

Monthly GK Digest

October 2023



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of **'October-2023'**. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties **on three cooperative banks** for violating rules
Note: The banks include: Saraswat Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Co-operative Bank, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank. The RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh, Rs 13 lakh and Rs 23 lakh on Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd and Saraswat Co-operative Bank, respectively.
2. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled **Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank Ltd** certificate of registration due to the Bank's inadequate capital.
Note: According to RBI, on liquidation, every depositor in Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank would be entitled to receive the deposit insurance claim amount of his/ her deposits up to Rs5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
3. **Karnataka Bank** is launched "Door -Step Gold Loan" facility named "KBL-Swarna Bandhu"
Note: Aim: To provide Gold Loan Services at the customer's door step. The bank has partnered with SahiBandhu a leading aggregator platform for gold loans backed by The Manipal Group. It help in improving the gold loan portfolio of Bank.
4. The **Asian Development Bank** approved capital management reforms **\$100 billion** that unlock in new funding capacity over the next decade to address the region's overlapping, crises.
Note: The expansion of available funds will be further leveraged through mobilizing private and domestic capital to move from the billions to trillions to tackle the climate crisis. They expand the bank's annual new commitments capacity to more than \$36 billion an increase of approx \$10 billion.
5. **HDFC bank** has launched a first-of-its-kind **NPS Preference Index** that highlights the preference of NPS amongst different consumer groups.
Note: Aim: To provide financial security to Indian citizens during their retirement years. The National Pension System (NPS) is instrumental in facilitating an income post-retirement, making it pivotal for long-term financial security. NPS can be subscribed to by any Indian citizen, aged between 18-70 years, on a voluntary basis.
6. The **Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** signed MoU with **Bank of India** to facilitate farmers and traders in providing low-interest rate loans.
Note: Objective: To promote awareness against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt). Aim: To provide information to depositors of the benefits, besides doing further outreach activities to improve agricultural pledge finance in India.
7. **SBI Life Insurance Company** has signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of Sikkim (SBS) at the bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim
Note: Aim: To make insurance solutions accessible to the residents of Sikkim, through its trusted bancassurance partner. The partnership will see the extensive distribution network of the SBS spread across the state offer SBI Life's diverse range of protection, wealth creation, and savings insurance products to its customers.
8. **6.3 percent** growth according to the World Bank, the Indian economy's growth is expected in the FY23 -24 fiscal from 7.2 percent in FY 22.
Note: The expected slowdown is mainly due to waning base effects, slowing global growth, and domestic price pressures. The bank maintained that India will remain one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. India's economy grew 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal owing to strong domestic demand.
9. **State Bank of India** bank launched a Mobile Handheld Device to enhance accessibility and convenience in availing banking services to the customers.
Note: Objective: To provide cash withdrawal, cash deposit, fund transfer, balance inquiry and mini statement at doorsteps of customers. Aim: To benefit customers who face challenges in accessing Bank Branch or Customer Service Point outlets due to health issues, Senior citizens and Divyangjans.

- 10. In Association with IDFC FIRST Bank** bank Outlook Group announces the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, “40After40”
Note: Aim: To provide invaluable insights and expert guidance to individuals, helping them make informed decisions to secure a prosperous retirement. It’s a one-stop shop for all conversations around timely retirement, panel discussions, chats, masterclasses, interactions with planners, product presentations etc.
- 11. RBI** has taken a significant step by forming an external working group (WG) to address the expected credit loss (ECL) framework for loan loss provisioning?
Note: Aim: To gather independent insights into the intricacies of this substantial shift in the banking sector. It was led by R. Narayanaswamy and consists of eight experts, with representation from six banks and one member each from KPMG and the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.
- 12. IndusInd Bank** bank has launched 'INDIE,' a financial app offering personalized financial services, to offer tailored insights and an array of innovative features?
Note: Aim: To allow customers to borrow precisely what they need when they need it, paying interest solely on the borrowed amount. One of INDIE's features is its flexibility in financial product offerings. For instance, users can access an instant credit line of up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- 13. Axis Bank** launched 'open by', its digital bank proposition in its latest advertising campaign that focuses on the Bank’s digital capabilities.
Note: The Open 2023 campaign highlights the top 15 features of the Bank’s digital offerings. It is a culmination of the Bank’s multiyear effort to launch a digital bank within the bank, which is focused on delivering a personalized, intuitive, and hassle-free digital banking experience.
- 14. YES Bank** became the first bank in the country to issue an ONDC Network Gift Card?
Note: This marks a shift in the way India shops and aims to revolutionize the shopping experience for Indian consumers. The ONDC Network Gift Card, issued in partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is at the forefront of democratizing digital commerce. Unlike traditional gift cards, this concept empowers customers to utilize the gift card for purchasing products from any brand.
- 15. The Asian Development Bank** has approved a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management in **Assam**.
Note: The project builds on the success and lessons from the ADB-financed Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (2010–2020). Aim: To empower women through disaster-resilient economic activities, the project will benefit about 1 million people and increase crop production by over 50,000 hectares.
- 16. Fintech credit and payments start-up Slice** with Guwahati-based North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) have announced a merger between the two entities.
Note: The banking regulator, the Reserve Bank of India has approved the deal and will see slice becoming an SFB, a first-of-its-kind development in the fintech and banking space. The Bengaluru-based slice was last valued at around \$1.8 billion during its previous fundraising in 2022.
- 17. The Indian Navy and State Bank of India** launched 'Nav-eCash' card, a unique e-cash card that can work in both online and offline mode.
Note: The Indian Navy initiated its first step as an idea by one of their officers, Captain Vasu Dheeraj, towards a cashless and digital Indian Navy in 2020. By developing a business model and proof of concept with a startup for offline transactions at the high seas based upon a dual chip card system.
- 18. The Reserve Bank** has imposed monetary penalties on **Five** co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance?
Note: These co-operative banks are: SBPP Co-operative Bank, Sahayadri Sahakari Bank, Rahimatpur Sahakari Bank, Gadhinglaj Urban Co-operative Bank, Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank. The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹13 lakh on SBPP Co-operative Bank Limited for non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on 'Interest Rate on Deposits'.
- 19. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** raised its FY24 growth projection for India by 20 basis points **6.3 percent** citing stronger than expected consumption between April and June.
Note: The IMF’s latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) kept its global growth forecast unchanged at 3 per cent for 2023 and pared down the 2024 projection by 10 basis points to 2.9 per cent. The IMF’s inflation projection for India has been revised upward to 5.5 per cent for FY24.
- 20. ₹9.57 lakh crore** India’s net direct tax collections grew 21.8% to surpassing over half of the Budget estimates for 2023 with personal income tax revenues rising 32.5%.
Note: While tax refunds amounting to ₹1.5 lakh crore have been remitted to taxpayers so far, some refunds are being withheld on the basis of pending tax demands from the past that taxpayers are being given a chance to address.
- 21. What amount India's fiscal deficit** in the first five months of the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) stood **Rs 6.42 trillion**.
Note: In the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was 32.6 per cent of the full-year target. Aim: To narrow its fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the current financial year, against 6.4 per cent last year.

- 22. Star Health and Allied Insurance** has added surrogacy cover and oocyte donor cover to its popular women-centric policy, Star Women Care Insurance Policy.
Note: Aim: To address a growing demand for assisted reproduction treatment, extending health insurance coverage to surrogate mothers and oocyte donors while also offering reassurance to expectant couples. It provides inpatient hospitalization coverage for post-partum delivery complications experienced by the surrogate mother
- 23.** The RBI has ordered **Bank of Baroda** to suspend further customer onboarding on its 'bob World' mobile app with immediate effect.
Note: Under section 35A, the RBI has power to give directions to banks 'to prevent the affairs of any banking company being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the depositors or in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the banking company'.
- 24.** What amount Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to provide **\$338 million** to Bangladesh for manufacturing vaccines against various diseases.
Note: This initiative will reduce the dependency on vaccine imports and facilitate more production in the country. The ADB committed \$3.5 billion financing to Bangladesh in the current fiscal year of which around \$2 billion would be concessional while the rest of \$1.5 billion would be regular.
- 25.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of five crore and thirty-nine lakh rupees on **Paytm Payments Bank Limited** for violation of Know Your Customer (KYC) and a few other norms.
Note: RBI said, the bank had also violated certain provisions of 'RBI Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks', 'Guidelines on reporting of unusual cyber security incidents' and 'Securing mobile banking applications including UPI ecosystem'.
- 26.** The Reserve Bank of India has canceled the Certificate of Registration of **Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd.**
Note: Indian Bank and HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) are major shareholders in the housing finance company, holding 51 per cent and 25 per cent stake, respectively. The company was set up in 1991. The housing finance company's net loss widened to ₹55.78 lakh in FY23 against ₹12.93 lakh in FY22.
- 27. ICICI Bank** announced to launch of 'iFinance' to get a consolidated view of their savings and current accounts in one place.
Note: The 'iFinance' facility is available across our mobile banking and internet banking platforms which provide ease of access to account information to the customers. Objective: To enable our customers as well as customers of other banks to view their account data in one place and provide them better control over their finances.
- 28.** RBI has imposed a penalty of **₹1 crore** on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
Note: Examination of the financials for FY21 revealed that the bank sanctioned a term loan to a corporation in lieu of or to substitute budgetary resources envisaged for certain projects. It also fined RBL Bank for an amount of ₹64 lakh for violation of norms on regulatory approval
- 29. Sberbank** of Russia has become the first Russian bank to register with the Indian markets regulator as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI). –
Note: Sberbank of Russia, a state-owned bank which already has a presence in India, registered with the Indian market regulator for a Category I FPI licence. FPIs with category I licence have to follow less lenient beneficial ownership disclosures.
- 30.** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalties on four co-operative banks and **one** housing finance company (HFC).
Note: The RBI imposed: Rs 4.50 lakh on Gujarat Mercantile Co-operative Bank, Rs 2 lakh each on Makarpura Industrial Estate Co-operative Bank and Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Rs 50,000 on The Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank, Rs 1.70 lakh on West End Housing Finance. The housing finance company that faced RBI action is West End Housing Finance.
- 31.** The RBI imposed a penalty of **Rs 3.95 crore** on Kotak Mahindra Bank and Rs 12.19 crore on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with a few regulatory norms.
Note: Kotak Mahindra Bank was penalized for failing to conduct an annual review or due diligence of its service provider and for violation of contact hours with customers. ICICI Bank, on the other hand, was penalized for committing loans to companies, the bank also engaged in marketing and selling non-financial products.
- 32. Federal Bank** inaugurated the 'Mookkannoor Mission', an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, on the 106th birth anniversary of its Founder KP Hormis.
Note: Mookkannoor, a village in Ernakulam district, is the birthplace of the Founder. The Bank adopted a comprehensive plan of digitizing the entire village as well as a cleanliness drive that includes waste management, tree plantation, community development, etc that will be implemented in stages.
- 33.** The Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its merger with **IDFC First Bank.**

