellite Communications
c) Tata Communications
d) Viasat India
e) OneWeb India
13. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) 2023?
A) Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Jannik Sinner (Italy) to win the men's singles title in Nitto Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) finals 2023, held from 12th -19th November 2023 at the Pala Alpitour stadium in Turin, Italy.
B) This marks Novak Djokovic's 7th ATP finals title, which includes 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022, and 2023. With this, Djokovic broke Roger Federer's record of six ATP Finals titles.
C) The pair of Rajeev Ram (United States) and Joe Salisbury (Britain) defeated Marcel Granollers Pujol (Spain) and Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) to win the ATP final Doubles titles. Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury also won the doubles title last year.
a) Only A
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C
14. In which city, All India Football Federation (AIFF)-International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Talent Academy was inaugurated in November 2023?
a) Mumbai, Maharashtra
b) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
c) Guwahati, Assam
d) Hyderabad, Telangana
e) Ranchi, Jharkhand
15. In which state, the 14th edition of the India – United States of America (USA) Joint Special Forces exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2023' was commenced on 21st November 2023?
a) West Bengal
b) Uttarakhand
c) Gujarat
d) Maharashtra
e) Meghalaya

16. In November 2023, the ICRA Limited projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at _____ in the second quarter of FY 2024 (Q2FY24).
- a) 6.9% b) 6.5%
 c) 8% d) 8.3%
 e) 7%
17. Name the book that was originally written in Tamil as "Aalanda Patchi" by Perumal Murugan, won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature in November 2023.
- a) Poonachi or the Story of a Goat
 b) Seasons of the Palm
 c) Fire Bird
 d) I Named my Sister Silence
 e) A Lonely Harvest
18. In November 2023, the International Cricket Council (ICC) introduced a "stop clock" in men's One Day International (ODI) and Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket matches. The bowling teams in men's ODIs and T20Is will be imposed a _____ (run) penalty, if the bowler fails to bowl the next over within _____ (Time) after the completion of the previous over for the third time in an innings.
- a) 6 run; 60 seconds
 b) 5 run; 40 seconds
 c) 10 run; 50 seconds
 d) 5 run; 60 seconds
 e) 6 run; 40 second
19. In November 2023, Padma Awardee and an eminent vitreoretinal surgeon, _____, the founder of Sankara Nethralaya Academy, passed away.
- a) SS Badrinath
 b) Anuja R Singh
 c) Smita Praveen
 d) Atheeshwar Das
 e) Sajeev Cherian
20. Which of the following is/are "correct" with respect to the visit of Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry to San Francisco, United States (U.S) in November 2023?
 A) Union Minister Piyush Goyal represented India at the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) – IPEF Investor Forum meeting on November 16, 2023.
 B) The MoU was signed between India and The U.S. during the roundtable titled "Decoding the Innovation Handshake: U.S.-Indi Entrepreneurship Partnership in San Francisco, U.S."
 C) Minister also represented India at the 30th APEC Leaders' Summit hosted by the U.S held in San Francisco.
- a) Only A
 b) Only A & B
 c) Only B & C
 d) Only A & C
 e) All A, B & C
21. According to the India 2024 outlook from Goldman Sachs Group, Inc in November 2023, India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to decline to _____ in 2024 from the 6.4% estimated for 2023.
- a) 5.9%
 b) 6.1%
 c) 6.3%
 d) 6.0%
 e) 6.2%
22. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 51st International Emmy® Awards (2023) presented by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in November 2023?
 A) Indian Comedian & actor Vir Das won the Emmy Award under the Comedy category for his show "Vir Das: Landing" and became the first Indian Comedian to win the Emmy Award.
 B) Ektaa R. Kapoor, Co-Founder of Balaji Telefilms was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for her contribution to the world of arts and entertainment.
 C) British Screenwriter and producer Jesse Armstrong, Chairman and CEO of HBO and Max Content was honoured with the 2023 International Emmy Founders Award.
- a) Only A
 b) Only A & B
 c) Only B & C
 d) Only A & C
 e) All A, B & C

