

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (1-15 April 2023) English PDF



Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates

1st -15th April 2023

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first two weeks** (1-15th) of April 2023. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which payment bank has renewed its association with Rajasthan Royals (RR) for Season 16 of the Indian premier cricket competition, IPL _____ **Fino Payments Bank**.

Note:

- Fino Bank will be RR's official digital banking partner.
- The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the digital payments partner.
- The newly launched FinoPay digital savings account is expected to get more traction through this engagement.

2. What is revised interest rate of the National Savings Certificate _____ **7.7%**.

Note:

- The rate for Sukanya Samriddhi has increased to 8% from 7.6%.
- The interest rates for PPF and savings deposits have been retained at 7.1% and 4%.
- Senior citizen savings scheme: 8.2%.
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.5%
- KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier.

3. India's GST revenue collection for March 2023 stood at 1.6 lakh crore rupees, which is ____ higher than the GST revenues in March 2022 _____ **13%**.

Note:

- It is for the fourth time, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has crossed 1.5 lakh crore rupees, since the implementation of GST.
- Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees.
- The gross revenues in 2022-23 were 22% higher than in 2021-22.

4. Which payment collaborated with Airtel to launched WhatsApp Banking Services for its customers in New Delhi _____ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.

Note:

- This channel will enable IPPB customers to seamlessly connect with the bank on WhatsApp and effortlessly avail of a host of banking services.
- It includes doorstep service requests, locating the nearest Post Office, and much more.
- Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers.

5. How much amount of support package was approved by the IMF for Ukraine to assist with the conflict-hit country's economic recovery _____ **15.6 billion US dollar**.



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Note:

- The loan is part of a broader 115 billion US dollar international support package to help the country meet urgent funding needs.
 - Of the total amount, 2.7 billion dollars is being made available to Ukraine immediately and the rest of the funds are due to be released over the next four years.
6. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's CAD has narrowed to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in the October to December quarter (Q3FY23) from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September 2022. What is the full form of CAD _____ **Current Account Deficit.**

Note:

- Reason: The decline was mainly due to the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit.
 - Services exports reported a growth of 24.5% on a y-o-y basis.
 - CAD: It is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange.
7. Which bank has become the first Indian bank to open its 'Special Rupee Vostro' account through its corresponding bank in Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia for trade settlement in rupee _____ **Union Bank of India.**

Note:

- The trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the Indian rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies.
 - In July 2022, RBI decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee.
 - Malaysia currency: Ringgit
8. According to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the government's fiscal deficit for April 2022-February 2023 has widened to what amount _____ **Rs 14.54 lakh crore.**

Note:

- It is accounted for 82.8% of the full-year target for 2022-23.
 - In 2021-22, the Fiscal deficit in the first 11 months was 82.7% of that year's target.
 - The Centre made an upward revision in its fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 in the 2023 Budget to Rs 17.55 lakh crore from Rs 16.61 lakh crore.
9. Name three insurance organizations that was has identified as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for 2022-23 by IRDAI _____ **LIC, New India Assurance, and GIC Re.**

Note:

- These were the same institutions identified as DSII in 2021-22.
 - D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
10. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$5.98 billion to _____ on March 24, 2023 _____ **\$578.78 billion.**

Note:

- Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023.
 - India's foreign currency assets (FCA) also increased from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion.
 - India's gold reserves rose by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.
11. The Public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred unclaimed deposits of what amount as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) _____ **₹35,012 crore.**



Note:

- These deposits have not been operated for 10 years or more.
- SBI tops the list with an unclaimed amount of ₹8,086 crore, while PNB has ₹5,340 crore and Canara Bank has ₹4,558 crore.
- These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI.
- MoS for Finance Bhagwat Karad shared this information in Lok Sabha.

12. Which private lender and VISA jointly launched a mobile application, 'Digital Dukaan' to empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- It is designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management, and billing.
- This Android Smart POS application has an in-built camera with an LED flashlight to enable scanning of product barcodes and allow a tap-and-pay option for transactions up to Rs 5,000.

13. World Bank has predicted India's economy to slow in the 2023-24 to what percent on the back of shrinkage in consumption due to slower income growth _____ **6.3%.**

Note:

- The report estimates India's inflation to moderate from 6.6% to 5.5% in the current fiscal.
- The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is expected to be 5.2% in FY24.
- The Economic Survey had projected a growth of 6.5% for the current fiscal while RBI's latest projection pegs growth for FY24 at 6.4%.

14. Which bank has introduced a "Premium Payroll Package" for Salary account holders with competitive features _____ **Canara Bank.**

Note:

- This product has been designed to meet all Banking requirements of Salaried Customers.
- Features: Free Term Life Insurance, Insta over Draft, free Personal & Air Accident Insurance coverage, Premium Cards, etc.
- All employees of a firm/company with a minimum of 5 employees.
- Age: 18-65 years
- Salary Band: Rs. 50,000-Rs.1,00,000

15. According to the latest edition of ADB's flagship economic publication, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023, what would be India's GDP growth in FY24 (2023-24) _____ **6.4%.**

Note:

- Reason: Risks arising from global and domestic factors
- ADB has also highlighted that India's GDP will rise in FY25 to 6.7%.
- While inflation will likely moderate to 5% in 2023-24, assuming moderation in oil and food prices.
- Inflation will be at 4.5% in FY25.

16. Which tax was removed by India government on crude oil production to nil from 3,500 rupees (\$42.56) per tonne and on diesel has been slashed to Rs 0.5 per litre from Re 1 per litre, effective from April 4, 2023 _____ **Windfall tax.**

Note:

- Windfall tax: It is levied by governments when an industry unexpectedly earns large profits.
- The tax was levied in July 2022 as high energy prices led to soaring profits for oil producers.
- The decision comes at a time when OPEC+ decided to cut production.



17. Which fintech organization has launched a new consumer-facing application named Pincode, which will be a part of India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework _____ **PhonePe**.

Note:

- Aim: To strengthen its e-commerce forays
- Pincode is a buyer app that focuses on hyperlocal commerce and is available for download on both Google Play and the App Store.
- It will launch in six major categories including grocery, food, pharma, electronics, home decor, and fashion.

18. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the repo rate unchanged at what percent _____ **6.50%**.

Note:

- The GDP is expected to jump 6.5% in the current financial year.
- Retail inflation is expected to moderate to 5.2% in FY2023-24.
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) would remain unchanged at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and the bank rate at 6.75%.
- In Q1FY24, CPI-based inflation is expected to be 5.1%.
- The real GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7%.

19. According to the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, released by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), what would be the global merchandise trade volume grow in 2023 _____ **1.7%**.

Note:

- It would be lower than 2.7% growth in 2022.
- The expectation would be 'subpar' due to multiple factors, including Russia-Ukraine conflict, high inflation, tighter monetary policy, and financial uncertainty.
- WTO DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

20. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the Bank credit rose by ____ year-on-year (YoY) in 2022-23 (FY23), against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (FY22) _____ **15%**.

Note:

- FY23 credit growth is the highest since 2011-12, when it was 19.3%.
- Bank deposits expanded 9.58% YoY in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth seen in the previous financial year (FY22).
- The outstanding credit stood at Rs 136.75 trillion at the end of the last fortnight of FY23 (March 24, 2023).