- Note:** Aim: To create an institution with diversified public and institutional shareholders, like other large private sector banks, with no promoter holding. These include clearances from the Stock Exchanges, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Reserve Bank of India, and National Company Law Tribunal.
- 34. Kotak Mahindra Bank** received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) approval to acquire 100 percent stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance
Note: Sonata will become a business correspondent subsidiary of the bank. "Upon completion of the transaction, Sonata will be a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank. The bank had entered into share-purchase agreements with the shareholders of Sonata Finance, which is NBFC-MFI, to acquire a 100 per cent stake.
- 35. RBL Bank** introduces the GO Savings Account, a revolutionary subscription-based digital banking model offering high interest rates up to 7.5% per annum.
Note: This zero-balance account is designed to cater to customers of all age groups, simplifying the account opening process and ensuring user-friendly features. Moreover, this account provides extensive cyber insurance coverage, along with accident and travel insurance of up to Rs 1 crore.
- 36. Sberbank of Russia** has become the first Russian bank to register with the Indian markets regulator as a foreign portfolio investor (FPI).
Note: Sberbank of Russia, a state-owned bank which already has a presence in India, registered with the Indian markets regulator for a Category I FPI licence last week. FPIs with category I licence have to follow less lenient beneficial ownership disclosures, can subscribe to overseas derivative instruments which have Indian stocks as underlying and also enjoy certain taxation benefits.
- 37. Which Bank** has introduced XpressWay, a digital platform that offers various banking products and services, providing customers with a swift and convenient banking experience. **HDFC Bank**
Note: Aim: To provide a fast, seamless, paperless, and self-service experience for new and existing customers. About XpressWay. It offers a range of services, including Xpress Personal Loan, Xpress Business Loans, Xpress Car Loan, Xpress Loan on cards, Xpress Credit Card, Xpress Savings Accounts.
- 38. The RBI** has taken regulatory action against Larsen & Tuobro Finance Limited by imposing a monetary penalty of ₹2.50 crore.
Note: The NBFC did not disclose to its retail borrowers, the gradation of risk and rationale for charging different interest rates to different categories of borrowers in the sanction letter. Penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction by the company with its customers.
- 39. Reserve Bank of India** has asked private banks and wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to ensure at least Two Whole Time Directors (WTDs), including the MD and CEO, on their boards to facilitate succession planning
Note: The number of Whole Time Directors should be decided by the Board of the bank by taking into account factors such as the size of operations, business complexity, and other relevant aspects.
- 40. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has announced a new partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited to issue its inaugural electronic Bank Guarantee through its platform.
Note: Aim: To usher in the era of digital trade, effectively eliminating the traditional paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees. The digital transformation encompasses the issuance, modifications, closures, digital stamping, resulting in a significant reduction in the guaranteed turnaround time.
- 41. The RBI** told lenders, financial institutions and credit bureaus to resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or pay a fine of ₹100 per day.
Note: The RBI also directed credit institutions (CIs) and credit information companies (CICs) to introduce a compensation framework for delayed updation or rectification of credit information. They collect information from a variety of credit providers including banks, credit card companies and non-bank financial institutions.
- 42. Mobikwik's payment** has finally received in-principle authorisation from the RBI to operate as a payments aggregator.
Note: Aim: To support more businesses inspires us to continuously enhance the capabilities of our platform. The in-principle approval comes two years after the Gurugram-based payments company filed its application with the RBI. Mobikwik had applied for the payments aggregator licence in 2021, but was rejected by the regulator.
- 43. Bank of Baroda** has launched the Bob LITE Savings Account, a lifetime zero-balance savings bank account, as part of its festive campaign.
Note: Bob LITE offers customers a hassle-free banking experience without any minimum balance requirement. The account also includes a lifetime free RuPay Platinum Debit Card for account holders who maintain a nominal Quarterly Average Balance in the

account. Additionally, eligible account holders can avail of a lifetime free credit card.

44. AU Small Finance Bank has introduced its first Green Fixed Deposit called Planet First – AU Green Fixed Deposit. **Note:** Aim: To allocate its entire proceeds to support renewable and green projects. It is in a unique position to contribute towards sustainable 'Badlaav' by gradually offering such retail products aligned with the guidance of the regulator. Planet First - AU Green Fixed Deposit offers an interest rate of up to 8.5%, with an investment requirement of only ₹5,000.

45. Paytm announced that it is the official sponsor for the National Games being held in Goa.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Games at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda. The Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company would introduce QR codes, soundbox, and card machines in multiple government departments, including panchayats and municipalities, in the state.

46. Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) is set to merge with AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB). **Note:** AU SFB announced its approval of the amalgamation. As per the terms of the merger, shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive 579 shares in AU SFB for every 2,000 shares they hold in Fincare SFB. Following the transaction, it is expected that existing shareholders of Fincare SFB will maintain approximately 9.9% ownership in AU SFB.

47. IndusInd Bank announced a strategic collaboration with Viamerica Corporation to offer digital inward remittance services to NRIs in the USA through Fast Remit', a remittance service platform. **Note:** Aim: To enable NRIs to benefit from highly competitive exchange rates for digital inward remittances to India. Objective: To allow NRIs to book remittance transactions through auto debit payment mode as well as transfer funds through the overseas Bank account

Obituaries

1. Veteran Anathalavattom Anandan, who recently passed away belongs to field Politician

Note: He was 86 years old. He was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954 when he actively participated in an agitation advocating for higher wages for coir workers in his village.

2. Michael Chiarello, a culinary expert known for his extraordinary talent, passed away was a **Chef**.

Note: He succumbed to an acute allergic reaction that led to anaphylactic shock, as announced by his company Gruppo Chiarello in a statement. Over the years, Chiarello expanded his culinary empire, opening renowned restaurants such as Bottega, Ottimo, and Coqueta, each reflecting his distinct style and passion for creating unforgettable dining experiences.

3. Terence Davies, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away was a **Filmmaker**.

Note: He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including 'Distant Voices, Still Lives' and 'The Long Day Closes'.

1. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) announced a partnership with Coca-Cola India to launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission.

Note: The program is being piloted in the state of Odisha. The initiative will play a pivotal role in strengthening India's economy by skilling, reskilling and upskilling the retailers. The program aims to upskill retailers across key states over three years.

2. Nawanpind Sardaran village, located in Gurdaspur, Punjab, was recently awarded the title of "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Note: This recognition was a testament to the remarkable efforts of the Sangha sisters, who have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving their ancestral homes, Kothi and Pipal Haveli, and promoting sustainable tourism in their village. It is located just five kilometers south of National Highway 54.

3. The Executive Director (ED) of the Wagh Bakri Tea Group Parag Desai, has passed away.

Note: He was the son of Rasesh Desai, the MD of the Wagh Bakri Tea Group. Parag Desai had done his MBA from Long Island University in the United States. Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Limited (GTPPL) is an Indian multinational FMCG company, headquartered in Ahmedabad. It is best known for its Wagh Bakri brand of tea.

4. England World Cup winner Bobby Charlton and one of Manchester United's greatest players passed away at the age of 86.

Note: Charlton was a key figure in England's 1966 World Cup-winning team and played 758 games for United, scoring 249 goals.

5. Bishan Singh Bedi passed away, was a Player **Note:** The legendary spinner played 67 Tests for India between 1967 and 1979 and picked 266 wickets. He also took seven wickets in 10 One-Day Internationals.

6. Birendra Nath Dutta passed away at the age of 90 years, was a **Musician**

Note: One of the experts of the research and education in the folklore sector of the State, and the entire north-eastern region, he was a source of inspiration as well as knowledge. He recognized with the prestigious Padma Shri award in the field of 'Literature and Education' in 2009, and the Jagaddhatri Harmohan Das Sahitya Puraskar in 2010.

7. The trailblazing actor **Richard Roundtree** starred as the ultra-smooth private detective in several Shaft films beginning in the early 1970s, has passed away. **Note:** He was born in New Rochelle, New York, was considered as the first Black action hero. He became one of the leading actors in the blaxploitation genre through his New York street smart John Shaft character in the Gordon Parks-directed film in 1971.
8. Former Chinese Premier has died after suffering a heart attack at the age of 68 was a **Leader**.

Note: A reform-minded bureaucrat, Li was once tipped as the country's future leader only to be eclipsed by President Xi Jinping, under whom he served as premier for 10 years. During his time as premier, Li cultivated an image as a more modern apparatchik compared to his stiffer colleagues.

9. Matthew Perry passed away in Los Angeles home at the age of 54 and was associated with **Acting**. **Note:** He was an incredibly gifted actor and an indelible part of Warner Bros. The impact of his comedic genius was felt around the world, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of so many. He brought so much joy to hundreds of millions of people around the world with his pitch-perfect comedic timing and wry wit. His legacy will live on through countless generations.

Important Days

1. International Day of Older Persons is observed on **1st October**. **Note:** It is a special day for senior citizens all over the world. **2023 Theme:** Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons. **Aim:** To raise awareness of the value of senior persons in our society and to show our appreciation for their contributions. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to how the world might better the lives of older people.
2. International Coffee Day is observed every year on **1st October**. **Note:** To recognize the work of millions of coffee farmers from all over the world, every year on October 1, the world celebrates International Coffee Day. **Theme 2023:** promoting the right to a safe and healthy working environment in the coffee supply chain.
3. The nation paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 154th birth anniversary on **2nd October**. **Note:** A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organised at Babu's Samadhi at Rajghat in the national capital. Historic Gandhi Ashram at Noakhali organised a series of programs in the premises to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi. The nation is also remembering former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.
4. World Animal Day is an annual event that is celebrated around the world on **October 4**. **Note:** The theme of World Animal Day 2023 is Big or small, we love them all. It brings together and mobilizes the animal protection movement into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. This day reminds us of our duty to protect and care for the many species that share our planet.
5. World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on **October 5**. **Note: Theme 2023:** "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage". **Aim:** At the importance of stopping the decline in the number of teachers and then starting to increase that number at the top of the global agenda.
6. World Cotton Day is observed on **October 7**. **Note:** Aim: To promote fair trade and help developing nations engage in all aspects of the cotton industry to improve their economies. The theme for World Cotton Day 2023, 'Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion,' is championed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
7. World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day is celebrated on **October 8th**. **Note:** Aim: To promote awareness and understanding of hydrogen as a clean and sustainable energy source, along with the versatile technology of fuel cells. Objective: To acknowledge the potential of hydrogen and fuel cells in addressing the pressing challenges of climate change.
8. Indian Air Force Day is celebrated every year on **8th October**. **Note:** The theme of 2023 is 'IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries'. It is also the fourth largest airforce in all over the world after the United States, China and Russia. It will be celebrated in the holiest place of the Hindu religion in Prayagraj. The legendary Russian origin MIG-21 jets will take part in The Indian Air Force day parade for the last time.
9. World Post Day is celebrated each year on **9 October**. **Note:** Theme for World Post Day 2023 is "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected

future."The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.Post offices play a crucial role in fostering cohesive, inclusive, connected communities.

theme of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future".

10. Indian Postal Day is celebrated 10th October

Note:It is an extended celebration of World Post Day, which is observed on 9th October every year. Aim: To remember the service of the India Post, which is the most widely functioning government postal service in the world. It is also celebrated to honor the pivotal role of the national postal service in our lives. India Post was first established in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.

16. World Students Day is being celebrated on 15th October.

Note: The theme for World Students Day 2023 is "FAIL: stands for First Attempt in Learning. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam also known as the 'Missile Man' of India was born on the 15th of October, 1931, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007.

11. World Mental Health Day is observed every year on October 10

Note: Aim: To create awareness about mental illness and to start a discussion on mental health issues like borderline personality disorder, depression, anxiety, etc. The theme for World Mental Health Day 2023 "Mental health is a universal human right" provides an opportunity for individuals and communities to come together to deal with mental health issues.

17. Global Handwashing Day is celebrated on October 15

Note: The 2023 Global Handwashing Day theme is "Clean hands are within reach."Aim: To spread the word about handwashing, build sinks and tippy taps, and demonstrate the simplicity and value of clean hands. It is endorsed by governments, schools, international institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, private companies, individuals, and more.

12. International Girl Child Day is observed every year on October 11.

Note: Aim: To focus on the importance of girls' education, their rights, and promoting gender equality. The theme of 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,"It urges the global community to move beyond reaffirming commitments and invest boldly in the action needed to make changes that could empower girls.

18. World Anesthesia Day is observed on October 16

Note: Aim: To support anesthesia providers around the world to celebrate their profession. The discovery of anesthesia helps patients undergo surgical treatments without any pain. The theme for World Anesthesia Day 2023 is 'Anesthesia and Cancer Care tries to raise awareness about the pivotal role of anesthesia in cancer treatments.

13. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) is celebrated every year on 13 October.

Note: The day is dedicated to create awareness about disasters, their impact on living beings, and preventive measures. One of the main aims behind observing this day is to educate communities about the risks posed by disasters, and prepare them to survive through both natural and human-made disasters.

19. Every year is marked as World Spine Day to highlight the burden of spinal pain and disability globally on October 16

Note: The theme of World Spine Day 2023 is Move Your Spine. Aim: To aware about the prevailing spine disorders, their impact on one's life, sign and symptoms. About Spine: Your spine or backbone is your body's central support structure.

14. World Standards Day, also known as International Standards Day is observed on October 14.

Note: The theme 2023 is "Shared Vision for a Better World: Incorporating Sustainable Development Goal for Good Health and Well-Being. "Aim: To educate consumers, policymakers, and businesses on the importance of standardization. It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness among nations and their citizens and encourages them towards a better quality of life.

20. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated on 17th October

Note: To serve as a reminder that poverty is a complicated, multifaceted problem. This year's theme is 'Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All.' Aim: To promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and society at large. The day highlights the value of cooperation, human rights, and social justice in the fight against poverty.

15. The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction held each year on 13 October.

Note: Aim: To celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to natural hazards. In 2023, the International Day focuses on the reciprocal relationship between disasters and inequality. The

21. The third World Statistics Day will be celebrated around the globe on 20 October

Note: Aim: To provide an opportunity for statisticians, government organizations, policymakers, and other agencies to promote the values of high-quality data and statistics in the current data-driven world. Theme 2023 is Connecting the world with data we can trust, reflecting the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation, and the public good in national statistical systems.

22. In Mizoram, **Anthurium Festival** a two-day-long began with all festivities and enthusiasm at Reiek in Mamit District.

Note: The festival is being organized by the Department of Tourism of Mizoram. It is an occasion of joy and a platform to showcase the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Mizo people. The Anthurium flower is one of the most expensive flowers cultivated in India & widely used in ceremonies ranging from birthdays, weddings as well as funeral services.

23. Police Commemoration Day is celebrated every year on **October 21st**

Note: The day marks the sacrifice of 10 CRPF men who lost their lives to a Chinese attack in 1959. The objective was to keep a lookout on the India-China border that lies to the east of Ladakh. On October 20th, 1959, as the CRPF patrolled the India-Tibet border, three separate units of the 3rd Battalion were sent to independent patrols near the Hot Springs area in Ladakh.

24. International Stuttering Awareness Day is an annual observance that falls on **October 22**

Note: It's a day to shed light on the challenges faced by people who stammer and to encourage a more inclusive and empathetic society. The theme for ISAD 2023 is "One Size Does NOT Fit All".

25. World Polio Day is celebrated every year on **October 24**

Note: Aim: To create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children. Every year this day is remembered to raise awareness against the poliomyelitis disease, commonly known as polio, and the importance of polio vaccination. Polio virus can live in an infected person's throat and intestines and can be contracted by food and water in unhygienic conditions.

26. The World Development Information Day is celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on **October 24**

Note: This day aims to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.

The UN hopes that effective dissemination of information and the mobilization of public opinion, particularly among young people, would lead to greater awareness of the problems of development, thus, promoting efforts in the sphere of international cooperation for development.

27. The annual World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on **October 27**

Note: Aim: To remind us of the importance of archiving and preserving audiovisual sources. The 2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage theme is "Your Window to the World." It is also known as AV in short, audiovisual items can be anything from a short clip or a documentary to speeches or music.

28. World Stroke Day is observed on **29th October 2023**

Note: Objective: To serve as a critical reminder of the prevalence and impact of strokes on individuals and communities worldwide. The theme for World Stroke Day 2023 is "Together we are Greater Than Stroke." Aim: To raise awareness about strokes, their prevention, treatment, and the importance of timely intervention. Strokes, often referred to as brain attacks, are a leading cause of disability and death worldwide.

29. World Thrift Day or World Savings Day is celebrated each year on **30 October**.

Note: The theme of World Thrift Day in 2023 is "Preparing for the future through saving. Aim: To promote the importance of saving money and how savings can cushion our difficult times. It raises awareness about the importance of thrifting to save money.

30. The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is celebrated as National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on **October 31**.

Note: Aim: To maintain the integrity and unity of the Indian nation. Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel also dubbed as 'Sardar Patel' was born on October 31, 1875, into a landowning family of the Leva Patidar caste. He earned the title "Iron Man of India."

New Appointments

1. **Mohamed Muizzu** has been elected as President of Maldives.

Note: Muizzu defeated incumbent Mohamed Solih to become president of the island nation. Mohamed Muizzu, 45, is a British-educated civil engineer. He was an unlikely candidate for the presidency after serving as construction minister in the government of his mentor Abdulla Yameen.

2. Saugata Gupta has been appointed as the chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Note: It is the leading self-regulatory organization in India and deals with communication guidelines in both offline and online advertising. It recently launched the 'ASCI Academy' to boost self-regulation during the creative process. His association with ASCI spans many yrs, including 2 yrs on the Board of Governors and 2 yrs as a special invitee on the Board of Governors

3. **Anirban Mukherjee** has been appointed as CEO of PayU, replaced Amrisha Rau.

Note: He will join the Prosus leadership team and report directly to Ervin Tu, Prosus and Naspers Interim CEO. He will be responsible for overall business operations of PayU. This comes just two months after Netherlands-based investment firm Prosus announced that the fintech arm PayU is selling a part of its business to Israel's Rapyd.

4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Muneesh Kapur** as Executive Director (ED) with effect from October 3, 2023.

Note: As executive director, he will look after the Department of Economic and Policy Research. He was Adviser-in-Charge of the Monetary Policy Department and secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee. He holds a master's degree in economics and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

5. **India** has been elected president of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC)

Note: AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organization. India is one of the founding members of AIBD and Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India at AIBD.

6. **Ramaswamy N** has been appointed as its new Chairman and Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation of India.

Note: He replaced Devesh Srivastava. Ramaswamy, a veteran in the insurance industry, has diverse experience of over three decades at GIC Re. He began his journey with GIC Re in 1988 as a direct recruit officer. Over the years, he managed a wide spectrum of non-life insurance classes, including Fire, Engineering, Miscellaneous, Motor.

7. **Navneet Munot** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

Note: He replaced A Balasubramanian. He is a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder and has over three decades of experience in financial services. AMFI was incorporated as a non-profit organization. As of now, all the 44 asset management companies that are registered with SEBI, are its members.

8. **VJ Kurian** has been appointed as the non-executive part-time chairman of the Thrissur-based South Indian Bank.

Note: Kurian will succeed Salim Gangadharan, who will be retiring as non-executive part-time chairman of the bank on November 1 after the completion of his term. His leadership will be instrumental in shaping the future direction of the South Indian Bank. South Indian Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala; South Indian Bank Founded: 25 January 1929.

9. **Daniel Noboa** became the youngest president in Ecuador's history. _

Note: With more than 97% of votes counted, Mr Noboa, a centrist, had a lead of four percentage points over his left-wing rival, Luisa González. The election campaign was overshadowed by unprecedented levels of violence, which saw one of the candidates, Fernando Villavicencio. Ecuador has all the elements needed to be a global example of progress.

10. **Christopher Luxon** has been elected as the 42nd Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Note: He completed a rapid political ascent four years after leaving one of the country's top executive roles. He spent 7 years as chief executive of Air New Zealand, and was hailed a likely future leader upon entering politics in 2019. National hoped he could repeat the "glory days" under John Key, a former Merrill Lynch broker who won three elections for the party and served as PM from 2008 to 2016.

11. Puma has roped in Team India's fast bowler **Mohammed Shami** as its brand ambassador.

Note: The sports brand has a star-studded roster of brand ambassadors which includes Virat Kohli, champion sprinter Usain Bolt. Under this partnership, the Indian pacer will endorse Puma's footwear, apparel and accessories through multiple activities and campaigns throughout the year. The brand has also launched a new bowling spikes with a mid-sole meant for runners, to support fast bowlers

12. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of **Arindam Bagchi** who as India's next permanent representative to the United Nations and related global bodies in Geneva.

Note: Bagchi would be succeeding Indra Mani Pandey, the incumbent Indian envoy to the UN in Geneva. He is an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1955-batch. He was given the key charge of MEA spokesperson in March 2020, at a time when the world was facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. HP appointed **Ipsita Dasgupta** as the Senior Vice President & Managing Director of its India market.

Note: She will be responsible for leading all aspects of HP's strategy and P&L (profit and loss) in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. She will report to David McQuarrie, HP Chief Commercial Officer. She joins HP from Apple where she most recently served as Senior Director of Marketing for Apple Services based at Apple headquarters.

14. **Ashok Vaswani** is the new CEO and MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Note: Vaswani will succeed Uday Kotak, who has quit as the MD of the bank in September this year. Currently, Ashok Vaswani is the president of the US-Israeli AI fintech company Pagaya Technologies Ltd.

15. **Sadhna S Nair** assumed the appointment of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces) in the

office of DGAFMS. **Note:** Now, She become the first woman to hold the position on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Prior to this appointment, the Air Officer was tenanted the appointment of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), Bengaluru.

16. Mike Johnson has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, bringing an end to three weeks of uncertainty in US politics.

Note: He replaced Kevin McCarthy. The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most powerful political chairs in the country and is third in the line of succession after the US President. The 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives, he is a four-term Congressman from the Fourth Congressional District.

17. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar will formally appoint **Rajkumar Rao** as a National Icon of the EC.

Note: He, whose portrayal of an official tasked with conducting polls in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh in the Hindi film "Newton" won accolades, will be inducted as a National Icon by the Election Commission (EC). The EC appoints prominent Indians as national icons to motivate voters to participate in elections.

18. The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced **Amol Muzumdar** would take over as the Indian women's cricket head coach.

Note: He has served as the head coach of the Mumbai Ranji team till the 2022-2023 domestic campaign. He has also held coaching positions with the South African national team and IPL team Rajasthan Royals. A domestic titan, he scored over 11,000 first-class runs in 171 matches including 30 centuries during his 21-year playing career.

19. Robert Fico has been appointed as prime minister of Slovakia for the fourth time.

Note: He attend an EU summit in Brussels where the nation-first populist's fellow leaders should get an early indication of how obstructive he intends to be. President Zuzana Čaputová formally approved the new three-party coalition government led by Fico, whose party won elections last month on pledges to end military aid to Ukraine, slash immigration and defend Slovakian sovereignty.

20. Malaysia 's royal families have elected **Sultan Ibrahim Iskanda** as ruler of southern Johor state as the country's new king.

Note: Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 64, will ascend to the throne for a five-year term. He succeeds incumbent Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of central Pahang. The ruler of Johor state bordering Singapore was next in line based on a rotation order established among the country's nine state rulers.

21. Professor Sarang Deo has been appointed as a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Note: This appointment reflects his exceptional expertise and contributions to the battle against tuberculosis, particularly in India.

22. Lay's announces **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign - 'No Lay's, No Game.' _

Note: Lay's is set to introduce the 'No Lay's No Game' campaign to the Indian audience, globally acclaimed for its association with sports tournaments. Harnessing Dhoni's universal appeal, the campaign emphasises truth, a match without Lay's is simply unthinkable for true fans.

23. In a significant move, Edtech startup Henry Harvin Education (HHE) recently announced acclaimed author and speaker **Chetan Bhagat** as its Brand Ambassador.

Note: This partnership represents a shared vision and commitment to empowering the youth of India.

24. State Bank of India has roped in cricketing legend **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, as the bank's official Brand Ambassador to strengthen its connection, especially with the younger population.

Note: Dhoni will play a pivotal role in various marketing and promotional campaigns of SBI. Among public sector banks, Bank of Baroda had appointed Rahul Dravid as its brand ambassador. At present, badminton players P V Sindhu, K Srikanth, and cricketer Shafali Verma are BOB's brand ambassadors.

25. Katrina Kaif has become the global face of the Swiss watchmaking brand, Rado.

Note: Rado released the new Centrix models marking the partnership and onboarding of its new global brand ambassador. Centrix was first launched in 2010, the model took cues from the sand dunes. The partnership between the two transpired in which Katrina Kaif personifies confidence and grace, while walking out in a desert landscape with a Rado Centrix donning her wrist.