23. Who has recently (in Nov '23) received NASA Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (IMPACT) Planet Award 2023?
- Vinay Kumar Sankarapu
 - Niraj Lunavat
 - Binny Bansal
 - Kunal Bahl
 - Sujit Roy
24. In November 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Vinay M Tonse as the Managing Director (MD) of _____ (Bank) for two years.
- Bank of India
 - Bank of Baroda
 - Union Bank of India
 - Indian Bank
 - State Bank of India
25. Which country has recently (in Nov '23) appointed Luc Frieden as the 23rd Prime Minister (PM)?
- Cambodia
 - Luxembourg
 - Finland
 - Paraguay
 - Turkey
26. Who has recently (in Nov '23) crowned with the Miss Universe at the 72nd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2023 held in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador?
- Moraya Wilson (Australia)
 - Sheynnis Alondra Palacios Cornejo (Nicaragua)
 - Anntonia Porsild (Thailand)
 - Shweta Sharda (India)
 - R'Bonney Gabriel (United States of America)
27. Which of the following associations has been recently (in Nov '23) awarded with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022?
- Indian Medical Association
 - Trained Nurses Association of India
 - National Integrated Medical Association
 - Both 1 & 2
 - Both 2 & 3
28. In November 2023, _____, the former (18th) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), passed away.
- Subrahmanyam Venkitaramanan
 - Y. V. Reddy
 - Bimal Jalan
 - R. N. Malhotra
 - Amitav Ghosh
29. The National Integration day 2023 was celebrated across India on 19th November 2023 to commemorate the birth anniversary of _____.
- Indira Gandhi
 - Chandra Shekhar Azad
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - Atal Bihari Vajpayee
 - Lal Bahadur Shastri
30. In November 2023, The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) declared about the development of Cyclone Midhili in the northwest Bay of Bengal. The name 'Midhili' was given by the _____.
- Maldives
 - Sri Lanka
 - Yemen
 - Myanmar
 - Thailand
31. Which country has recently (in Nov '23) signed two agreements with India to boost youth mobility & cultural exchange?
- Germany
 - France
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - Australia
32. Which of the following personalities has/have been appointed as the directors of Jio Financial Services Limited after the approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2023?
- Isha Ambani
 - Anshuman Thakur
 - Hitesh Kumar Sethia
 - Both 1 & 2
 - All 1, 2 & 3
33. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the recent step taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2023?
- RBI increased the risk weights on credit card exposures by 25% points to 150% and 125% for banks and NBFCs, respectively.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted authorization to Authorized Dealer Category – I (AD Category – I) banks to open additional current accounts for export proceeds, supplementing the existing special rupee vostro accounts.
 - RBI has levied monetary penalties on Axis Bank Ltd (Rs 90.92 lakh), Manappuram Finance