21. Which government scheme has completed 8 years of its inception on April 8, 2023 _____ **PM MUDRA Yojana**.

Note:

- As per the government data, around Rs 23.2 lakh crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts under this scheme since its inception.
- About 68% of accounts under the scheme belong to Women entrepreneurs.
- 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs of SC/ST and OBC categories.
- MUDRA Yojana: Launched: 2015; Aim: To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh

22. David Malpass has informed that the lender has revised its 2023 global growth outlook slightly upward to 2% from a January 2023 forecast of 1.7%. He is a President of which International bank _____ **World Bank**.



Note:

- But the slowdown from stronger 2022 growth will increase debt distress for developing countries.
- Reason: The upward revision was due to an improved outlook for China's recovery from Covid-19 lockdowns, with growth now pegged at 5.1% this year compared to 4.3%.

23. Which department has notified the Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the current fiscal beginning April 2023, for calculating long-term capital gains arising from the sale of immovable property, securities, and jewelry _____ **Income Tax Department.**

Note:

- CII is used by taxpayers to compute gains arising out of the sale of capital assets after adjusting for inflation.
- The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2023-24 relevant to AY 2024-25 stood at 348.
- It is notified under the Income-tax Act, 1961 every year

24. The government official has informed that the union government may set up which finance commission in this FY 2023-24 _____ **16th.**

Note:

- Aim: To suggest the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for five years, beginning April 1, 2026.
- Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations.
- The 15th Commission, under NK Singh, had kept the tax devolution ratio at 42%.

25. Which bank is planning to launch new variants of the current a/c (with balances of ₹50,000 and ₹50 lakh) and the "Parivar" (family) savings a/c in FY24 _____ **SBI.**

Note:

- Aim: To minimize the gap between deposit growth and credit growth.
- Domestic deposits of SBI grew 8.86% year-on-year (y-o-y) by the end of 2022.
- While domestic advances were up 16.9% y-o-y.
- SBI also expects that its domestic deposits and domestic advances will grow about 12% and 16% y-o-y, respectively, in FY24.

26. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the framework for acceptance of Green Deposits of which entities _____ **Regulated Entities (RE).**

Note:

- Aim: To foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country
- The framework will come into effect from June 1, 2023.
- It is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks including SFB excluding RRBs, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks.
- It also includes all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including Housing Finance Companies.

27. Which bank has introduced an EMI facility for UPI payments made by scanning a QR code _____ **ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- Those customers are eligible for the PayLater facility can avail of the EMI facility using the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' option.
- Customers can pay amounts above Rs 10,000 in easy installments for 3, 6, and 9 months.



- The ICICI Bank's PayLater facility was introduced in 2018 to enable customers to buy small ticket items in a completely paperless manner.

28. JICA (Japanese lender) and which bank will provide a USD 125 million funding line to India's IndusInd Bank _____ **Citibank.**

Note:

- Reason: For co-finance funding for on-lending to the agricultural sector in the country.
- The funding includes a JPY 13 billion (approx USD 97.45 million) loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and another USD 30 million from Citi to IndusInd Bank.
- In the past, Citi has committed USD 1 trillion to sustainable finance by 2030.

29. According to the World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), what would be India's economic growth for the current fiscal (2023-24) _____ **5.9%.**

Note:

- Yet India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world.
- It has also lowered the forecast for 2024-25 to 6.3% from the 6.8% it had predicted in January 2023.
- IMF growth forecast is lower than projections by the RBI, which predicted a 6.4% in the current fiscal.

30. Which indices has launched the country's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts index -Nifty REITs and InvITs Index _____ **NSE Indices Ltd.**

Note:

- Aim: To track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE
- A Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) or an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is an investment vehicle that owns revenue-generating real estate or infrastructure assets.

31. The RBI has proposed to prohibit the capitalization of penal charges and additional interest levied by banks on customers for which type of defaulters _____ **Loan defaults.**

Note:

- Aim: To streamline divergent practices followed by lenders
- As per the draft circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts', the quantum of penal charges should be proportional to the defaults/non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contracts up to a threshold.

32. Which bank has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with the Export-Import Bank of Korea for a USD 300 million line of credit _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- The pact was signed by the two entities at GIFT City in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- It will help bank to raise foreign currency funds which it would extend to Korea-related businesses.
- It can be utilized towards funding requirements of consumers for the purchase of cars manufactured by Korean companies.

33. RBI has authorized the which bank to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) _____ **Karnataka Bank.**



Note:

- The RBI authorized on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- Customers are enjoying seamless online payments for custom duty by selecting Karnataka Bank in the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway 'ICEGATE' portal of CBIC.

34. Which bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) have launched cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in Oman _____ **Canara Bank.**

Note:

- NRIs can now leverage the robust platform offered by the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to make bill payments on behalf of their families through the Musandam Exchange.
- With this, Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.

35. Which bank has become the first Indian company to have over 50 lakh shareholders _____ **Canara Bank.**

Note:

- The bank had 50.6 lakh shareholders as of March 31, 2023, all of whom were public shareholders.
- While Tata Power was a far second with 38.5 lakh shareholders, followed by Reliance Industries with 33.6 lakh shareholders, according to the December 2022 shareholding disclosures.
- Since then, the total number of shares held has also more than doubled from 1,255 crores to 2,875 crores.

36. Agri-tech company Fasal signed a partnership agreement with which bank to provide farmers with easy access to capital _____ **State Bank of India (SBI).**

Note:

- The partnership will help to solve the cash-flow constraints during key cycles in farming by providing quick, easy, and collateral-free loans at very competitive rates.
- These ties will help to fulfill Fasal's larger objective of solving the many challenges across the entire horticulture value chain.

37. According to the United Nations, India's economic growth is projected to decelerate at what percent in 2023 _____ **6%.**

Note:

- The UNCTAD in its latest Trade and Development Report Update released, expects global growth in 2023 to drop to 2.1%, compared to the 2.2% projected in September 2022.
- UNCTAD expects the South-Asian region to expand at a still fast pace of 5.1 percent in 2023.
- Recently, IMF lowered India's economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 5.9%.

Obituaries

1. Sara Thomas, who passed away at 88 due to age-related ailments, was a noted _____ **Author.**

Note:

- She is a two-time recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.
- Her noted work 'Narmadipudava' won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1979.
- She was also awarded the academy's award in 2010 for her overall contribution to Malayalam literature.



- Her second novel 'Muripadukal' was made into a movie titled 'Manimuzhakkam' in 1976, which won several national and state awards.
2. Salim Durani, who passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat, was associated with which sports _____ **Cricket**.

Note:

- He played 29 Tests for India from 1960 to 1973, scoring 1,202 runs at an average of 25.04, with one century (104 against West Indies in 1962) and seven fifties.
 - He was a left-arm spinner and claimed 75 wickets at 35.42 apiece.
 - In first-class cricket, he played for Saurashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.
 - He was born in Kabul (Afghanistan) in 1934 and was raised in Jamnagar.
3. Thottathil B Radhakrishnan, who passed away in Kochi at the age of 63, was a _____ **Former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court**.

Note:

- He also served as the Chief Justice of Telangana and Chattisgarh HC and was a judge of the Kerala HC.
 - He was an expert in civil, constitutional, and administrative matters.
 - He also chaired the expert committee formed by the Kerala Forest Department to record details of houses and commercial establishments that surround wildlife sanctuaries.
4. Ryuichi Sakamoto, who passed away at the age of 71 due to cancer, was a veteran _____ **Composer**.