Important News - India

1. The **Central Reserve Police Force**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, will organize a bike expedition with Yashaswini, to celebrate women's power in the country.
Note: A total of 150 women CRPF officers of three teams will embark on the cross-country rally. The teams will start their journeys from the Srinagar, Shillong, and Kanyakumari. They will converge at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat for the grand finale.
2. Under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, **the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** is organizing the 4th National EMRS Cultural, Literary and Kala Utsav – 2023 in Dehradun.
Note: Aim: To showcase the artistic talent of school students through the Kala Utsav. This year 2023 Eklaya Vidyalaya Sangathan Samiti (EVSS), Uttarakhand (State EMRS Society) will host the event at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun.
3. National Zoological Park begins the celebration of 69th Wildlife Week with the theme **Partnerships for wildlife conservation**.
Note: The Nature Park is a serene and breathtaking space within the bustling Gujarat Science City. It is a must visit for nature enthusiasts and botanists alike. The park not only promotes biodiversity but also serves as an educational platform for people."It imparts valuable lessons on environmental conservation and sustainability.
4. **900 crore rupees** has the Prime Minister announced for the Sammakka Sarakka Tribal University of Telangana ____.
Note: Aim: To boost the farmers of the area as it will provide necessary infrastructure support, value addition, research facility and help in exports in a professional manner. Awareness of the therapeutic value of turmeric had increased during the Covid pandemic leading to increased demand as well as exports.
5. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained the top spot with a brand value of \$43 billion in the latest edition of the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report.
Note: The top five positions are: TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Airtel, State Bank of India. TCS continues to successfully capitalize on global demand for digital transformation, despite a tough year for the business technology category in general.
6. President of Indonesia Joko Widodo inaugurated the first high-speed railway in Southeast Asia "**Whoosh**", a key project under the Road Infrastructure initiative of China.
Note: It is a collaborative venture between an Indonesian consortium of four state-owned companies and China Railway International Co. Ltd. He has championed the 142 km railway. Largely funded by China, USD 7.3 billion project was constructed by PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China, known as PT KCIC
7. Ambedkar Center India is all set to unveil the largest statue of B R Ambedkar outside on 14th October in **North America**.
Note: According to the the Ambedkar International Center (AIC) the 19-foot statue, named Statue of Equality has been made by renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar. He also constructed the Sardar Patel statue in Ahmedabad. The statue of Ambedkar, the key architect of India's Constitution built on 13 acres of land in Accokeek City Maryland.
8. **India** has beaten developed countries like the UK and Japan and ranked 47th in the mobile Okla Speedtest Global Index.
Note: According to Ookla Speed test data, India's median download speed has improved remarkably, increasing by 3.59 times since 5G was launched in the country. 5G speeds in India are particularly impressive compared to those on 4G; in August 2023
9. India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and **Japan** jointly launched a \$600 million fund for climate and environment projects.
Note: The Indian gov will contribute 49% to the target corpus and remaining 51% will be contributed by JBIC. Objective: To invest in environmental sustainability and low carbon emission strategies and Aim: To play the role of being a partner of choice to further enhance Japanese investments into India
10. **46th edition** of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism at IECC in New Delhi.
Note: The Mart is being organized from October 4th to 6th 2023. It is an opportunity to highlight unique destinations and members to develop networks , learn and socialize for delegates from all over the world and for business to expand.
11. **UAE** with India signed a strategic partnership agreement for Domestic Card Scheme Implementation. _____.
Note: As per the agreement, NPCI and AEP will work together to build, implement, and operationalize UAE's national domestic card scheme modelled on India's RuPay card. Aim: To expand the bilateral trade to make it 100 billion dollar.
12. The **United Arab Emirates** with India signed a MoU in Abu Dhabi to collaborate efforts in areas such as supply chain resilience.

Note: Aim: To facilitate industrial investments, technology transfer, and the implementation of key innovations across various industries. Goal: To yield mutual benefits, as both nations strive for joint industrial and technological advancements.

- 13. Saudi Arabia** with India signed a MoU in Riyadh in the fields of Electrical Interconnections, Green / Clean Hydrogen, and Supply Chains.

Note: Aim: To establish a general framework for cooperation between the two countries in the field of electrical interconnection. It was also decided between the two energy ministers that B2B Business Summits and regular B2B interactions between the two countries would be conducted to establish complete supply and value chains.

- 14. The Pacific Asia Travel Association** has committed to work with India to expand the Travel for LiFE initiative across the Asia Pacific region.

Note: Ministry of Tourism will set up a PATA desk to strengthen engagement with PATA on Travel for LiFE and other areas of cooperation in tourism sector. Travel for LiFE embodies the spirit of the Pro Planet People and functions on the basic principles of “Lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet”.

- 15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **9th** edition of G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, P-20 in New Delhi on 13th October.

Note: The main theme of the P20 this year is Parliament for One Earth, One Family, One Future. The two-day P-20 Summit will be held at the newly constructed India International Convention and Expo Center, Yashobhoomi, in Dwarka. It aims at bringing a parliamentary dimension to global governance.

- 16. The first free-standing Gandhi Museum** in North America, dedicated to the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi is open to the public in the US city of **Houston**.

Note: Museum in the United States, dedicated to Gandhi, to preserve and promote his ever-lasting legacy of nonviolent conflict resolution. The outer walls of the semi-circle-shaped museum depict various peace activists including Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Betty Williams, and more.

- 17. Tanzania** with India signed multiple MoUs ranging in various sectors including digital transformation, maritime sector and sports.

Note: The Six MoU was signed in the field of: Sports, Maritime Industry, Cultural Exchange, Setting up an Industrial Park in Tanzania, Sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation, sharing White Shipping Information.

- 18. Sweden** with India recently celebrated the '10th India Sweden Innovation Day' with a special focus

on the theme “Accelerating Green Growth” on October 9, 2023.

Note: Aim: To effectively address pressing global challenges while remaining steadfast in the pursuit of immediate objectives on the path to achieving a net-zero future. The meeting was addressed by Union Minister of State Science Jitendra Singh called for strengthening India-Sweden collaboration.

- 19. The largest Hindu temple** outside India, BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, has been inaugurated in **New Jersey**.

Note: Swaminarayan Akshardham is spread over 185 acres. Mahant Swami Maharaj conducted the 'Pran Prathistha' ritual at the temple. Akshardham in New Jersey marks the third such cultural complex globally. The first Akshardham was created in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, India, in 1992, followed by Akshardham in New Delhi in 2005

- 20. Mukesh Ambani** overtook Gautam Adani and reclaimed the title of the richest Indian, according to Hurun India Rich List 2023.

Note: Adani's wealth fell significantly due to the effect of the Hindenburg report on the group's shares. Cyrus S Poonawalla and family remained in third position. Industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla and family and Niraj Bajaj and family re-entered the top 10.

- 21. Hardeep Singh** inaugurated the **26th** edition of Energy Technology Meet at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi? _____

Note: Aim: To provide a common forum for refiners and technology service providers for the exposition of recent advances. He announced that India had exceeded its biofuel blending targets, which are an important component of the country's green energy policy. The aim of 20% biofuel blending, which was originally set for 2030, has been pushed back to 2025.

- 22. Italy** with India signed an agreement on defence cooperation during defence minister Rajnath Singh's? _____.

Note: Aim: To promote bilateral cooperation in areas such as security and defense policy, research and development, education in military field, maritime domain awareness, sharing of defense information, The relationship between India and Italy was elevated to strategic partnership in March 2023 during the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to India.

- 23. The International Olympic Committee (IOC)** with the Olympic Museum has aligned with the **Reliance Foundation**.

Note: Aim: To build on the success of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India and signed a new cooperation agreement. It

underscores the organisations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people. To increase access to sport and bring the health and societal benefits of physical activity to communities across the globe.

24. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has introduced the SHRESHTA' (Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas')

Note: Aim: To extend the impact of government development programs and bridge service gaps in areas predominantly inhabited by SC communities within the education sector. The scheme's core strategy involves fostering collaboration between grant-in-aid institutions managed by NGOs and residential high schools

25. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 12th City Gas Distribution (CGD) Bidding Round of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in **New Delhi**.

Note: Post this Bidding round, almost the entire country except Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, would have access to CGD networks. He said that from a 14-thousand-kilometer-long pipeline network in 2014 to a 23 thousand 500 long network in the present day, the goal is to achieve a 32 thousand-long network.

26. As per the data published by the National Health Commission, **China** witnessed a record-low number of births in 2022.

Note: China had just 9.56 million births in 2022. The number of babies born last year was the lowest figure since records began in 1949. Last year, the country's population also fell for the first time in sixty years. Its population was recorded to be 1.41 billion people. Nearly 40 percent of Chinese newborns last year were the second child.

27. India ranked **111** out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2023.

Note: India's ranking is based on a Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. India's severity of hunger as 'serious'. The GHI score is based on a formula which combines four indicators that together capture the multi-dimensional nature of hunger, including under-nourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.

28. Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 3rd edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023, held from 17th to 19th October in Mumbai.

Note: He will unveil 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', the long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy. Aim: To enhance port facilities, promote sustainable practices, and facilitate international collaboration. He will inaugurate, dedicate to the

nation, and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than 23 thousand crore rupees.

29. The Central Electricity Authority celebrates its **50th Foundation Day** which provides technical and policy support to the government and to all other stakeholders in the power sector.

Note: The event served as a platform to recognize the contributions of the CEA in shaping the energy landscape of India. The 50th Foundation Day celebration in New Delhi was graced by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh

30. India and **Vietnam** share profound historical connections dating back almost 2,000 years which are rooted in Buddhism.

Note: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated a bust of Nobel Laureate writer-poet Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh city. The historical and cultural connections between India and Vietnam, enriched by the introduction of Buddhism, literary exchange, and the influence of Rabindranath Tagore, continue to strengthen the bond between these two nations.

31. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has penned down a Garba song, titled, '**Maadi**' composed by Meet brothers, Manmeet Singh and Harmeet Singh.

Note: Divya Kumar lent his voice to the track, while the music was composed by Manmeet Singh and Harmeet Singh from Meet Bros. Titled 'Garbo,' the song voiced by singer Dhvani Bhanushali and composed by Tanishk Bagchi was released under the banner of Jjust Music, a music label founded by actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani.

32. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated Samau Shaheed Memorial and Library in **Gujarat**.

Note: During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Modi started initiatives to build memorials of countless unsung martyrs across the country who sacrificed their lives in the 90 years of freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947. Aim: To revive their history so that the youth and the new generation could draw inspiration from them.

33. **Dubai** has proven its mettle as the world's fastest-recovering destination in the services sector, marking an impressive growth rate of 3.2% in the first half of 2023.

Note: This achievement has underpinned Dubai's standing as a leading city that defies economic challenges, driven by visionary leadership. A key goal of the Dubai Economic Agenda is to double the size of Dubai's economy over the next decade.

34. '**Rocketry**' film has been adjudged as the Best Feature Film in the 69th National Film Awards.

Note: President Droupadi Murmu will confer the 69th National Film Awards in New Delhi. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag

Singh Thakur will be the Guest of Honour. Allu Arjun has won the Best Actor Award for 'Pushpa: The Rise'. Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon will share the Best Actress Award for 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' and 'Mimi'.

35. IRCON International Limited (IRCON) and **RITES Ltd** both Central Public Sector Enterprise have been announced as 15th and 16th Navratna respectively among CPSEs.

Note: The Ministry of Finance conferred 'Navratna' status on RITES and IRCON. Entering its 50th year of incorporation, RITES Ltd is a leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm in India. The companies should benefit in enhancing the market credibility and in undertaking larger size PPP projects

36. Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh launched the EV-Ready India Dashboard in **New Delhi**.

Note: Addressing the occasion, the Minister asserted that the future is going to be electric. The dashboard has forecast a 45 per cent growth in electric vehicles by 2030. According to the Power and New and Renewable Energy Ministry, the dashboard is a free digital platform focusing on near real-time electric vehicle adoption and forecasts.

37. India and **Sri Lanka** launched a ferry service across the Palk Strait under a new roadmap for greater connectivity.

Note: Nearly four decades later the link between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Jaffna was disrupted by the civil war in the island nation. The ferry service is expected to boost travel and trade with Kankesanthurai, the Sri Lankan port located closest to ports on India's west coast.

38. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the priority section of **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut** region is the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor.

Note: This historic event takes place at the Sahibabad RapidX Station in Uttar Pradesh. Key Highlights: The priority section spans 17 kilometers, connecting Sahibabad to 'Duhai Depot' and includes stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar, and Duhai. The average speed of RAPIDX trains on the RRTS will be 100 kmph, surpassing metro trains.

39. **41st** is the position of India out of 44 countries in the 2022 Global Pension Index to the in 2023.

Note: India's retirement system has improved to some extent from 2022, according to Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) survey 2023. The Netherlands had the highest overall index value (85.0), closely followed by Iceland (83.5) and Denmark (81.3). Argentina had the lowest index value (42.3).

40. **64th** is the rank of India out of 108 countries for remote work, marking a significant drop of 15 places compared to the 2022.