- Ltd (Rs 42.78 lakh) and Anand Rathi Global Finance Ltd (Rs 20 lakh) for non-compliance with various regulatory directives.
- a) Only A
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C
34. In November 2023, _____ became the First Woman to win the Dhahan Prize for Punjabi Literature.
- a) Dalip Kaur Tiwana
b) Veena Verma
c) Ajeet Cour
d) Sukhwinder Amrit
e) Deepti Babuta
35. Who has been recently (in Nov '23) appointed as MD& CEO of the Kotak Mahindra Bank, for 3 years?
- a) Uday Shankar
b) Dipak Gupta
c) Ashok Vaswani
d) Prakash Apte
e) C. Jayaram
36. In which city, the 9th edition of the joint military exercise of India and Sri Lanka, MITRA SHAKTI-2023 was commenced on 16th November 2023?
- a) Siliguri, West Bengal
b) Auli, Uttarakhand
c) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
d) Pune, Maharashtra
e) Umroi, Meghalaya
37. Name the bank that has recently (in Nov '23) launched two Digital Gold Loan schemes for the retail segment and agriculture segment.
- a) Bank of Maharashtra
b) Union Bank of India
c) Canara Bank
d) Indian Bank
e) Punjab National Bank
38. Who has been recently (in Nov '23) named for the 'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' for the year 2023 by the Government of Maharashtra?
- a) Sadhana Sargam
b) Ananya Wadkar
c) Anuradha Paudwal
d) Suresh Ishwar Wadkar
e) Kavita Krishnamurthy
39. Name the 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC) that was launched by the Indian Navy (IN) in Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- a) Androth
b) Abhay
c) Amini
d) Anjadip
e) Andaman
40. In November 2023, Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya, former Governor of _____ (state) in the period of July 2014 – July 2019, passed away.
- a) Meghalaya
b) Nagaland
c) Sikkim
d) Odisha
e) West Bengal
41. Which of the following is not the digital public infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem of India?
- a) DigiYatra
b) Digilocker
c) Aadhar
d) E kuber
e) Unified Payments Interface
42. The Judge of the High Court is appointed by _____ under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution.
- a) President of India
b) Prime Minister of India
c) Judge of Supreme Court of India
d) Governor of India
e) Chief Judge of India
43. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the visit of PM Modi to Jharkhand?
- A) During PM Narendra Modi visit to Jharkhand, he addressed the event, organised to mark the celebration of 3rd Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023 on 15th November 2023 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.
B) PM Modi laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 7,200 crores in various sectors like rail, road, education, coal, petroleum, and natural gas.
C) PM Narendra Modi unveiled a decommissioned Mikoyan Gurevich (MiG-211) fighter jet at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi.
- a) Only A
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C

44. Which organisation has recently (in Nov '23) released the '2nd edition of the World Energy Employment (WEE 2023) report stating that clean energy jobs surpassed fossil fuel jobs for the first time in 2021 at the global level?
- International Atomic Energy Agency
 - International Renewable Energy Agency
 - International Energy Agency
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - United Nations Environment Programme
45. Which bank has recently (in Nov '23) launched Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Lite to allow the users to make small-value digital payments offline without entering a UPI PIN?
- South Indian Bank
 - IDFC FIRST Bank
 - IndusInd Bank
 - Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
 - Federal Bank
46. Name the company that has recently (in November '23) become the second Indian startup to achieve unicorn status in 2023.
- Chargify
 - Zeta
 - Chargebee
 - InCred Holdings Limited
 - Innovaccer
47. In November 2023, the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA) passed a resolution to adopt a collective target of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) use by _____ (year).
- 2030
 - 2025
 - 2027
 - 2028
 - 2026
48. Who has recently (in Nov '23) received the first-ever "Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award"?
- Vikram Seth
 - Salman Rushdie
 - Kiran Desai
 - Aravind Adiga
 - Rohinton Mistry
49. Which ministry has recently (in Nov '23) launched the "Dashboard", for real-time, prompt an effective Parliament business?
- Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Science & Technology
 - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
50. Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the 37th edition of the National Games held in Goa from 26th October to 9th November 2023?
- A) Maharashtra won the Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the overall championship in the National Games 2023 & it is also the first time Maharashtra has topped the medal tally (228 medal) since 1994.
- B) Jyothi Yarraji (Andhra Pradesh) won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles with the national games record timing of 13.22 seconds.
- C) The 14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu of Karnataka won seven gold medals including her win in the 100 m freestyle event with a new national games record of 57.87 Seconds.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
51. In November 2023, Subrata Roy, the Founder and Chairman of _____ (company), passed away.
- Essar Group
 - Jaiprakash Associates Limited
 - Hinduja Group
 - Shapoorji Pallonji Group
 - Sahara India Pariwar
52. As of November 2023, India has become the _____ largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world.
- 5th
 - 3rd
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 4th
53. Which of the following personalities has recently (in Nov '23) inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame for the year 2023?
- Aravinda de Silva (Sri Lanka)
 - Virender Sehwag (India)
 - Diana Fram Edulji (India)
 - Both 1 & 2
 - All 1, 2 & 3
54. Name the ministry that has recently (in Nov '23) launched 'AANA Dashboard for Cities' portal.
- Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - Ministry of Science and Technology