Note:

- He was a Japanese composer, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO).
 - As a film-score composer, he won an Oscar, a BAFTA, a Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards.
 - He won an Academy Award with his score for the 1987 period epic "The Last Emperor".
5. Jagarnath Mahto, who passed away at 56 in Chennai, was an Education minister of which state _____ **Jharkhand**.

Note:

- He was the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in the Giridih district, Jharkhand.
 - He was also known as Tiger Mahto or Tiger Jagarnath Da.
 - He was born on January 1, 1967, in the Alargo village of Bokaro District in Jharkhand and dropped out of high school and attended Nehru High School in 1995 before leaving his studies to pursue a career in politics.
6. Jalabala Vaidya passes away at 86 in New Delhi, was a legendary _____ Theatre actor.

Note:

- She was the daughter of Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English classical singer Madge Franckeiss.
 - She was awarded the Delhi government's Varisht Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, Delhi Natya Sangh Award, the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honor, and Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA.
7. Naresh Gupta passed away at 72 after a prolonged illness, was former Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of which Indian State _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- He was a native of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



- He was the CEO during the DMK regime between 1998 and 2000. Subsequently, late chief minister J Jayalalithaa appointed him as home secretary.
 - He was again posted as the CEO between 2005 and 2010 and held the post during the 2006 assembly election and 2009 general elections.
8. Keshub Mahindra passed away at 99 in Mumbai, was a chairman of which company _____
Mahindra & Mahindra.

Note:

- He served as chairman of the conglomerate from 1963 to 2012.
 - He joined the Board of the company in 1948 and was elected chairman in 1963.
 - He was awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur by the French Government in 1987.
 - He re-entered the Forbes list of India's Richest Billionaires for 2023 with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.
9. Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury passed away at 81 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, was a Veteran _____
Public Health Activist.

Note:

- He was a vascular surgeon and a pioneer in public health.
 - He won the Ramon Magsaysay Award in the Community Leadership category in 1985 and the Right Livelihood Prize in 1992 for his outstanding work in the public health sector.
 - In 1971, he left his medical studies in the UK to join the liberation war of Bangladesh.
10. Uttara Baokar passed away at 79 in Pune, Maharashtra, was veteran _____
Television actress.

Note:

- In 1984, she won India's National Academy for Acting, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- She also appeared in Marathi films like Doghi (1995) with Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Renuka Daftardar, Uttarayan (2005), Shevri (2006), and Restaurant (2006), with Sonali Kulkarni.
- She has played various roles in different plays such as Padmavati in Mukhyamantri and Mena in Mena Gurjari.

Important Days

1. World Autism day is observed annually on which date to promote awareness and advocacy for the rights of people with autism _____
April 2.

Note:

- This year marks the 16th anniversary of the day.
 - This year the theme is "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."
 - In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day, following a proposal put forward by the State of Qatar.
2. International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on which date to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication _____
April 4.

Note:

- Theme 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait



- The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads the mine action community, which plays an important role in achieving the goals of mine action.
 - On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April to observe as this day.
3. India observed which edition of National Maritime Day on April 5, 2023, to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty _____ **60th**.

Note:

- The ship sailed from Mumbai to London.
 - This day was started by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways in 1964.
 - The theme for 2023 has not yet been announced.
 - The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'.
 - World Maritime Day is observed on 28 September.
4. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) takes place on which date to celebrate the role of sports and physical activity in our lives across the globe _____ **April 6**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Scoring for People and the Planet
 - On August 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 67/296 to proclaim April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.
 - This day was supported by the International Olympic Committee.
5. World Health Day is celebrated every year on which date to spread awareness about health-related issues that affect people all over the world _____ **April 7**.

Note:

- On this day, World Health Organisation (WHO) was founded in 1948 and this year marks the 75th founding anniversary of WHO.
 - This year, the theme for World Health Day is 'Health for All'.
 - The theme highlights an opportunity for the world to look back at public health successes that have helped improve the quality of life.
6. International Conscience Day is celebrated on which date to promote peace _____ **April 5**.

Note:

- Conscience is the ability of a person to distinguish between what's right and what's wrong.
 - It allows people to have a moral backbone and to protect those who are weak.
7. The Indian Government organized the Prevention of Blindness Week from ____ every year _____ **April 1-7**.

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness.
 - The annual event aims to support individuals with visual impairments and to promote access to eye care services.
8. World Chagas Disease Day is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about a life-threatening illness that can cause severe heart and digestive problems _____ **April 14th**.

Note:

- It is also known as American trypanosomiasis, silent disease, or silenced disease.
- It is more common in Central America, Mexico, and South America.
- The theme for 2023 is Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care.
- World Chagas Disease Day was established in 2020.



9. World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on which date to honor the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann _____ **April 10th.**

Note:

- Samuel Hahnemann is the founder of homeopathy and a German physician.
- This year (2023) marks the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.
- The theme for 2023 is 'One Health, One Family'.

10. India has commemorated the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on which date as Ambedkar Jayanti _____ **April 14, 2023.**

Note:

- This day has been declared a public holiday by the central government.
- He is widely recognized as the "father of the Indian Constitution.
- He was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.

11. India marked the _____ anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre _____ **104th.**

Note:

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab.
- The incident continues to remind us of the brutalities inflicted upon the Indian people during British colonial rule.
- To commemorate the spirit of revolutionaries and those who lost their lives in the brutal massacre, the government set up a memorial in 1951 at Jallianwala Bagh.

12. The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed annually on which date to commemorate the beginning of human space exploration _____ **April 12th.**

Note:

- It also acknowledges the significant contribution of space science and technology in achieving the peaceful use of outer space.
- This day is dedicated to honoring the first human to orbit the Earth, a Russian cosmonaut, on April 12th, 1961.
- On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, completing a full orbit around the Earth.

13. National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on which date for promoting the well-being and safety of mothers and expectant mothers by increasing awareness of proper healthcare _____ **April**

11.

Note:

- It was launched by the Indian government to decrease the number of maternal and neonatal deaths.
- In the past, India was recognized as one of the most perilous countries to give birth to, responsible for 15% of all maternal fatalities worldwide.
- This date also marks the anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi.



New Appointments

1. Who was appointed as the first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme, with immediate effect _____ **Amit Kshatriya.**

Note:

- The new office aims to carry out the agency's human exploration activities on the Moon and Mars for the benefit of humanity.
- He will be responsible for planning and executing human missions to these celestial bodies for the betterment of humanity.
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson

2. Adani Group has appointed whom as the Executive Chairman of the Haifa Port Company _____ **Ron Malka.**

Note:

- He served as the ambassador of Israel to India from 2018-2021.
- It is the second-largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers.
- The Adani Group officially took over this port in January 2023.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Israel's Gadot Group won the tender in July 2022 to privatize the Port of Haifa for USD 1.18 billion.

3. Who assumed the charge of the vice chief of naval staff on April 2, 2023 _____ **Vice Admiral, Sanjay Jasjit Singh.**

Note:

- He succeeded Vice Admiral SN Ghormade who retired after over 39 years of service.
- He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and was commissioned in 1986 in the executive branch of the Indian Navy.
- In his career, he has served on most classes of ships of the Indian Navy and has held a range of command, training, and staff appointments.

4. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed whom as executive director (ED) _____ **Neeraj Nigam.**

Note:

- Before being promoted to ED, he was heading the Bhopal regional office of the RBI as director.
- During his long career, he served in Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts, and other areas in the Reserve Bank.

5. Who has been selected as the first woman astronaut by the American Space Agency, NASA for its Artemis II mission _____ **Christina Koch.**

Note:

- Other crew members: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10-day journey back to Earth.
- It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.