Note: The top 10 countries are Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, Estonia, Lithuania, Ireland, and Slovakia. The Global Remote Work Index (GRWI), published by cybersecurity firm NordLayer, assessed countries based on four key criteria: cyber safety, economic safety, digital and physical infrastructure, and social safety.

41. PM Narendra Modi launched 511 Pramod Mahajan Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Kendras in **Maharashtra**.

Note: Established across 34 rural districts of Maharashtra, these Kendras will conduct skill development training programs across various sectors to provide employment opportunities to rural youth. Aim: To provide training in soft skills such as basic foreign language skills, using AI tools for language interpretation which will make them more attractive for the recruiters.

42. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has partnered with **Zomato** food delivery app for the delivery of pre-ordered meals.

Note: In the first phase, Zomato will supply and deliver preordered meals through IRCTC's online catering portal at five railway stations – New Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, and Varanasi. Zomato-IRCTC tie-up will give more options to train passengers to choose from a wide variety of food options through its e-catering segment.

43. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Cyclone **Tej** brewing in the Arabian Sea, intensified into an extremely severe cyclonic storm and is headed towards the Yemen-Oman coasts.

Note: The IMD also issued warnings for fishermen to not venture into areas that could be affected by Cyclone Tej and the Bay of Bengal depression in the coming days

44. Hon'ble Union Minister of Textile Piyush Goyal launched website

<https://kasturicotton.texprocil.org> of **Kasturi Cotton Bharat**.

Note: This website provide a digital platform for necessary information and updates on this initiatives and highlights the registration process for ginners to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat Brand and its processes that make the branded Indian cotton unique.

45. India sends Humanitarian aid to the people of **Palestine**.

Note: An IAF C-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departs for El-Arish airport in Egypt. The material includes essential life-saving medicines, surgical items,

- tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets among other necessary items.
- 46. Union Minister Sh. Piyush Goyal is attending the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh**
Note: Mr. Goyal will co-chair a conclave session on the theme "From Risk to Opportunity: Strategies for Emerging Economies in the New Industrial Policy Era" along with the KSA Investment Minister. He will interact with the Indian community that forms an influential part of the Saudi economy.
- 47. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's first liquid nano di-ammonia phosphate (DAP) plant established by IFFCO at Kalol in Gandhinagar.**
Note: This plant will hugely benefit the farmers and also help reduce the import of DAP in the country. He laid the foundation stone for various development works in the Sanand assembly area in Ahmedabad.
- 48. India Inc. will host the world's biggest textiles event, Bharat Tex 2024, from February 26 to 29 2024 in Delhi.**
Note: Bharat Tex 2024 is envisaged to be a comprehensive showcase of the entire textile industry value chain, from India's rich cultural heritage and textile traditions to the latest technological innovations.
- 49. Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the tallest national flag of 418 feet at Attari chief post on Wagah Border**
Note: The flag at the Attari border, which is a famous tourist destination and known for the beating retreat ceremony, will have the surveillance system that will help the BSF keep vigil along the international border. Earlier, there was a 360-foot flag that was installed in March 2017 at a cost of ₹3.5 crore
- 50. India has become the world's third-largest economy, overtaking Germany and Japan, by 2030.**
Note: On the strength of its youthful demographic profile and rapidly rising urban household incomes. India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, being the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year. Asia's third-largest economy grew by a stellar 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter.
- 51. Indians are at the forefront of migrating to OECD countries, also lead in acquiring foreign citizenship, according to a recent OECD report.**
- Note:** Among them, American citizenship remains dominant. However, Canada has witnessed the highest growth in granting citizenship to foreign nationals. Canada, in particular, recorded the most significant proportional increase, with a staggering 174% jump between 2021 and 2022.
- 52. A national hackathon has been unveiled "Vimarsh-2023" with the goal of identifying innovative tools.**
Note: Aim: To ensure the secure utilization of 5G technology by law enforcement agencies during sensitive operations. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) initiated the hackathon, which is a significant step towards enhancing the capabilities of police forces. The grand finale of VIMARSH 2023 will be organized on the 28th of February 2024.
- 53. Tata Group will make India's first homegrown iPhone after Wistron Corp approved the sale of an assembly plant near Bengaluru.**
Note: Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, manufacture would start within two and a half years. The airline-to-software conglomerate has been in talks with the Taiwanese iPhone maker for more than a year to take over the plant. Tata is also set to honor several manufacturing and hiring commitments made by Wistron as part of their agreement.
- 54. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has become a part of the prestigious 18-member steering committee of the International Competition Network (ICN) after "consistent efforts".**
Note: The steering committee is the ICN's apex body. The ICN, comprising 140 competition agencies, typically provides antitrust authorities with a specialized, yet informal, venue for maintaining regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns.
- 55. Big Basket scored the overall highest score of 6 out of 10 points according to research firm Fairwork India 2023. _.**
Note: Big Basket, BluSmart, Zomato, Urban Company, and Swiggy scored the highest points in the Fairwork India Report 2023. Fairwork assessed platforms against five principles: fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management, and fair representation. Ride-hailing majors Uber and Ola, along with Porter, are the worst platforms for gig workers

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ho Chi Minh City during an official visit to **Vietnam**.
Note: In Vietnam, the EAM also met the Vietnamese leadership. This visit marked not only the strengthening of bilateral relations but also a celebration of the enduring principles and values adopted by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.
- Sri Lanka** waived the visa fees for Indians and tourists from six other countries, as part of its efforts to boost tourist arrivals.
Note: The Cabinet announced implementation of a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to tourists from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan until March 31, 2024. India has remained Sri Lanka's top source market for many years.
- India has announced plans to resume visa services for certain categories amid a diplomatic crisis with **Canada**.
Note: According to the High Commission in Ottawa, it would restore services for entry, business, medical, and conference visas with effect from October 26. The development comes amid a brewing diplomatic crisis that recently prompted the expulsion of more than 40 Canadian diplomats from New Delhi.
- China** is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the western Pacific Ocean.
Note: The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as "ghost particles" or neutrinos. This ambitious undertaking will result in the world's largest neutrino-detecting telescope.
- Norway** will help fund India's 'Hunger Project' and help strengthen women leaders to protect the environment and promote food security in Uttarakhand.
Note: Aim: To strengthen elected women's leadership in gram panchayats so that they can play a pivotal role in conserving forests and natural resources and adopt strategies. Objective: To promote sustainable living, and food security and collaborate with members of van panchayats and the local community, especially women.
- Japan** has successfully executed the world's first electromagnetic railgun fire test from a ship. —
Note: It is conducted in coordination with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and represents a significant step forward in Japan's pursuit of sophisticated defense capabilities. "ATLA has accomplished ship-board firing test of railgun first time in the world with the cooperation of the JMSDF," Acquisition.

Important News – State

- Tripura** launched an e-cabinet system at Agartala to promote digital infrastructure development and digitization of government services and information.
Note: Tripura has thus become the fourth state—and second in the Northeast—after Uttarakhand, UP, and Arunachal Pradesh, to have introduced an e-cabinet system. All future cabinet meetings in the state will be paperless, reducing the carbon footprint and environmental degradation in the process.
- The **50th India International Knit fair** will be held from **12th to 14th October** at the India Knit Fair Association complex (IKFA) in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The main theme of the fair is Active and Sportswear, Environmental Social Governance, Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation. The IKFA has tied up with Sourcing Consultants Association, Association of Buying Agents for Textiles, Brand Sourcing Leaders, and the NIFT Alumni.
- Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, Kolkata, and Bihar's Arrah** are the 10 slowest cities in the world on the speed index according to the findings by a US-based private non-profit research organization.
Note: The study, conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research covered over 1,200 cities in 152 countries. The average travel speed of motor vehicles throughout the day is the highest in Flint, US, slowest in Bangladesh, Dhaka, and is the most congested in Bogota, Colombia
- Hyderabad** inaugurated a 23-km long cycle track with a solar roof, making it India's first solar-covered cycle track.
Note: Telangana Municipal Minister K T Rama Rao laid the foundation for the cycle track along the service road of Outer Ring Road. The panels have the potential to generate 16MW of electricity, equivalent to powering 32,000 streetlights or illuminating 800 kilometers of city streets.
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence** caught 6 persons with 955 live baby Gangetic turtles of different species at Nagpur, Bhopal, and Chennai.
Note: Intelligence was developed by the officers of DRI about a syndicate involved in illegal trafficking and trading of "Turtles of Ganges", Some turtles are specified as vulnerable/ near threatened species under the IUCN Red List and Schedule I and II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

6. **Himachal Pradesh** launched the “Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana” from the Ridge Shimla to support orphans.
Note: Aim: To provide comprehensive support to orphans, specially-abled children, destitute women, and elderly people in the state. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the state government took a decision to adopt the orphans, the specially-abled children as the ‘children of the state’ and work for their upliftment.
7. **Madhya Pradesh** state government issued a notification for providing 35 percent reservation for women in recruitment, barring the forest department.
Note: Madhya Pradesh was the first state to introduce 50 percent reservation for women in elections to panchayats and urban bodies. It also has a 30 percent reservation for women in the police. The state also offers concessional tariffs for registry of property in case it is in a woman’s name.
8. **Madhya Pradesh** inaugurated India's largest pumped storage project.
Note: The project is being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company. The project, which is located in the Khemla block, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh. It has a capacity of 1440 MW, with storage for 7.5 hours and is now being expanded to 1920 MW with storage of 6 hours to provide a storage of nearly 11 Giga watt hours (GWh) daily.
9. **Rajasthan** announced the formation of three new districts in the state -- Malpura, Sujangarh and Kuchman City.
Note: Rajasthan would now have 53 districts. The state government had formed 17 new districts earlier in August 2023. The other new districts are Apoonagarh, Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Gangapur City, Kekri, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal-Tijara, Neem ka Thana, Phalodi, Slumber, Sanchore and Shahpura.
10. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda inaugurated the 10-day-long tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav in **Jharkhand**.
Note: It is being organized from 7th – 16th October 2023. **Aim:** To provide an opportunity to meet the artisans, learn about their way of life and get acquainted with the tribal culture. It is a celebration of the contribution of our tribal ancestors, the culture of various unique tribal communities, their lifestyle and the tribals themselves.
11. From **Arunachal Pradesh** three indigenous products Yak Churpi, Khamti rice and Tangsa textile have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication tag by the GI Registry.
Note: About GI Tag Products: Yak Churpi: Churpi is a cheese product prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak. Tangsa textile: Textile products of the Tangsa tribe of Changlang district are famous for their exotic designs and colors. Khamti rice: It is a variety of sticky rice produced in Namsai district
12. **Nokia** launches first-of-its-kind 6G Lab in **Bengaluru** in contributing to the ‘Bharat 6G Vision’.
Note: The research areas will include foundational 6G technologies like Network as a Sensor, Network Exposure and Automation. **Aim:** To position India as a key global contributor to the design, development and implementation of 6G technology. It is a platform for future collaboration for industry and academic stakeholders on 6G.
13. **Uttar Pradesh** has declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal.
Note: These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua. The estimated population of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is estimated at around 2000. Teams of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Forest Department have been recently counting dolphins with the help of GPS in Garh Ganga at Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
14. **Bihar** announced 10 per cent reservation for the **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** in the judicial services and state-run law colleges and universities.
Note: The announcement came just a day after the government released the first set of data from the state's caste survey. According to the data, Extremely Backward Communities (EBCs) account for 36.01% of the population, while Backward Classes comprise an additional 27.12%.
15. State-run NLC India (NLCIL) has secured a 810 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam (RRVUNL) in **Bikaner**.
Note: NLCIL has successfully garnered the entire capacity of the 810 MW tender floated by RRVUNL for developing the project of 2,000 MW ultra mega solar park. The LoI for this project has been issued by RRVUNL representing a significant step forward in NLCIL’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions.
16. **Uttarakhand** inaugurated the Rozgar Prayag portal in the Yuva Mahotsav -2023.
Note: He also launched the ‘Yuva Uttarakhand’ application and self employment centres at the employment exchanges of the State in the programme. **Aim:** To help the unemployed by providing information about the posts in different departments to be filled by outsourcing. MoUs signed with the IIT Roorkee and Microsoft International for technical support to the state government in skill development
17. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India launched the ‘A-HELP’

(Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in **Jharkhand**.

Note: Aim: To empower women by engaging them as Accredited Agent who contribute significantly to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance. The new scheme would enhance access to veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep and empower Pashu Sakhis.

18. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated **Nagaland's first Medical College** - Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR) in **Kohima**.

Note: Nagaland's first Medical College will not only serve the purpose of providing medical education but will also contribute to research and finding solutions to any rare diseases for the people of Nagaland.

19. Kerala Amaze-28 first building built using 3D printing technology has been inaugurated? ____.

Note: Designed as a demonstration project, Amaze-28 is a model that was completed in just 28 days. The project was completed by Kerala State Nirmiti Kerndra with the support of Tvasta, a Chennai-based construction tech start-up launched by some IIT-Madras alumni. 3D printing is layer-by-layer printing. In 3D printing basically, there are 3 processing.

20. A two-day Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach involving all maritime security agencies was conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, TN and the UT of **Puducherry**.

Note: Aim: To assess the efficacy and robustness of the coastal security mechanism while dealing with asymmetric threat emanating from the sea. Indian Naval Ships along with assets of the Coast Guard and other coastal security agencies were deployed to augment surveillance in the area.

21. The Mahila thana of Bhopal became the first women-centric police station across the entire country to be conferred with the International Organization for Standardization certificate.

Note: Bhopal Mahila thana has been improved a lot on its part in registering grievances of the complainants, comforting them and probing cases. The ISO certification is a testament to the station's commitment to improving its services and facilities, ensuring quality, safety, and efficiency.

22. Odisha launched the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme from Malkangiri to connect panchayat and block headquarters with district headquarters by bus.

Note: The chief minister had launched schemes like rice at Rs 1 per kg and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) from Malkangiri. Aim: To enhance health insurance for women to Rs 10 lakh had been received from Malkangiri.

23. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 181 million loan to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of **Ahmedabad**

Note: ADB will help strengthen the capacity of the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority and urban local bodies in technology-based urban planning, including climate change. Aim: To promote environmental and social safeguards, gender equality and social inclusion

24. Uttar Pradesh announced that the beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme will get a cooking gas cylinder free of cost as a "Diwali gift".

Note: The decision is expected to benefit 1.75 crore families in the state. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a flagship initiative of the central government aimed at providing financial assistance for LPG connections to families falling below the poverty line (BPL).

25. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology S Krishnan (IAS) inaugurated Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab in NIELIT **Gorakhpur**.

Note: This is the First-of-its-kind lab in Uttar Pradesh under the Future Skill PRIME Project, which has been established to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia. The state-of-art RPA lab has been built under the Future Skill PRIME Project funded by MeitY with an objective to upskill/reskill manpower in emerging technology of RPA.

26. Union Minister of State for Skill Development Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated the project "Heartland Tripura," a skill development initiative in collaboration with Deloitte in **Agartala**.

Note: Aim: To provide skill development and employment opportunities to undergraduate students in engineering and non-engineering disciplines. This project will deliver a specific set of skill development certification courses through NIELIT-Agartala for the state.

27. Former Jharkhand Chief Minister, Raghubar Das, has been appointed as the Governor of **Odisha**.

Note: He will succeed Ganeshi Lal as the new governor of Odisha. He is currently a national vice-president of the BJP. The political journey of Raghubar Das began during his college days when he actively participated in the Jayprakash Narayan-led movement. He faced arrests and imprisonment during the movement and later joined the Janata Party in 1977.

28. President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Indra Sena Reddy Nallu as Governor of **Tripura**.

Note: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu is a national secretary of the BJP and has thrice served as an MLA in Andhra Pradesh. Currently, Satyadev Narayan Arya is serving as the 19th governor of Tripura. He is a BJP leader from Bihar and has previously served as a Governor

of Haryana. He also served as the floor leader of the BJP in the combined Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

29. Hyderabad is set to host the Formula E race for a second edition in February 2024, and the street track around the banks of the Hussain Sagar Lake will undergo modifications for the same.

Note: Formula E and the Telangana government had inked a four-year deal to conduct races in the city streets with a vision to promote electric racing. The city which hosted India's first Formula E did not feature initially in the provisional calendar for the 2023-24 season.

30. Tamil Nadu state launched the wildlife conservation project, 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' _

Note: Nilgiri Tahr is an endangered species endemic to the Western Ghats. There are references to Nilgiri Tahr in the Sangam Tamil literature. The project has an outlay of ₹25 crore.

31. Gujarat's Kutch district Dhordo Village has been honored with the prestigious 'Best Tourism Village' title by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Note: With this, Dhordo is now one of the 70 villages from nearly 40 countries that enjoy this prestigious title. Dhordo received this title at the Best Tourism Village - 2023 award ceremony organised by the UNWTO at the historic city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan. This recognition comes as a result of Dhordo's outstanding contributions to sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, and rural development.

32. Uttar Pradesh CM flags off new buses, commanded by women drivers, on the occasion of 'Maha Ashtami' during the Navratri festival, in **Ayodhya**.

Note: These buses will be operated exclusively by women as drivers and conductors. The initiative seeks to connect and empower women drivers and conductors.

33. The government launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub to boost employment opportunities in **Rajasthan**.

Note: Aim: To serve as a user-friendly platform for both job providers and job seekers. The platform, launched in collaboration with Jaipur-based startup Hyrefox, not only allows companies to discover potential talent but also lets them post job openings and connect with their future employees

34. The Uttar Pradesh government has established the Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA).

Note: The government granted approval for the implementation of the CM Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (Urban), which boasts a substantial budget of Rs 500 crore. Aim: To enhance the visual and functional aspects of urban roadways while also shouldering the responsibility of

overseeing, financing, and supervising road development within municipalities.

35. Mumbai become the second most polluted city among 109 places tracked by IQAir, a Swiss technology company measuring air quality in real-time.

Note:The top 5 Cities in the world are:

1. Beijing
2. Mumbai
3. Karachi
4. Jerusalem
5. Shenyang

The air quality index (AQI) score is based on the US system where a score of between 0-50 is good, 51-100 is moderate, 101-150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200 is unhealthy, 201-300 is very unhealthy and >301 is hazardous.

36. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the National Tribal Festival at Vastrapur Hat in **Ahmedabad**.

Note: Aim: To celebrate and showcase the diverse cultural traditions of the tribal communities. Objective: To promote entrepreneurship, particularly in remote areas, with the aim of enhancing sustainable production. The National Tribal Festival in Ahmedabad features over 100 stalls that showcase India's tribal culture, handicrafts, and cuisine.

37. Kerala has set up a pilot production facility of Graphene which will cost ₹200 crores. .

Note: The Kerala Digital University would be the implementing agency, and KINFRA has been appointed as a special purpose vehicle for infrastructure development. About Graphene: It is the thinnest and strongest material in the world ever known and has good chemical stability, high electrical conductivity, and a large surface area while being transparent and lightweight.

38. Airbus signed a MoU **IIT Kanpur** to promote research in advanced technologies and develop programs and activities to enhance technical capabilities.

Note: Aim: To facilitate increased collaboration in developing education programs with a focus on research to foster talent development in the Indian aerospace sector. Objective: To explore collaboration opportunities with global institutes where students will get to work on projects relevant to the sector.

39. Goa launched Swayampurna e-bazaar online platform to give market to different kinds of products made by self-help groups and women.

Note: The Swayampurna e-bazaar is an extension of the successful Swayampurna Chavath Bazar. Goan entrepreneurs and self-help groups can contact 9262626262 to join this platform and sell their products online, One can also shop via

www.goebazaar.com, thereby supporting rural Goans' artisans and craftsmanship.

40. Reliance Jio Ltd announced the rollout of its SpaceFiber satellite broadband service, which it showcased at the India Mobile Congress as the nation's inaugural satellite-driven giga fiber service.

Note: The satellite broadband aims to extend high-speed internet access to previously untapped regions in India. To display its extensive reach, the Mukesh Ambani-backed telecom connected four distant locations: Gir in Gujarat, Korba in Chattisgarh, and Nabrangpur in Odissa.

41. Delhi relaunched Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana to provide free coaching to medical, engineering, and civil services aspirants.

Note: According to Delhi SC and ST welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand the government was going to introduce more competitive exams under the scheme for which free coaching will be provided to the eligible students. The redesigned scheme, Anand said, was almost ready and would be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

42. Hornbill is one of the most-awaited festivals that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of **Nagaland**.

Note: This year, the festival will begin from December 1 and end on December 10, 2023. The state is famous as the 'Land of Festivals' and Hornbill is one of the grandest celebrations that is organised by the State Tourism of Arts and Culture Department, Government of Nagaland every year.

43. Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centres in all 14 districts? ___.

Note: Aim: It will make Kerala a hub of gold business and further strengthen its claim to being the most reliable market in the country to buy gold

ornaments. There are about 12K gold merchants in the State with majority holding BIS registration. Gold merchants gave hallmarking and unique identification numbers even for pieces with weight below two grams.

44. Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan inaugurated the SARAS Ajeevika Mela showcasing the best of crafts by rural Self Help Group (SHG) Women at **Gurugram**.

Note: This is the second edition of Saras Ajeevika Mela. To empower at least two crores Lakhpati didis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

45. PM Modi released three books - 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya', 'Rambhadracharya Charitam' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela' in **Chitrakoot**.

Note: Ashtadhyayi is a thousands-year-old text of India's linguistics, India's intellectuality, and our research culture." Tulsi Peeth is an important religious and social service institution in Chitrakoot, MP established by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in 1987. It is one of the leading publishers of Hindu religious literature.

46. Karnataka Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of India announced that NTT DATA, is supporting the development of the HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) system.

Note: This is a specialized software system that will be the nerve center of the state forest department as part of their modernization initiatives. HAWK is used to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crime, such as the death of wildlife, and movement of suspicious vehicles.

Honor & Awards

1. Renowned author and philanthropist Sudha Murty Became the First Woman to be honored with the Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation.

Note: The Global Indian Award, worth \$50,000, is given annually to prominent Indians who have excelled in their respective fields. He was conferred by the Canada India Foundation at the Toronto gala event where she was accompanied by the parents of her son-in-law and British PM Rishi Sunak to the event.

2. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2023 was awarded to **Katalin Kariko, and Drew Weissman**.

Note: The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet announced the recipient of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The award has been given for their discoveries that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against Covid-19. Six Nobel Prizes are awarded each year, recognizing an individual's or group's contribution to a specific field.

There are 351 nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

3. Ruixiang Zhang awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for his outstanding contributions to mathematics **Note:** The annual cash prize of USD 10,000 will be given at an international conference in Number Theory on December 20 and December 22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam. He has made contributions to the Generalization of Vinogradov's Mean Value Theorem and Breakthroughs in Restriction Theory

4. Nobel Prize 2023 in Physics has been awarded to **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier**.

Note: For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter. The experiments gave humanity new tools to explore the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. They developed a new way to

create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes by which electrons move or change energy.

5. **Dr. MGR Chennai Central railway station** has been awarded the platinum certificate by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for developing the railway station into a net zero energy building.

Note: Southern Railway General Manager R.N. Singh received the IGBC platinum shield from Ajith Kumar Chordia, Chairman of IGBC. The railway official said the Central station was the first station in the zone to install rooftop solar plant of 1.80 mega watt (MW).

6. **Basohli Pashmina** a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication tag.

Note: It is a hand-spun product known for extreme softness, fineness and light-weight, has insulating properties and extended life. Pashmina products include shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and baskets. Earlier, the famed Basohli painting and Chikri wood from Rajouri district of Jammu division received the GI tag.

7. The Nobel Prize 2023 in Chemistry has been awarded to **Moungi G Bawendi, Louis E Brus, and Alexei I Ekimov**

"for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots."

Note: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences rewards the discovery and development of quantum dots, nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. The Nobel Laureates in Chemistry 2023 have succeeded in producing particles so small that their properties are determined by quantum phenomena.

8. **Joyeeta Gupta** has received the Spinoza Prize, the highest distinction in Dutch science for her work in the field of climate change.

Note: The prize was presented to her by the Netherlands' Minister for Education, Science, and Culture, Robert Dijkgraaf at The Hague. She is a Dutch environmental scientist who is professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam.

9. **Jon Fosse** has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable.

Note: He is today one of the most widely performed playwrights in the world and has become increasingly recognized for his prose. The human condition is the central theme of Fosse's body of work, irrespective of genre. He has now joined an illustrious list of past winners that ranges from Toni Morrison to Ernest Hemingway.