- 55.** Which company has recently (in Nov '23) appointed Mika, an AI-powered humanoid robot, as its experimental Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?
- Parle Agro
 - Orient Beverage
 - Dictador
 - Kweichow Moutai
 - Pearl Drinks
- 56.** Name the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) that has recently (in Nov '23) established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators).
- IIT Madras
 - IIT Delhi
 - IIT Kanpur
 - IIT Bombay
 - IIT Indore
- 57.** In November 2023, the Ministry of Coal amended the SHAKTI Policy to grant coal linkage for a minimum of _____ months to a maximum of one year.
- Two
 - Three
 - Four
 - Six
 - Five
- 58.** Which country's Navy, along with Indian Navy has recently (in Nov '23) conducted the 4th edition of the BONGOSAGAR 23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in the Northern Bay of Bengal?
- Sri Lanka
 - France
 - Bhutan
 - Bangladesh
 - Indonesia
- 59.** Which of the following points is/are "correct" with respect to the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking: Asia 2024 released in November 2023?
- India has 118 universities in 2023 ranking and holds the highest representation in Asia's higher education system, surpassing China (133) and Japan (96).
 - Peking University, Beijing, China has retained the 1st position in the QS Asia Ranking 2024.
 - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) in Mumbai, Maharashtra grabbed the top spot in India with 40th position in the Asia Ranking.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
- 60.** As per the Inclusiveness Index published by the Oothering and Belonging Institute (OBI) in November 2023, India was ranked _____ out of 129 countries in the Index, while _____ (country) tops the Index for the second consecutive year.
- 120th; Portugal
 - 117th; New Zealand
 - 120th; Netherlands
 - 117th; Portugal
 - 110th; New Zealand
- 61.** Name the bank/organisation, along with Global Environment Facility (GEF) has recently (in Nov '23) to introduce the Natural Capital Fund (NCF), a concessional fund.
- World Bank
 - International Monetary Fund
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - Asian Development Bank
 - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- 62.** In November 2023, Moody's Investors Service (MIS) retained India's economic growth projection at _____ for financial year 2023-24 (FY23-24).
- 6.5%
 - 6.2%
 - 6.4%
 - 6.0%
 - 6.7%
- 63.** Which company has recently (in Nov '23) signed a contract with Airbus to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the A-320 family of aircraft?
- Mahindra Aerospace Pvt Ltd
 - Bharat Dynamics Ltd
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
 - Bharat Electronics Ltd
 - Merlinhawk Aerospace Pvt Ltd
- 64.** Name the personality who has recently (in Nov '23) won the 19th edition of the 'Kalakar Puraskar' award.
- Apolinaris D'Souza
 - Sreelekha Mitra
 - Goutam Ghose
 - Tapas Paul
 - Aparna Sen
- 65.** Which company has recently (in Nov '23) became the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) engine named 'AVTR 1922'?
- Hyundai Motor
 - Ashok Leyland
 - Mahindra & Mahindra
 - Eicher Motors
 - Hero MotoCorp

74. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Eco Warrior Awards 2023, India’s first ever dedicated award show for Indian Forest Service Officers, presented in November 2023?
- A) The Eco Warrior Awards 2023 were distributed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav to honour exceptional individuals and initiatives that have made significant contributions to environmental conservation & sustainable practices.
- B) The Eco Warrior Awards 2023 was organised jointly by Indian Masterminds and Indian Forest Service Association.
- C) The award was divided into 5 categories, including Wildlife Conservation. Dr. Mohan Ram won the award under Wildlife Conservation for his work in wildlife conservation in Gir Forest, Gujarat.
- a) Only A
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C
75. Match the following National Parks with their respective state:
- i. Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park a. Chhattisgarh
ii. Papikonda national park b. Assam
iii. Marine National Park c. Andhra Pradesh
iv. Indravati National Park d. Gujarat
- a) i-a, ii-b, iii-c, iv-d
b) i-d, ii-b, iii-c, iv-a
c) i-b, ii-c, iii-a, iv-d
d) i-b, ii-c, iii-d, iv-a
e) i-a, ii-c, iii-d, iv-b
76. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the world’s 1st global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit held in November 2023?
- A) The United Kingdom (UK) Government hosted the world’s 1st global AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire (UK) on November 1-2, 2023
- B) Delegates from 28 nations, including India, have signed the world’s 1st agreement known as the “Bletchley Declaration,” during the ‘AI Safety Summit 2023’ and pledged to cooperate, to promote the safe use of AI tools.
- C) During the summit, UK Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak launched the world’s 1st AI Safety Institute in the UK to examine, evaluate, and test new types of AI.
- a) All A, B & C
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) Only A
77. Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Earthshot Prize 2023 announced in November 2023?
- A) Prince of Wales, William announced the five winners of the 3rd edition of the Earthshot Prize.
- B) Among the five winners, Indian solar-powered tech venture Science for Society Techno Services Private Limited (S4S Technologies) won the Earthshot Prize 2023 under the ‘Build A Waste-Free World’ category.
- C) Boomitra, founded by an Indian-American, Aadith Moorthy won the Earthshot Prize 2023 under the ‘Fix Our Climate’ category.
- a) Only A
b) Only A & B
c) Only B & C
d) Only A & C
e) All A, B & C
78. In November 2023, _____ became the first athlete to receive the Council of Fashion Designers of America’s (CFDA) Fashion Icon Award.
- a) Sloane Stephens
b) Maria Sharapova
c) Serena Williams
d) Naomi Osaka
e) Simona Halep
79. Who has been recently (in Nov ‘23) sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (Chief IC) of the Central Information Commission (CIC)?
- a) Ajay Kumar
b) Heeralal Samariya
c) Anandi Ramalingam
d) Vinod Kumar Tiwari
e) Jayanth Kumar
80. Name the cricket team that has recently (in Nov ‘23) won their 1st Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2023-2024 title.
- a) Punjab
b) Odisha
c) Chhattisgarh
d) Gujarat
e) Baroda

- 81.** According to International Labour Organisation (ILO) data in 2023, Indians are ____ Most Hard-Working Globally.
- 3rd
 - 6th
 - 4th
 - 7th
 - 8th
- 82.** In November 2023, Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, unveiled the crest of the Indian Naval Ship (INS) _____, indigenous under-construction, guided missile destroyer of Project 15B.
- INS Dwarka
 - INS Surat
 - INS Sardar Patel
 - INS Valsura
 - INS Agnibahu
- 83.** Name the annual Command level exercise that has been recently (in Nov '23) conducted by the Eastern Air Command (EAC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from October to November 2023.
- Pitch Black
 - Siam Bharat
 - Pralay Shayam
 - Eastern Bridge
 - Poorvi Akash
- 84.** Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman’s visit to Sri Lanka in November 2023?
- A) During the visit of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered the keynote address as Guest of Honor at the “NAAM 200” organized by the Government of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 200th anniversary of IOTs to Sri Lanka on November 2 in Colombo.
- B) The Union Minister inaugurated SBI branches in Trincomalee (Eastern Province) and Jaffna (Northern Provinces) in Sri Lanka.
- C) Finance Minister also addressed the India-Sri Lanka Business Summit held at Hotel Taj Samudra in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- All A, B & C
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - Only A
- 85.** Which of the following points is/are “correct” with respect to the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023 held from October to November 2023?
- A) The Indian Grandmaster (GM) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi won the 3rd edition of FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 title by defeating GM Hikaru Nakamura (United States).
- B) International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu won the 2nd edition of FIDE Women’s Grand Swiss 2023 title by defeating GM Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine).
- C) With this win, Vidit Gujrathi qualified for the Candidates Tournament and also became the second Indian after R. Praggnanandhaa to qualify for this tournament.
- Only A
 - Only A & B
 - Only B & C
 - Only A & C
 - All A, B & C
- 86.** In November 2023, the Indian women’s hockey team won the 7th edition of the Women’s Asian Champions Trophy by defeating ____ (country), held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Japan
 - China
 - South Korea
 - Malaysia
 - Thailand
- 87.** The 135th birth anniversary of the Nobel Prize Winner & Bharat Ratna awardee, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman) was observed on _____.
- 5th November 2023
 - 7th November 2023
 - 4th November 2023
 - 6th November 2023
 - 3rd November 2023
- 88.** Which state/UT’s police has recently (in Nov '23) introduced Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker anklets to monitor the terror-accused people out on bail?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Delhi
- 89.** What is the base year for calculating India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
- 2019-20
 - 2011-12
 - 2004-05
 - 2017-18
 - 2010-11