6. Who has assumed the charge as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) at the 39th annual session _____ **Sudha Shivkumar.**

Note:

- FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia.



- She is a lawyer and investment banker by profession and presently serving as a director at auto ancillaries.
 - She was the Chairperson of the FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17.
 - FLO is the women's wing of the FICCI
7. The Board member of Suzlon Energy has appointed whom as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) _____ **J P Chalasani.**

Note:

- He has replaced Ashwani Kumar, who resigned from the post on account of personal reasons.
 - He had been Group CEO of Suzlon from April 2016 to July 2020 and continued as Strategic Advisor to the Suzlon Group thereafter.
 - He was also the Group CEO and Managing Director of Punj Lloyd.
8. Who has been appointed as Chief Justice of Tripura High Court _____ **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh.**
- Note:**
- He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand on 24th January 2012 and confirmed as a permanent Judge on 16th January 2014.
 - He has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court from the 20th of December, 2022 to the 19th of February, 2023.
9. RBI has approved the reappointment whom as Managing Director (MD) & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) for the next three years, till 2026 _____ **Sanjay Agarwal.**

Note:

- He was first appointed as MD of AU Financiers on 14 February 2008. Later, he became the Managing Director & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.
 - Meanwhile, RBI has also approved the appointment of Uttam Tibrewal as Whole Time Director of AU SFB.
 - Uttam Tibrewal joined the board of AU Small Finance Bank in 2005.
10. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has appointed whom as the new Chief Investment Officer _____ **Ratnakar Patnaik.**

Note:

- He has replaced PR Mishra, who stepped down from the role on April 10, 2023.
 - Additionally, PC Paikray has been named the new Chief Risk Officer, taking over from Tablesh Pandey on the same date.
 - Patnaik has begun his career at LIC as a Direct Recruit Officer in September 1990.
11. The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) has appointed whom as the new chairman _____ **Anshuman Singhania.**

Note:

- He is currently serving as the Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.
 - While Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd has taken over as the Vice-Chairman.
 - ATMA was formed in 1975 in India to represent the interests of tyre manufacturers.
12. Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India has appointed whom as the new President, CEO & Managing Director _____ **Tsutsumu Otani.**

Note:

- He is currently the Vice President at Honda Motor Co., Japan.



- He will take over from Atsushi Ogata, who will be relocating to Shanghai, China, to serve as the Executive General Manager at Shanghai Branch, Honda Motor (China) Investment Co. Ltd.

13. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd _____
Kenichi Umeda.

Note:

- He takes over from Satoshi Uchida, who has completed his term as Managing Director.
- He has an experience of more than 27 years of industry experience across various global markets and will be responsible for growing and strengthening Suzuki Motorcycle India's position in the Indian and overseas markets.

14. The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan has appointed whom as the new President for a term of two years (2023 to 2025) _____ **Dr. Sheenu Jhawar.**

Note:

- She becomes the first woman to hold this position in the 21-year history of TiE Rajasthan.
- She takes over from Dr. Ravi Modani, who had been leading the chapter effectively since 2021.

Important News – India

1. According to the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate increased to what percent in March 2023 _____ **7.8%.**

Note:

- The unemployment rate in the country surged in December 2022 to 8.30% but declined in January to 7.14%.
- It edged up again in February 2023 to 7.45%.
- In March 2023, the unemployment rate in urban areas of India reached 8.4%, while in rural areas it stood at 7.5%.
- In March 2023, unemployment was the highest in Haryana at 26.8%.

2. Union Minister for Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched the App Version of the National Logistics Portal (Marine) What is the name this application _____ **Sagar-Setu.**

Note:

- The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc.
- Benefits for Traders
- Improve convenience with the reduced turnaround time for approval and compliance.
- Increase the visibility of operations and tracking.

3. According to the report titled 'Women and Men in India 2022', an average Indian woman aged between 15 and 29 spends 5.5 hours doing unpaid labor. This report was released by which ministry _____ **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

Note:

- While a man between 15 and 29 spends about 50 minutes daily doing work that yields no money.
- A senior woman (above 60) spends four hours a day doing unpaid labor, while a senior man spends 1.5 hours on the same.

4. Bhutan king arrived in India for a two-day visit and was received by EAM S Jaishankar in New Delhi. Who is he _____ **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.**



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Note:

- Both countries will discuss hydro-power cooperation, economic and trade partnership, space cooperation, scholarships, youth-centric and STEM-based initiatives, and establishing digital infrastructure matters.
 - The defense and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.
5. According to the new joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics, India could become the world's second-largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer by 2026, after which country _____ **China**.

Note:

- India's cumulative module manufacturing nameplate capacity more than doubled from 18GW in March 2022 to 38GW in March 2023.
 - In terms of upcoming PV manufacturing installations, Gujarat would be the leading state in India.
6. According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, an initiative of Tata Trusts, which state emerged at the top among the 18 large and mid-sized states with a population of over one crore _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Tamil Nadu ranked second, followed by Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.
 - Small States (population less than 1 Crore): Sikkim (top), followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram
 - Four core pillars of the justice system: Police, Prisons, Judiciary, and Legal aid
7. Which two countries will set up the first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing _____ **India and Bhutan**.

Note:

- The two sides will set up the first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing.
 - The two sides agreed to find a technically sound and cost-effective way forward for the Punatsangchhu-I plant.
 - They also agreed to expedite the operationalization of the third international internet gateway for Bhutan.
8. The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a 14-members committee to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them. Who is the head of this committee _____ **Amitabh Kant**.

Note:

- Presently, Amitabh Kant is serving as the India's G20 Sherpa.
 - Other members: NOIDA CEO, Finances Services secretary of the Union Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs secretary, chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and other officials.
9. The government has announced a plan to add _____ of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030 _____ **250 GW**.

Note:

- The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years (2023-28).



- These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.

10. India plans to give green hydrogen fuel producers incentives worth at least _____ of their costs under a \$2 billion scheme by the end of June 2023 **10%.**

Note:

- The govt has approved a 174.9 billion rupee incentive plan to promote green hydrogen to cut CO₂ emissions and become a major exporter in the sector.
- The cost of manufacturing green hydrogen in India is about Rs 300/ kg and the government will give incentives worth at least Rs 30/kg for the production of green hydrogen fuel.

11. Under the chairmanship of whom, the Union Cabinet approved the Indian Space Policy, 2023 **PM Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- Under this policy roles and responsibilities of ISRO, NewSpace India Limited, and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) have been laid down.
- It enables the ISRO to channelize its focus on research and development of advanced space technologies.
- This policy would increase the participation of private players in the space sector.
- ISRO Chairman: S Somanath

12. The CCEA has approved the revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy blocks, and which block **Pre-NELP blocks.**

Note:

- The price of natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis.
- For the gas produced by ONGC & OIL from their nomination blocks, the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price shall be subject to a floor and a ceiling.

13. The Information & Broadcasting Ministry and which organization have signed a collaboration agreement to boost India's creative economy **Amazon India.**

Note:

- Amazon Prime Video will sponsor scholarships, create internship programs and job opportunities for students of the FTII and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute.
- International Film Festival of India Award-winning films and films produced as part of India's international co-production treaties will be onboarded by Amazon Prime Video.