10. **Narges Mohammadi** won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her courageous struggle against the oppression of women in Iran and relentless fight for social reform.

Note: She was awarded the prestigious prize for her efforts "to promote human rights and freedom for all". She is the deputy head of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, a non-governmental organization led by Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

11. **Sivasankari** has won the prestigious 'Saraswati Samman' in 2022 for her memoirs, "Surya Vamsam".

Note: The book was selected by a Chayan Parishad (Selection Committee), led by former Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri. Surya Vamsam, a two-volume work, offers a profound glimpse into the life of an innocent child who evolved into an acclaimed author.

12. **NTPC Ltd** announced its significant achievement in securing a coveted spot on the prestigious Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List.

Note: It secured an impressive 261st rank among the World's Top 700 Companies, making it the only Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to feature in this prestigious global ranking. NTPC's inclusion on this esteemed list underscores its progressive approach.

13. **Indian Army** won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise 2023 held in the UK.

Note: The 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) represented the Indian Army at the drill held at Brecon, Wales, during October 13-15. The Cambrian Patrol Exercise is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and is considered the "Olympics of military patrolling".

14. **REC Limited** has been recognized for its exceptional performance in risk management with the esteemed Golden Peacock Award 2023.

Note: About REC Limited: REC Limited is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India. It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, central and state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities.

15. **Institute of Chartered Accountants** has bagged a prestigious UN Award 2023 for its contribution to sustainability reporting.

Note: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) honored ICAI during the 8th World Investment Forum for its contributions to sustainability reporting. ICAI's efforts aim to promote sustainable practices in India and align with international standards.

16. **DY Chandrachud** received the 'Award for Global Leadership,' the most esteemed professional recognition from Harvard Law School.

Note: The Harvard Law School is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of its Graduate Law Program. The Chief Justice fondly remembered his time at Harvard as an LLM student in 1982-83 and then as an SJD candidate in 1983-1986.

17. Udhampur military station received the 'Best Green Military Station' award. _

Note: The 'Best Green Military Station' award was presented by Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande at the Army Commanders' Conference. Dehradun Military Station secured the "Second Best" award. Bikaner Military Station got the "Best Transformative Station" award. The 'COAS Flight Safety Trophy' has been awarded to '671 Army Aviation Squadron (R&O)' for maintaining the highest standards of flight safety & proficiency.

18. Americans Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh were awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by US President Joe Biden at the White House.

Note: President Biden also honored leading American scientists, technologists, and innovators at the award

ceremony. The scientists, who were honored at the event, made discoveries enabling lifesaving medical treatments, helping fight the opioid epidemic, improving food security, and much more.

19. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) felicitated **Nita Ambani** with the 2023 Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Note: She is a businesswoman, has impacted millions of lives in India through Reliance Foundation's initiatives in education, arts, sports, and healthcare. She champions women's and children's causes, contributing significantly to bridging the gender divide and enhancing women's roles in India's economy

Sports News

1. Indian athletic Avinash Sable won the First-Ever gold medal in men's 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games 2023.

Note: His medal is India's 12th gold at this edition of the Asian Games and the first track and field gold in China. He is 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist and holds the national record of 8min 11.20 sec.

2. Indian tennis players Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale won the gold medal in the mixed doubles event at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

Note: The second-seeded Indian duo defeated ninth seeds Tsung-hao Huang and Liang En-shuo of Chinese Taipei in the final at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre. Other Winners: The men's doubles team of Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan won a silver in tennis.

3. Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training center for Divyangjan, named after former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: Aim: To provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Objective: To demonstrate commitment to an inclusive and accessible sports ecosystem, emphasizing the power of sports

4. Indian Table Tennis players Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee picked up a historic bronze medal in the women's doubles tournament in the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

Note: The Indian duo lost to Suyong Cha and Sugyong Pak of North Korea in the semi-finals. The Indian duo is ranked 16th in the world. With this, India's medal tally has now gone up to 56 medals, comprising of 13 gold, 21 silver, and 22 bronze.

5. Indian women's skating teams Heeral Sadhu, Kartika Jagadeeswaran and Aarathy Kasturi Raj secured bronze medals in the speed skating 3000m relay competition at the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Note: Other Winners: Indian boxer Preeti Pawar won a bronze medal. India's men's team of Aryan Pal, Anand Kumar, Siddhant, and Vikram won bronze medals in the speed skating 3000m relay. India bagged total of 62 medals at the 2023 Asian Games, consisting of 13 gold, 24 silver, and 25 bronze

6. India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu.

7. Indian thrower Neeraj Chopra secured the gold medal in the Men's Javelin Throw competition at the Asian Games 2023, held at Hangzhou.

Note: Japan's Roderick Genki Dean secured the bronze medal. Other Winners: India won gold in the compound archery mixed team final. India won bronze in the 35km race walk mixed team final. Lovlina Borgohain won silver in women's 75 kg boxing final. Parveen settled for bronze in the 57kg women's boxing semifinal.

8. India Athletic Annu Rani clinched her second Asian Games medal, and her first gold, in women's javelin throws in Hangzhou in the Asian Games 2023.

Note: Sri Lanka's Dilhani Lekamge won silver while Lyu Huihui of China won bronze. Other winners: Parul Chaudhary earlier won the women's 5000m event, adding to the silver she won at the women's 3000m steeplechase final. Tajinderpal Singh Toor bagged golds in shotput and men's 3000m steeplechase winner Avinash Sable.

9. Sachin Tendulkar named as the 'Global Ambassador' for the Cricket World Cup 2023 by the ICC.

Note: Sachin, who has participated in a record six 50-over World Cups, will unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match between England and New Zealand, thereby officially opening the tournament. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 will commence on October 5, with England and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

10. India won in Men's Hockey Team at the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2023 to claim the Gold medal.

Note: With the win, the Indian men's hockey team also secured a berth at the Paris 2024 Olympics. This is India's fourth Gold medal in Men's Field Hockey at the Asian Games. India had previously won the Gold medal in 1966, 1998, and 2014. The Indian women are already out of the race after losing in the semi-finals to hosts China

11. Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched her third Gold Medal at the Asian Games 2023 in Compound Archery.

Note: Other winners: Ojas Praveen Deotale for striking Gold in the Compound Archery Men's Individual event at the Asian Games. Aditi Gopichand Swami brought home the Bronze Medal at the Asian Games in Compound Archery. Abhishek Verma won the Silver Medal in the Compound Archery Men's Individual event.

12. India won gold by defeating Chinese Taipei in the final at the 19th edition of the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Note: Other Winners: The Indian men's team also defeated Iran to bag another gold. In badminton, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy clinched a historic gold by winning the mixed doubles final. The Indian men's cricket team was awarded gold against Afghanistan. In hockey, the Indian women's team defeated Japan and won a bronze medal

13. India ranked **fourth** on the scoreboard in the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

Note: The Indian athletes finished their campaign by living up to the commitment of "Iss baar 100 paar" with a record haul of 107 medals comprised of 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze. Other Winners: Ranked 1st scored by People's Republic of China with 383 medals. Ranked 2nd scored by Japan with 188 medals. Ranked 3rd scored by Republic of Korea with 190 medals

14. David Warner became the fastest player in the history of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup to complete 1000 runs.

Note: He completed the feat within 19 innings, averaging 62 with three half-centuries and four tons since first being a part of the tournament back in 2011. He was a part of the Australian World Cup-winning unit in 2015. He is one of the best white-ball batters of all time surpassing Sachin and AB de Villiers' record of 20 innings

15. Kelvin Kiptum blazed his way to smash the world record by clocking a stunning 2:00:35 to win the Chicago Marathon 2023.

Note: The timing by World Athletics wiped off 34 seconds from the previous world mark of 2:01:09 set by his fellow countryman Eliud Kipchoge. The Chicago course a World Athletics Platinum Label marathon produced fast times even in the women's field, with Dutch star Sifan Hassan winning the women's title at 2:13:44.

16. Rohit Sharma slammed his 31st ODI century in the World Cup 2023.

Note: He completed his hundred off 63 balls, fetching him the record for the fastest century ever by an Indian in the history of World Cup surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar for the most hundreds (7) in World Cup history. He completed 1000 runs in World Cup, becoming only the fourth Indian to the landmark. He struck 3 sixes to become the leading six-hitter in international cricket.

17. The state's sports minister Govind Gaude confirmed that the 37th edition of the National Games 2023 will be held in **Goa**.

Note: The National Games are India's homespun Olympic-style multi-sport event where athletes from the various states and Union Territories compete for medals. This will be the first time Goa will host the National Games. Goa was awarded the hosting rights for the 36th edition, initially scheduled for 2016.

18. Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the Men's Athlete of the Year award 2023.

Note: Javelin thrower Neeraj is an Indian Olympic and World Championships Gold medalist. World Athletics has confirmed a list of 11 nominees, selected by an international panel of athletics experts, comprising representatives from all six continental areas of World Athletics.

19. Alastair Cook announced his retirement (England) from cricket after deciding against seeking a renewal of his contract at Essex, his long-time county team.

Note: The left-handed opener had already retired from the international game in 2018 after hitting 12,472 Test runs. Cook's contract expired at Essex at the end of the recently completed domestic season.

20. Raunak Sadhwani and Govhar Beydullayeva won gold in The FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship 2023 _ **Note:** Indian GM pulled off a crucial victory over Tobias Koelle and clinched the title as two other co-leaders, Arseniy Nesterov and Dimitris Alexakis, drew their game and tied for second place with Or Globus. Nesterov claimed silver thanks to superior tiebreaks and became the only unbeaten player in the open section; Alexakis took bronze.

21. Ashutosh Sharma recently made headlines by shattering the long-standing record set by Yuvraj

Singh for the fastest fifty by an Indian player in T20 cricket.

Note: He achieved this feat during a match against Arunachal Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, reaching his fifty in just 11 balls. Yuvraj had held the record for the last 16 years, having struck a fifty off 12 balls against England in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007.

22. **Karthikeyan Murali** became just the third player from the India to defeat World number one Magnus Carlsen in classical chess 2023.

Note: Before Murali, Harikrishna, who defeated the Norwegian in 2005, and Viswanathan Anand, the only other player from the country to have defeated Carlsen. With this significant triumph, he joined the ranks of other leading players such as SL Narayan, Javokhir Sindarov, David Paravyan, Arjun Erigaisi, and Nodirbek Yakubboev.

23. **Shubman Gill** set a new record by becoming the fastest batter to reach 2,000 runs in ODI cricket.

Note: Gill accomplished this feat in just 38 innings, which is two innings fewer than South Africa's Hashim Amla, who took 40 innings to achieve the same milestone. Gill, 24, has six centuries and 10 half-centuries in 37 ODI matches for India so far.

24. In a battle of future Badminton stars **Unnati Hooda** from India, beat Samiya Imad Farooqui to capture the women's singles title at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023.

Note: Unnati Hooda defeated the 20-year-old Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-16, 22-20. This is her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title. She became the youngest Indian to clinch a BWF title last year at 14 years of age.

25. **Sumit Antil** bagged gold in para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China,

Note: In the men's javelin throw-F46 final, India's Sundar Singh Gurjar delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of 68.60 meters.

26. **Darpan Inani, Soundrya Pradhan and Ashwin bagged** a gold medal in the men's chess at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.

Note: Other winners: Kishan Gangoli, Aryan Joshi and Somendra won a bronze medal in the men's chess B2 category team. Himanshi Rathi, Sanskruti More and Vruthi Jain won a bronze medal in the women's chess B1 category team. Anita and Narayana Konganapalle won a silver medal in rowing at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

27. In shooting **Manu Baker** secured the 11th Paris Olympics quota place for India after finishing fifth in women's 25-metre sports pistol at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea.

Note: Arjun Babuta in men's 10 metre air rifle event and Sarabjot Singh in men's 10 metre air pistol event have also secured Paris 2024 quotas. Manu is the second shooter after 10-metre air pistol marksman Sarabjot Singh to clinch an Olympic quota in the pistol events.

28. **Neeraj Yadav** Indian clinched a gold medal in the men's javelin throw-F55 event at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023.