90. In which city, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden voyage of the vessel “Costa Serena” in November 2023?
- Panaji, Goa
 - Kochi, Kerala
 - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Puri, Odisha
91. In November 2023, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) till _____ (year).
- 2030
 - 2026
 - 2027
 - 2029
 - 2028
92. Name the country that has recently (in Nov ‘23) announced to fund USD 44.7 million to strengthen food security and environmental protection in Uttarakhand under India’s ‘The Hunger Project (THP)’.
- Japan
 - Norway
 - Germany
 - United States of America
 - Australia
93. Which company has recently (in Nov ‘23) collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) to support the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative?
- India TV
 - Zee Entertainment Enterprises
 - COLORS
 - Aaj Tak
 - STAR PLUS
94. Which company has recently (in Nov ‘23) become the first foreign company to get GoI’s approval for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector?
- CTT Systems AB
 - Boeing
 - Thales Alenia Space
 - Lockheed Martin
 - Saab AB
95. Which country has recently (in Nov ‘23) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with India for Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Administrative Reforms for 3 years?
- Germany
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - Australia
96. In October 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the minimum amount for offering Non-Callable Term Deposits (TDs) from Rs 15 lakh to Rs _____.
- 40 lakh
 - 80 lakh
 - 30 lakh
 - 2 crore
 - 1 crore
97. Who has recently (in Nov ‘23) nominated as the Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region (SEAR)?
- Saima Wazed (Bangladesh)
 - Edwin Salvador (Indonesia)
 - Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti (Botswana)
 - Poonam Khetrapal Singh (India)
 - Shambhu Prasad Acharya (Bhutan)
98. India finished 2nd in the medal tally with _____ medals in the Asian Shooting Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea from October to November 2023.
- 39
 - 76
 - 55
 - 65
 - 45
99. Who has recently (in Nov ‘23) become the only Indian to win two gold medals in the annual World Masters Powerlifting championship held in Mongolia?
- Deepthi Jeevanji
 - Monica Dogra
 - Sharvari Inamdar
 - Angrej Singh
 - Ekta Bhyan
100. Shiv Nadar has retained the title of India’s Most Generous for the _____ consecutive year in the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023, released in November 2023.
- 5th
 - 3rd
 - 2nd
 - 4th
 - 6th

Answers

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

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MIND CALCULATION GURU
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KANNEBOINA SATHISH
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D.O.E : OCT 19th 2022



SHAIK ZUBER
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OFFLINE TS
D.O.E : JAN 26th 2023



B RAQUIB BABU
Reg No: 1110671
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OFFLINE FC
D.O.E : MAR 9th 2022

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MIND CALCULATION GURU
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NON-TECH**



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