14. Which Indian state will host the first-ever G20 summit of the State commencing on the 3rd of April 2023 **Tripura.**

Note:

- The meeting will delve into 'Clean Energy for Greener Future.'
- After the first session of the summit, the second session will see the opening of exhibition stalls and an Investor Meet.
- A light and sound show will be organised for the G20 delegates at the Ujjayanta Palace.
- Chief Minister of Tripura: Manik Saha

15. Which Indian institution is being hosted the Youth20 (Y20) Consultation under the G20 Presidency of India on April 5, 2023 **IIT Kanpur.**



Note:

- The two-day event was attended by more than 1,200 youth delegates from across India and abroad.
- It is a platform that brings young people together to connect and share ideas on finding innovative solutions to pressing global concerns.
- It is a pan-India activity in the run-up to the final Y20 Summit to be held in Varanasi, UP

16. President Droupadi Murmu has taken a historic sortie in which fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on April 8, 2023 _____ **Sukhoi 30 MKI.**

Note:

- She flew for approximately 30 minutes covering the Brahmaputra and Tezpur valleys.
- The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of the 106 Squadron.
- She is the third President and second woman President to undertake such a sortie.
- The President is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

17. PM Narendra Modi has released the latest Tiger census data, which shows the country's big-cat count increased by 200 in four years to what numbers _____ **3,167.**

Note:

- This report revealed that the Western Ghats showed a significant decline in numbers from 981 in 2018 to 824 in 2022.
- While the Sundarbans is threatened by the effects of climate change and the rise of sea levels.
- India hosts some 75% of the global tiger population living in forests.

18. PM Narendra Modi has launched a 97-nation International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) in which state of India on April 9, 2023 _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- Aim: To focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species in the wild.
- Seven big cat species are tiger, leopard, jaguar, lion, snow leopard, puma, and cheetah.
- The launch of the alliance follows the clarion call given by the Prime Minister in July 2019.
- He also visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.

19. Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo, a border village in the Anjaw district of which state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- He has also inaugurated nine Micro Hydel Projects of the AP government constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" in Kibithoo.
- These electricity projects will empower people living in border villages.
- In the first phase, 662 villages have been identified for priority coverage.

20. Who has inaugurated the scientific convention on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day on April 10, 2023, in New Delhi _____ **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.**

Note:

- The Convention has been organised by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- This year, the theme is "One Health, One Family."
- It aims to promote homoeopathic treatment among the people through the neighbourhood family physicians.



21. India's first post office will be constructed using 3D printing technology in which Indian state _____ **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

Note:

- The project at Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor is being implemented by Larsen & Toubro, which has experience in constructing 3D-printed buildings.
- The 1,100 sqft building is expected to cost 30-40% less than conventional buildings because of technological intervention.
- The post office is being built at a cost of Rs 23 lakh.

22. According to the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) report 2021-22, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana are selected in which category in the SEEI 2021-22 _____ **Front-runners**

Note

- Achiever category (score between 50-60): Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab
- Based on their efforts and achievements, states have been classified into four categories: Front runner, Achiever, Contender, and Aspirant.
- This report was released by Power Minister R. K. Singh in New Delhi.

23. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has granted the national party status to which party _____ **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).**

Note:

- AAP was recognized as a state party in the NCT of Delhi.
- While ECI has withdrawn the national party status of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Communist Party of India (CPI).
- Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has received recognition as a state party in Nagaland.
- Tipra Motha Party got recognition as a state party in Tripura.

24. Union Minister of Law, Kiren Rijiju has released the first edition of which language version of the Constitution of India at the University of Jammu _____ **Dogri.**

Note:

- During the event, he informed that the government is digitizing about 65,000 words of the legal glossary to frame a core vocabulary for the understanding of all citizens.
- About Dogri Language:
 - It is one of the 22 official languages of India.
 - It is widely spoken in the Jammu region of J&K, India.

25. PM Narendra Modi has flagged off the first Vande Bharat Express train of which state on April 12, 2023 _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- It is the world's first semi-high-speed passenger train on high-rise overhead electric (OHE) territory.
- It will make its inaugural journey between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt railway stations.
- It will operate between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt, with stops at Jaipur, Alwar, and Gurgaon.
- It will complete the Ajmer-Delhi Cantt journey in 5 hours and 15 minutes.

26. What is the name of new campaign, launched by the WhatsApp to highlight the several safety features that are pre-built on the messaging app _____ **Stay Safe with WhatsApp.**



Note:

- It will run for three months with a focus on several safety-centric features like 'Block and Report,' 'Two-Step Verification,' and 'Privacy and group settings.'
- The campaign highlights why it is important to add two-step verification to WhatsApp, which requires a 6-digit pin and an OTP to authenticate a user.

27. According to the data, released by the Ministry of Statistics, the index of industrial production (IIP) has expanded as the manufacturing sector's output increased by what percent in February 2023 _____ **5.3%.**

Note:

- While the mining output increased by 4.6 % and Power generation raised to 8.2%.
- In January 2023, the IIP growth was revised to 5.5% from 5.2 percent.
- The industrial output of the country in February 2023 rose 5.6 percent, on a year-on-year basis.

28. Union Minister of Fisheries has launched the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) on April 14, 2023. Who is he _____ **Parshottam Rupala.**

Note:

- He will also launch the World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project.
- Aim: To create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach
- It will be implemented over a five-year as a Central sector scheme with a financial provision of Rs. 1228.70 Cr.

29. Uttarakhand CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched a program named A-HELP. What is the full form of A-HELP _____ **Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production.**

Note:

- Women have been chosen to strengthen livestock-related activities in remote rural areas, keeping in mind their important role under the A-HELP scheme, envisioned by Govt. of India.
- Trained A-HELPS will help to prevent the various infectious diseases of animals, and artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

30. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed an agreement with how many Universities to inspire youth towards water conservation and river rejuvenation _____ **49.**

Note:

- Aim: To bring the student community to the forefront of the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem of rivers.
- This also ensures the cleanliness and purity of River Ganga with the rejuvenation of rivers being the prime objective of the Namami Gange Mission.
- Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

31. Which museum and State Museum, Lucknow signed an MoU to work together toward environmental conservation and education among the masses _____ **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).**

Note:

- The multi-dimensional efforts will be made in organizing programs for school and college students to create awareness about nature.
- NMNH was established to portray and promote awareness of the country's Natural Heritage.
- It is an institution devoted to environmental education.



32. According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), CM Jagan Mohan Reddy has the highest assets totaling Rs 510 crore, is a CM of which Indian state _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- Followed by Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over Rs 163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Pattnaik (over Rs 63 crore).
- While West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about Rs 15 lakh.
- Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 are crorepaties with the average assets being Rs 33.96 crore for every CM.

33. India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named _____ by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) _____ **'RAPIDX'**.

Note:

- The trains will run on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, being implemented to connect key urban nodes across NCR.
- It is a joint venture company of the Union government and Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The NCRTC will commission the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor by 2025.

34. Which organization and the Ministry of Agriculture signed to promote innovation in the agricultural sector among school students across India _____ **AIM, NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- The Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency agreed to connect.
- KVKs work as a Single Window Agricultural Knowledge Resource and Capacity Development Centre.
- KVKs, in partnership with ATMA, will collaborate with nearby ATLs to support agricultural-related innovation.

35. India's labor market has witnessed an improvement with over 15 million people entering the workforce in the last three quarters. This report was published by which organization _____ **CMIE**.

Note:

- The country's employment rate increased to 36.9% in March 2023 from 36.6% in December 2022.
- The labor participation rate (LPR) declined from 40.5% in December to 39.8% in March 2023.
- While the unemployment rate saw a small decrease from 8.3% to 7.8% during this period.