Note: Other winners: Tek Chand Mahlawat bagged a bronze medal in the men's javelin throw-F55 at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023. Dilip bagged a gold medal in the men's 400m - T47 event at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023. Pooja bagged a bronze medal in the women's 1500m T-20 event at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023

29. **Tejas Ashok Shirse** achieved an incredible feat, setting a new National Games record in Men's 110M hurdles by finishing it in 13.80 minutes.

Note: Priyanka Goswami of Uttar Pradesh has also set a new National Games record in the women's 20km Race Walk with an impressive time of 1:36:35. Gold medal of Women's 3M Springboard bagged by Palak Sharma of Madhya Pradesh and that of Men's won by H London Singh of Services.

Books and Authors

1. **Vivek Agnihotri** has launched his latest book, "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success" in Lucknow.

Note: He also directed a medical drama film 'The Vaccine War' in 2023. Balram Bhargava is the writer of the book on which the movie is based. Bhargava's book, 'Going Viral - Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story', documents his experiences.

2. Former India cricketer **W.V. Raman** and senior journalist R. Kaushik have set about exploring the evolution of Indian cricket in these 28 years in the book The Lords of Wankhede, which was unveiled at a star-studded function.

Note: The tag of a world champion, though, was tough to wear, conceded Vengsarkar. "It was very difficult because the BCCI invited the West Indies to India very soon," the 67-year-old said, as the audience burst into laughter.

3. Former RBI governor, Raghuram Rajan has teamed up with which economist **Rohit Lamba** to write a book, "Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future".

Note: Goal: To give the reader a rare glimpse into India's economic future. The book is being published by Penguin Random House India and is set to be released on December This eagerly anticipated book

seeks to delve into some of the critical questions

surrounding India's economic trajectory.

Science and Defence

- Aditya L1 of India's Solar Missions successfully departed Earth's gravitational field by traveling more than 9.2 lakh kilometers away.
Note: It is now navigating its path toward the Lagrange point L1 which is 1.5 million km from Earth. ISRO has informed the spacecraft is now on a trajectory that will take the spacecraft to the Sun-Earth L1 point. After 110 days, the spacecraft will be injected into an orbit around L1 through a maneuver from the Ground station.
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards, a branch of the nation's armed forces, launched the spacecraft atop a three-stage Qasem rocket **Noor 3**.
Note: "Noor" means "light" in Farsi, while "Qased" means "messenger." Noor 3 is an imaging satellite. The spacecraft's two predecessors, Noor 1 and Noor 2, launched in April 2020 and March 2022, respectively, also atop Qased rockets. The country has had many failed satellite launches in recent years.
- The Indian Air Force made significant strides to enhance its air Défense capabilities with the impending induction of indigenous **Astra** Air-to-Air Missiles.
Note: The IAF has entered into contracts with Bharat Dynamics Limited for these advanced missiles, marking a crucial step towards reducing import dependency and bolstering national security. The first batch of Astra-MK1 missiles, developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory.
- India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of an annual joint military exercise **SAMPRITI**, on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya.
Note: Aim: To enhance interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices. SAMPRITI-XI, scheduled for 14 days, will engage approximately 350 personnel from both sides. SAMPRITI-XI will include a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX), culminating in a Validation Exercise.
- World Health Organization has validated a second malaria vaccine **R21** to protect children against the deadly disease.
Note: According to Researchers the vaccine, known as R21, is easier to make than the first-approved malaria vaccine, called RTS,S, and will be cheaper per dose. R21 met the WHO's target of 75% efficacy at preventing the disease in a trial with 4,800 children who received three doses before a seasonal malaria peak.
- Rajnath Singh launched **Swavalamban 2.0** the Navy's updated indigenous programme at the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation seminar in New Delhi.
Note: Highlights of the event: The release of the fifth Positive Indigenisation List of the Department of Military Affairs comprising 98 items. He launched 76 challenges for the industry under 10th Defence India Start-up Challenges & DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** handed over the twin-seater variant of LCA Tejas fighter aircraft to Indian Air Force in Bengaluru.
Note: Aim: To join India in the list of a very few elite countries who have created such capability and have them operational in their defence forces. LCA Tejas twin seater is a light weight all weather, multi-role 4.5 generation aircraft. The aircraft developed indigenously has static stability, quadraplex fly by wire flight control.
- NASA** would send a high-tech spacecraft called Psyche to an asteroid of the same name, 16 Psyche.
Note: It will be a first-of-its-kind mission to study a metal-rich asteroid, Aim: To help scientists learn more about the formation of rocky bodies in our solar system. The launch of the mission will take place on Thursday (Oct 12) when NASA's Psyche spacecraft will take off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and travel 2.2 billion miles.
- Spain** launched the Miura-1 rocket marking Europe's first fully private rocket launch.
Note: Miura-1, a recoverable rocket was launched from a site in southwest Spain. The launch is being viewed as a boost to Europe's stalled space ambitions. The Miura-1 rocket has been named after a breed of fighting bull. The rocket is as tall as a three-storey building. It has a 100-kg (220-pound) cargo capacity.
- Annual Joint HADR** Exercise is an outcome of Hon'ble PM's directive promulgated during Combined Commanders' Conference 2015.
Note: The exercise has been conducted by Indian Army, Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF) in rotation since 2016. It is being hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa from 09 to 11 Oct 23. The 2023 edition would synergise efforts at the national level as well as witness participation from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region.
- United Service Institution** of India is organizing the first Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) to address the gap in the national discourse and cultural calendar.
Note: Aim: To enhance our understanding of the country's rich military heritage and traditions; contemporary security and strategy concerns; and the push to achieve self-reliance in military

- capability. It is scheduled to be held on October 21 and 22.
12. Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari unveiled the new Indian Air Force ensign on its 91st anniversary in **Prayagraj**.
Note: The new feature is the addition of the Air Force crest in the top right corner of the ensign, towards the fly side. The occasion was also the first Air Force Day Parade to be commanded by a woman officer, Gp Capt. Shaliza Dhama, who is also the first woman officer of the IAF to command a combat unit.
 13. The ISRO in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati is organizing an exhibition called "Space on Wheels" in **Arunachal Pradesh**
Note: Objective: To provide valuable insights into ISRO's activities and India's space missions to school and college students. Aim: To sensitize the youth about the exciting and rewarding career opportunities in the field of space science and to bring the wonders of space exploration to the doorstep of students and enthusiasts across the region
 14. **ISRO** launched of the "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Space flight, that is, the "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1) on 21 October.
Note: ISRO will also test the efficacy of the Crew Escape System which is the crucial part of "Gaganyaan" mission, resulting in unmanned and manned missions to outer space by 2024. The test is to be conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Crew Module will carry the astronauts during the Gaganyaan mission to outer space
 15. The first-ever defence tech show in Northeast India, called 'East Tech', has begun in **Guwahati**.
Note: Aim: To expose manufacturers to the needs of the armed forces and enable direct procurement of their products. The Indian Army and the Assam government organized the tech event, which also featured MSMEs, defence PSUs, and start-ups showcasing their goods. Nearly 200 manufacturers have set up their booths at the two-day 'East Tech' event, launched by Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita
 16. The Indian Army has installed a mobile tower in collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for the first time at **Siachen Glacier**.
Note: The Base Transceiver Station (BTS) was established at the forward post of the highest battlefield on October 6 for the Army soldiers. The Siachen Glacier is a glacier located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
 17. The Indian Army has established the world's first mobile tower and base transceiver station (BTS) on the **Siachen Glacier**
Note: It is the highest battlefield on Earth, with the help of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Aim: To provide mobile communication services to soldiers at an altitude of over 15,500 feet.
 18. The inaugural India **UK '2+2'** foreign and defence dialogue saw the two sides focusing on ways to boost cooperation in a range of key areas such as trade and investment, defence.
Note: Aim: To discuss and review all aspects of the India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership. Discussed international developments including in the Indo-Pacific region and considered the possibility of enhancing anti-terror collaboration.
 19. Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan launched a web portal' having activity-based support material such as quiz, puzzles, etc for school students on Mission Chandrayaan-3
Note: Aim: To make it more accessible, facilitating self-learning among students. He also released 10 special modules on Chandrayaan-3, offering a comprehensive overview of its various facets - including scientific, technological, and social aspects.
 20. The Indian Space Agency **Gaganyaan** has made the stage ready to test the crucial crew escape system of its rocket.
Note: The demonstration of the TV-D1 mission has been rescheduled to 8.45 am presently. Objective: To test the safe landing at the Bay of Bengal and due to the presence of low pressure, the mission will be undertaken accordingly. Gaganyaan will be launched from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
 21. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **Udbhav** the army's project aimed at integrating ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy.
Note: Project Udbhav is a joint collaboration of the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India. The project aims to promote indigenous discourse through the exploration and integration of the country's ancient strategic acumen into the contemporary military domain.
 22. South Korea, together with **Japan and the United States** held a joint aerial exercise near the Korean peninsula in the South Korean military said, marking the first such collaboration between the three countries. -
Note: The drill aimed to expand the countries' response capabilities against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, South Korea's air force said in a statement. It involved a U.S. B-52 strategic bomber as well as fighter jets of the three nations.
 23. **Space start-up Skyroot Aerospace** unveiled its indigenously built Vikram-1 rocket is expected to deliver satellites to low earth orbit early 2024.

Note: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh also inaugurated 'The MAX-Q Campus', the new headquarters of the start-up at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park at Mamidipally in South Hyderabad. Vikram-1 is a multi-stage launch vehicle with a capacity to place around 300 kg of payloads in Low Earth Orbit.

- 24.** Joint bilateral training exercise “Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023”, between Indian & **Malaysian Army**.
Note: The Malaysian Army contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion of Malaysian Army. The Indian contingent is being represented by a Battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT. Ex Harimau Shakti, scheduled till 5th November 2023, aimed at enhancing military capability for conduct of Multi Domain Operations in a sub conventional scenario.
- 25.** India and **European Union (EU)** conducted their maiden joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea on the west coast of Africa
Note: During the exercise, Indian Navy’s INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was joined by three EU Member States’ ships in the Gulf of Guinea—Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado.
- 26.** **China** launched the Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. .
Note: A Long March-2F carrier rocket, carrying the Shenzhou-17 spacecraft with three Chinese astronauts, known as taikonauts, blasted off. This is the 30th flight mission of China’s manned space program, all of which are successful, and the 12th manned mission of the program. The trio will be welcomed by the Shenzhou-16 crew and conduct the country’s third in-orbit rotation.
- 27.** **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** signed an MoU to develop industrial cooperation in ring forging manufacturing for commercial engines with Safran Aircraft Engines.
Note: HAL will produce Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion powering Airbus A320 Neo family and Boeing 737 Max engine forgings at its foundry & forge facility in Bengaluru. Safran is a long standing

partner, especially in helicopter programs, as evidenced by the joint development of the “Shakti” helicopter engine

- 28.** In Gangwon Province in South Korea, **US** with South Korean militaries held joint future combat drill exercises? _ .
Note: Aim: To beef up future combat capabilities, with the troops wearing multiple integrated laser engagement systems (MILES), which uses lasers to simulate actual battle. The South Korean army training was an attempt to modernize their military and improve their responses to North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats.
- 29.** The Indian Air Force recently signed a contract with an Indian manufacturer for the procurement of Automatic Weather Stations at **82 IAF locations**.
Note: Aim: To provide a major boost to Aerospace Safety by making available real-time weather updates during flying operations and training. The IAF is working on the upgrade program of the Su-30MKI fleet where 84 planes would be upgraded indigenously with advanced made-in-India radars (Virupaaksha) and weapon systems.
- 30.** Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent comprising 120 personnel departed for Kazakhstan to take part in the 7th edition of Joint Military ‘Exercise **KAZIND-2023**’.
Note: The Exercise will be conducted at Otar in Kazakhstan from 30th October to 11th November. The Joint Exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as ‘Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK’ in 2016. After the second edition, the Exercise was upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed as ‘Exercise KAZIND’.
- 31.** **‘Mahabali’** will play a vital role in towing, berthing, and salvage operations, enhancing the Navy’s operational efficiency.
Note: This addition underscores the Indian Navy’s commitment to modernization and its role in securing the nation’s maritime interests. Navy continues to invest in advanced technology to maintain its superiority in the Indian Ocean Region.

Features :



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Top Faculty



Comprehensive Study
Material



Daily Study Plan



Latest Pattern Test Series



Complete Doubt
Resolution



Regular Assessments with
Report Card