36. Baisakhi is celebrated with pomp in the North region, especially in which state _____ **Punjab**.

Note:

- Rongali Bihu is marked as Assamese New Year.
- Poila Baisakh falls on April 15, marking the beginning of the Bengali New Year.
- Vishu marks the new year in Kerala, while Puthandu marks the Tamil New Year.

37. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics in which Indian state/UT on April 12, 2023 _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- Through this platform, policymakers, academicians and government officials can share their insights and experiences on Defence Finance and Economics for evolving security challenges.
- Delegates from the USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya will participate in the conference.



38. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has joined hands with which institution to develop a robust touchless biometric capture system _____ **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)**.

Note:

- They will carry out joint research to build a mobile capture system for fingerprints along with a liveness model integrated with the capture system.
- The touchless biometric capture system will allow fingerprint authentication from home alike face authentication.

39. The Indian government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Programme (WFP) for sending 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the people of which country _____ **Afghanistan**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations WFP.
- This MoU marks the fifth tranche, to be shipped through the Chabahar Port in Iran, of humanitarian food assistance that India committed in 2020.
- In 2022, India has contributed 40,000 metric tons of wheat.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has released Rs 877 crore to 43 lakh farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode on the occasion of Utkal Divas _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- The state government has extended another round of funds to Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) for undertaking the Kharif operation.
- About KALIA scheme:
 - It was launched in December 2018.
 - Aim: To reduce poverty and accelerate agricultural prosperity

2. Which state govt has launched India's first Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028 _____ **Telangana**.

Note:

- It is jointly launched by the state's municipal administration and urban development department.
- The policy aims to drive state-wide adoption of cool roofs by making it mandatory to install cool roofing materials, such as solar reflective paints, tiles, or sheets.
- It is a five-year policy, that came into force on April 1, 2023, and continues till March 31, 2028.

3. The world-famous Basohli Paintings from which district of Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh Wood Carving of Ladakh have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag _____ **Kathua**.

Note:

- The process for GI Tagging of these products was started by NABARD in consultation with and support from the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom in December 2020.
- A GI tag is a sign used on a product that has a special geographical origin.

4. Which state government has launched the 'CM di Yogshala' program and portal in state _____ **Punjab**.

Note:

- Aim: To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab



- The initiative was initially launched for four cities of the state: Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara
 - The formation of these Yogshalas will be under a pilot project.
 - Trained Yoga instructors will impart free Yoga training to people in open parks and other public places.
5. A flagship initiative of which state government to prevent controllable blindness, 'Kanti Velugu program', has achieved a milestone by screening 1 crore people for eye problems _____ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- The second phase of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June.
 - Health staff is screening all individuals over 18 years old at Kanti Velugu camps set up in all Gram Panchayats in the State.
 - A total of 1,500 teams are working towards creating a Guinness World Record.
6. Which North East state has been given the best state award in the northeastern region by the Centre for the successful implementation of e-procurement _____ **Tripura**.
- Note:**
- To maintain transparency, the state has made it mandatory to go for e-procurement if the value of any government purchase or contract goes beyond Rs 25,000.
 - The total value of payments made through e-procurement and Government eMarketplace (GeM) portals increased from Rs 4,451 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 7441 crore in 2021-22.
7. Which state CM has inaugurated the Indian Institute of Technology Madras' (IIT-M) initiative which connects one lakh government school students to electronic devices _____ **Tamil Nadu**.
- Note:**
- This outreach programme on STEM, which is part of the 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IITM for all) initiative, aims to connect one lakh rural Tamil Nadu students.
 - The CM also distributed electronic kits to government school students which were developed by IIT Madras.
8. Who has inaugurated the largest Tulip Garden of Jammu region at Sanasar tourist destination in Ramban district of Jammu division _____ **J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha**.
- Note:**
- As a Tourism Mission initiative, 75 new destinations, 75 Sufi/religious sites, 75 new cultural heritage sites and 75 new tracks are being developed in J&K to open up new economic avenues.
 - Tulip Garden is spread over 40 Kanals of land with 2.75 Lakh Tulip Bulbs of 25 different varieties
9. Which state government is planning to introduce the Sukh Ashraya (Care, Protection and Self Reliance of Children) Bill, 2023 in the State Assembly _____ **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To provide proper care protection, development, and self-reliance to orphans, semi-orphans, and specially-abled children in need
 - Under the scheme government will also provide recurring deposit accounts for each child with contributions from the State government up to the age of 27 years.
10. Which state government has formed a one-man committee to recommend measures for the effective administration of the homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 _____ **Tamil Nadu**.



Note:

- Headed by: Retired judge K. Chandru
- The committee will look into various aspects including infrastructure, health, and medical facilities, and the qualification of staff.
- The committee will also provide recommendations to the government for improvement.

Important News – World

1. Which International NGO launched an initiative to distribute three million meals and food parcels to disadvantaged individuals and families during Ramadan _____ **UAE Food Bank.**

Note:

- The Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Jens Stoltenberg has informed that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance.
 - Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO.
 - Finland shares a long border (over 1,300 kilometers) with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
 - However, Turkey and Hungary have declined Sweden's application to join NATO.
2. OPEC members including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production cuts exceeding _____ million barrels per day from May 2023 until the end of the year _____ **One million barrels.**

Note:

- Reason: It is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market.
 - OPEC slashed its collective output by two million barrels per day last year.
 - OPEC is a group of 23 oil-producing countries.
3. Which country has invited PM Narendra Modi to visit Paris as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade, which will be held in July 2023 _____ **France.**

Note:

- The PM and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to discuss several major agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defense, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership.
 - Earlier, Manmohan Singh was invited as the b Day parade guest in 2009.
4. Which country's government has launched a new initiative called 'Golden Licence' to incentivize investments and the creation of jobs _____ **Bahrain.**

Note:

- It is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain.
 - Eligibility for the Licence: Companies with significant strategic projects and investments exceeding US\$50 million or those creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain.
5. According to the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list, who has regained his spot as Asia's richest person after rival Gautam Adani (USD 47.2 billion) tumbled to No. 24 _____ **Mukesh Ambani.**

Note:

- Ambani (65) was ranked at No. 9 on the world billionaire list with a net worth of USD 83.4 billion.



- Bernard Arnault (CEO of LVMH) topped the Forbes Billionaires 2023 Rankings with an estimated net worth of a whopping 211 billion.
 - Elon Musk placed second, followed by Jeff Bezos and Lary Ellison.
6. Which country has been elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2024 _____ **India**.

Note:

- India received a resounding 46 out of 53 votes, ahead of South Korea (23), China (19), and UAE (15).
 - India was elected by secret ballot while Argentina, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America were elected by acclamation.
 - UNSC is the highest body of the global statistical system.
7. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj has handed over the contribution of what amount to the UN Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) _____ **USD 2 million**.

Note:

- Reason: New Delhi's commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa
 - Earlier, India had contributed USD 4 million to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
 - ATMIS was established on 1 April 2022.
8. Emine Dzhaparova is on a four-day visit to India from April 9, 2023, she is the first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of which country _____ **Ukraine**.

Note:

- During the visit, she will hold talks with Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - Both sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations.
 - They will also exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest.
 - Both shares warm and friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation.
9. Bangladesh, Japan, and India will hold a meeting in which Indian state on 11-12 April, 2023, for connectivity initiatives to harness the commercial potential of the region _____ **Tripura**.

Note:

- The event will be organized by Asian Confluence, a think tank based out of North East India, in collaboration with India's foreign ministry.
 - It will be attended by deputy foreign ministers of Bangladesh and India along with the chief minister of Tripura and the Japanese envoy to India
10. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar will be on official visits to Uganda and which country from 11-15 April 2023 _____ **Mozambique**.

Note:

- In the first leg, he will visit Uganda and is expected to hold delegation-level talks with his counterpart Foreign Minister of Uganda General Jeje Odongo.
- He will also inaugurate the transit campus of the National Forensic Science University in Jinja.
- Later, he will visit Mozambique and co-chair the 5th Joint Commission Meeting with Foreign Minister Ms. Veronica Macamo.



11. Who has launched the 'Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project' of Varanasi in Kampala (Uganda) _____ **EAM S Jaishankar.**

Note:

- He has appreciated the initiatives of Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda's initiative to contribute to further beautifying the oldest living city in the world.
- He has also discussed cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure, energy, defense, health, digital and agricultural domains.

12. The Anti-trust regulator of which country has fined Alphabet Inc.'s Google 42.1 billion won (\$32 million) for blocking its rival from releasing video games _____ **South Korea.**

Note:

- Korea's Fair Trade Commission informed that Google is using its clout in the mobile app market to squeeze out a rival.
- The Korean regulator has ordered Google LLC, Google Korea, and Google Asia Pacific to cease offering support to mobile game companies in exchange for promises of exclusivity.

13. Which Indian actor has secured the top position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list _____ **Actor Shah Rukh Khan.**

Note:

- For the second spot, the readers picked the Iranian women protesting for more freedom in the country's Islamic regime.
- The healthcare workers of the US made it to third place.
- Prince Harry and Meghan Markle took the fourth spot, with each of them getting 1.9% of the votes.
- Lionel Messi secured the fifth spot.

14. According to a survey, published by London-based 'Time Out' - a media outlet, which city was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally _____ **Berlin (Germany).**

Note:

- It is followed by Prague (Czech Republic), Tokyo (Japan), and Copenhagen (Denmark).
- While India's city Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city.
- Mumbai's Suburban Railways form the backbone of public transport for a population of 12.5 million.

15. Jennifer Coolidge (Actor), Doja Cat (Recording Artist), Bob Iger (CEO of the Walt Disney Company), and Salman Rushdie (Writer) were included in a list of the 100 Most Influential People of 2023. This list is released by which organization _____ **TIME Magazine.**

Note:

- There is no particular order to the rankings.
- Six categories: Artists, Icons, Pioneers, Leaders, Titans, and Innovators
- Indian Actor Shahrukh Khan and Indian Director S.S. Rajamouli were listed in Icon and Pioneer categories, respectively.



Honor & Awards

1. Anjali Sharma of which district of Himachal Pradesh has conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, wearing Luanchari _____ **Kangra district**.

Note:

- She is working to promote Gaddi culture on the peaks of the mountains.
- Lunachari is a traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh.
- Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) is the tallest mountain in Africa and the world's largest free-standing mountain.
- It has three main volcanic peaks namely Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.

2. Who was conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain in April 2023 _____ **Kiran Nadar**.

Note:

- Reason: In recognition of her contribution to the field of art, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties
- She is a chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.

3. Bihar's West Champaran was awarded the GI tag for its which food product _____ **Mircha rice**.

Note:

- The size and shape of the grain appear like that of black pepper, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice.
- This rice is famous for its aroma, palatability, and its aromatic chura (rice flakes) making qualities.
- The cooked rice is fluffy, non-sticky, sweet, and easily digestible with a popcorn-like aroma.

4. MS Dhoni was named among the five Indians to have been inducted with which honorary life membership _____ **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.

Note:

- Other four Indian Cricketers: Yuvraj Singh, Maithali Raj, Suresh Raina, and Jhulan Goswami
- MS Dhoni had featured in 538 international games across formats, scoring over 17,000 runs during the same.
- Yuvraj Singh was an integral part of the Indian team that won the first T20 World Cup in 2007.

5. Who was honored with the Young Urologist of the Year Award by the American Urological Association (AUA) _____ **Dr. Nitya Abraham**.

Note:

- She is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency program.
- Other honorees: Rena Malik, Jesse D. Sammon, Sarah Vij, Alexander J. Ernest, Kerri Thurmon, Zachary Klaassen, and Yahir Santiago- Lastra

6. According to the data shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, which Indian airport has secured the ninth position in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022 _____ **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport**.

Note:

- As per the data, this airport is handling 59.5 million passengers annually.
- IGI Airport has improved its ranking from 2021 (13th).
- Top: Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (93.6 million passengers).



7. Which Indian organization has won the 'Best Production /Process Development' award as part of the Vaccine Industry Excellence (VIE) awards at the World Vaccine Congress 2023 _____ **Bharat Biotech.**

Note:

- The event was held during April 3-6 in Washington, USA.
- It is the world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc.
- World Vaccine Congress: It is the largest global meeting dedicated to vaccines, from basic research to commercial manufacture, it covers the whole vaccine value chain.

8. Who will be awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics in July 2023 _____ **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao.**

Note:

- Reason: For his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionized statistical thinking.
- He is currently a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University and Research Professor at University at Buffalo.
- He will receive the prize, with an \$80,000 award.
- It is awarded every two years to an individual or team.

9. Who has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the Central University of Kerala at Sabarmati Hall, Periya Campus _____ **PT Usha.**

Note:

- She was conferred by Vice Chancellor Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu.
- She has won 33 medals including 19 gold in the Asian Games and Asian Championship
- She was the first Indian athlete to win medals in four consecutive Asian Games and also won six medals including five gold in the Jakarta Asian Athletic Meet in 1985

Sports News

1. Who has clinched the Women's title in the 2023 Spain Masters, held in Madrid, Spain from 28 March- 2 April 2023 _____ **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Indonesia).**

Note:

- She defeated Indian Badminton player, PV Sindhu.
- While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the men's title.
- Other winners:
 - Men's doubles: He Jiting and Zhou Haodong (China)
 - Women's doubles: Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China)
 - Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Bøje (Denmark)

2. Who won his first Australian Grand Prix 2023, held at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- While Seven-time world champion, L. Hamilton (Mercedes driver) finished second followed by F. Alonso (Aston Martin) and L. Stroll (Aston Martin).
- The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928.
- The next F1 Azerbaijan GP will be held in Baku City Circuit, Azerbaijan on April 30, 2023.

3. According to the latest FIFA rankings in April 2023, the Indian men's football team is now ranked at _____ **101.**



Note:

- Reason: Recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament, helped them secure 8.57 rating points.
- Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions.
- France ranked second, followed by Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, and Italy
- Japan holds the highest rank among Asian countries.

4. Wo has won the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 medal design competition _____ **Brazilian artist Dante Akira Uwai.**

Note:

- Akira Uwai's creation – 'A Sparkling Future' – was chosen by a panel of judges.
- His design will feature on the medals for Gangwon 2024 which will be awarded in the Republic of Korea from 19 January to 1 February 2024.

5. FIFA withdrew hosting rights of which country for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023 _____ **Peru.**

Note:

- The decision was made after extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF).
- FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.

6. Sanjita Chanu has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India. She is a _____ **Indian Wrestler.**

Note:

- Reason: She tested positive for banned drugs.
- She has won the Commonwealth Games twice.
- The testing took place during the National Games held in Gujarat in September-October 2022, and the results showed the presence of drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

7. Who has won his fourth title of the year by defeating Jannik Sinner in Miami Opens 2023 _____ **Daniil Medvedev.**

Note:

- Women's singles: Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)
- Men's doubles: Santiago González (Mexico) / Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
- Women's doubles: Coco Gauff / Jessica Pegula (United States).

8. Which Indian badminton player has clinched the men's singles title of the Orleans Masters Super 300 tournament _____ **Priyanshu Rajawat.**

Note:

- He defeated Denmark's Magnus Johannesen by 21-15, 19-21, and 21-16.
- While the women's singles title was lifted by Carolina Marín from Spain.
- Other Winners:
 - Men's Double: Chen Boyang & Liu Yi (China)
 - Women's Double: Rena Miyaura & Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)
 - Mixed Double: Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei (Malaysia)

9. Who became the quickest batter to reach the 6000-run mark in the Indian Premier League (IPL) during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati _____ **Delhi Capitals skipper, David Warner.**



Note:

- He is the third batter to enter the elite club after Royal Challengers Bangalore's Virat Kohli and skipper of Punjab Kings, Shikhar Dhawan.
- He took 165 innings to reach the mark of 6000 runs, while Kohli had taken 188 and Dhawan 199 to achieve the same.

10. Which India woman wrestler has secured the silver medal in the women's 68kg category at the Asian wrestling championships 2023, held in Astana, Kazakhstan _____ **Nisha Dahiya**.

Note:

- She reached the final but fell to Japan's Ami Ishii 10-0 and finished as a runner-up.
- She had defeated China's Feng Zhou 7-6 in the semi-finals.
- Another Indian wrestler, Priya Malik clinched a bronze in the 76 kg category after defeating Japan's Mizuki Nagashima.

11. Which Indian male wrestler, won India's first gold medal in men's 57 kg freestyle category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023, held in Astana, Kazakhstan _____ **Aman Sehrawat**.

Note:

- He defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4.
- Among the other Indian wrestlers, Deepak (79kg) won bronze while Deepak Nehra (97kg) lost his bronze medal match.
- The Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals while the women's wrestlers bagged seven.

Books and Authors

1. A new book titled Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta (' Gandhi: Politics and Communalism') was released in Hindi, was written by whom _____ **Piyush Babele**.

Note:

- Currently, he is the head of the Madhya Pradesh Congress' media department
- He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar's book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources and claims to contextualize the developments leading up to India's Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right-wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition.

2. "Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire" is a book written by whom _____ **Nandini Das**.

Note:

- She is a professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.
- The book explores the complex relationship between England and Mughal India in the early modern period.
- This book also focuses on the cultural and literary exchanges that took place between these two worlds.

3. A book entitled "War and Women" released, was written by whom _____ **Dr. M A Hasan**.

Note:

- It was launched during the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- This book highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war.



- The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.
4. Who has written her debut children's book titled "Why Can't Elephants be Red?" _____ **Vani Tripathi Tikoo.**
- Note:**
- It was published by Niyogi Books.
- The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore.
5. A new book titled 'Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema' has been released, was written by whom _____ **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee.**
- Note:**
- This book chronicles the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker Basu Chatterjee.
- It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
6. _____ Which bank has launched its coffee table book titled "The Banker to Every Indian", which celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and the 200-year history of SBI _____ **State Bank of India (SBI).**
- Note:**
- The coffee table book details the Bank's history ever since independence.
- The book is a tribute to the spirit of India's independence and SBI's contribution to nation-building.
7. Who has co-authored a new book titled "The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation" _____ **Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash.**
- Note:**
- This book discusses 11 scams that have rocked India since its Independence(1947).
- The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.

Science and Defence

1. Which edition of the annual Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise, SLINEX-2023 is scheduled to be held in Colombo on April 3, 2023 _____ **10th.**
- Note:**
- It is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase.
- The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura.
- The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.
2. In Financial Year 2022-23, India's defense exports have reached an all-time high of _____, which is almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year (2021-22) _____ **15920 crore rupees.**
- Note:**
- At present, India is now exporting to over 85 countries.
- India exports major platforms like Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns (ATAGs), Brahmos Missiles, Akash Missile System, Simulators, Mine Protected Vehicles, Armoured Vehicles, PINAKA Rockets & Launchers, etc.



3. The Indian Air Force and which country's Air Force started the joint exercise 'Cope India' at Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal from April 10 to 21, 2023 ____ **The US Air Force.**

Note:

- This exercise will enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces.
 - While Japan will also join as an "observer" in the exercise and witness "air combat and mobility elements" operating from multiple air bases like Kalaikunda, Panagarh, Agra, and Hindon.
4. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Lok Sabha that the central government approved the induction of women in which regiment ____ **Artillery.**

Note:

- In January 2023, the proposal to induct woman officers in the Regiment of Artillery was sent to the government.
 - The exact number of woman officers who will be inducted into the Artillery will only be known at the time of the commission of the next batch from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.
5. Which country has successfully launched the "Ofek-13" spy satellite into space by the Shavit launch vehicle, from Palmachim Airbase spaceport ____ **Israel.**

Note:

- This satellite was manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
 - It is the latest in a series of domestically produced satellites that were first put into orbit in 1988.
 - Immediately after launch, the satellite successfully entered orbit and started transmitting data, and completed an initial series of tests
6. Which space agency in association with thse DRDO and IAF successfully demonstrated a precise landing experiment for a Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) test ____ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**

Note:

- It was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.
 - This is a part of ISRO's efforts to develop RLVs, or space planes/shuttles, which can travel to low earth orbits to deliver payloads and return to earth for use again.
7. Which space start-up has successfully test-fired a fully 3D-printed 'Dhawan II' cryogenic engine for 200 seconds ____ **Skyroot Aerospace.**

Note:

- The company developed the engine for its heavier vehicle, Vikram II.
 - This engine will be used as the upper stage of the updated version of Vikram-II.
 - A cryogenic upper stage instead of a solid fuel stage enhances the payload-carrying capacity of a rocket.
 - In 2022, Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space.
8. Which Indian command has conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' involving the assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard ____ **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).**

Note:

- KAVACH exercise began on 23rd February 2023 and concluded on April 7, 2023



- Aim: Fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & SOPs and enhancing interoperability and operational synergy between the forces
 - ANC is the first integrated theatre command in India with headquarters at Port Blair.
9. Prashthan exercise is held every 6 months under Indian Navy and involves the participation of all stakeholders in the maritime domain, was held in which location _____ **Greatdrill Chaaya platform.**

Note:

- It is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders
 - It was conducted on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform, which is about 30 nm South West of Mumbai Harbour
 - Personnel from Maharashtra Police, Customs, Fisheries Department, Mumbai Port Authority, etc also participated in it
10. A bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) named _____ is being started on April 10, 2023 _____ **Cope India23.**

Note:

- It is being held at Air Force Stations Arjan Singh (Panagarh), Kalaikunda, and Agra.
 - Aim: To enhance mutual understanding between the two Air Forces and share their best practices
 - This exercise was started in 2004 as a fighter training exercise held at Air Station Gwalior, India.
11. An Indian Air Force contingent is participating in the multinational international Exercise Orion, organized at Mont-de-Marsan in which country from 17 April to 5 May 2023 _____ **France.**

Note:

- The IAF Contingent is joining the exercise with four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft, and 165 air warriors.
- It would be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft.
- Other participants: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, and the United States of America.



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