

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (16-30 April 2023) English PDF



Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

16-30th April 2023

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of **April 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to the annual Banking on Climate Chaos report, the world's 60 largest banks have spent how much amount on financing fossil fuel projects since 2016 _____ **\$5.5 trillion (Rs 4,49,36,265 crore)**.

Note:

- Released by: Rainforest Action Network, BankTrack, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club and Urgewald.
- JPMorgan Chase & Co has spent \$434.15 billion, followed by Citibank NA, Wells Fargo & Company, and Bank of America Corporation

2. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has collaborated with which bank for the National Common Mobility Card or Singara Chennai Card as part of the multimodal and ticket integration plan _____ **State Bank of India**.

Note:

- It can be used on metro trains and on MTC buses and suburban trains later, and can also be used in other metros.
- The option to link the card to an SBI bank account will be available soon.
- It can be preloaded with cash from 100 to 2,000 with a 1.8% commission charged by SBI.

3. Which bank has launched a pilot scheme for better financing terms in the electric vehicle space and strengthening the whole ecosystem _____ **SIDBI**.

Note:

- The pilot phase of 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO' aims to strengthen the EV ecosystem, including uptake for two, three, and four-wheelers through direct and indirect lending.
- Direct lending: SIDBI will directly give loans to eligible MSMEs
- Indirect lending: Targeted at NBFCs, including small unrated focused, and emerging NBFCs.

4. Which bank has reintroduced a retail term deposit 'AMRIT KALASH', a special scheme of 400 days tenor _____ **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

Note:

- Earlier, the bank had launched this retail term deposit scheme with a specific duration and it was valid from February 15, 2023, to March 31, 2023.
- The Rate of Interest on this term deposit is 7.10 % w.e.f. April 12th, 2023.
- While Senior Citizens are eligible for a rate of interest of 7.60%.
- The Scheme will be valid till 30-June-2023.

5. Which bank of Russia has expanded its ties with banks in India to expedite trade between the two countries in national currencies, as Russia this year has become the biggest supplier of oil to India _____ **Gazprombank**.

Note

- It is the third-largest lender of Russia by assets and a key conduit of the Russian energy trade.
- In 2022, India implemented a broader framework to facilitate overseas trade in rupees, and since then many Russian institutions have opened vostro accounts with Indian banks.

6. According to a report by a French payment and transactional services firm, which Indian city has topped the list of Indian cities in terms of the highest digital transactions in the year 2022 _____ **Bengaluru**.



Join Our Classroom Program Now



Note:

- The city recorded 29 million transactions worth ₹6500 crore in 2022.
 - Delhi ranked second followed by Mumbai, Pune, and Chennai.
 - Report title: India Digital Payments Annual Report
 - Payment modes like UPI, Debit and Credit cards processed 87.92 billion transactions.
7. The CBIC is likely to introduce a system of publishing daily currency exchange rates on the integrated customs portal. What is the full form of CBIC _____ **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.**

Note:

- It would replace the existing system of notifying rates fortnightly.
 - Aim: To capture daily exchange rate fluctuations and help importers and exporters to precisely calculate customs duties based on daily exchange rate
 - Currently, CBIC manually notifies exchange rates of 22 currencies every fortnight based on rates obtained from SBI.
8. ADB will provide a loan of USD 230 million to which country to help the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the northeastern part of the country affected by devastating floods in May-June 2022 _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- The agreement between ADB and the government of Bangladesh was signed in Dhaka.
 - The assistance under the Flood Reconstruction Emergency Assistance Project will help in the reconstruction, improvement of resilience, and economic recovery.
9. Which bank has become the country's first commercial bank to connect with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and deliver bill payment services via video banking _____ **AU Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To increase digital accessibility and economic capabilities, which will lead to greater financial inclusion
 - Customers can use this platform to pay their bills without having to go to a branch, which is especially useful for senior persons and others with mobility challenges.
10. RBI has approved the AU Small Finance Bank and which bank to deal in foreign exchange _____ **Equitas Bank.**

Note:

- AU SFB informed that RBI has granted the Licence to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange.
 - The permission is subject to compliance with applicable regulations.
 - Equitas Small Finance Bank has also received Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License from RBI.
 - AU Small Finance Bank CEO: Sanjay Agarwal
11. Which bank has introduced SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE, two flexible saving accounts, for NRI customers _____ **South Indian Bank.**

Note:

- SEAFARER: Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts. No minimum balance is required for the maintenance of the NRI Term Deposit of Rs.2 lakh and above
 - PULSE: Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts. NR Term Deposit above Rs.2 Lakh or RD with minimum monthly installment above Rs.20,000/-
12. Which bank has signed with an agri fintech start-up, KiVi as Banking Correspondent _____ **Federal Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To scale and expand its agri-lending portfolio in Tamil Nadu.
- Federal Bank launched the instant KCC platform in September 2022 and claimed to be the first of its kind in agriculture lending, it offers farmers convenience and turnaround time.



- Aim: At providing small loans to small and marginal farmers, and to facilitate efficient credit flow to underserved rural populations

13. Which general insurance provider has introduced three add-on covers for its vehicle insurance policies - Smart Save, Roadside assistance, and Return-to-invoice_____ **Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd.**

Note:

- Smart Save: This is for private cars, comes at a zero cost and will help the customer to get an upfront discount in OD insurance premium, for repairing their vehicles at Royal Sundaram's identified repair shops.
- Roadside Assistance: It is for two-wheeler policies and will cover 11 emergency services.

14. Which bank has received a three years to comply with the priority sector lending norms (PSL) _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- No relaxation is allowed for abiding by the cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) rules.
- As per the RBI norms, commercial banks need to extend 40% of the adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) of the previous year towards the priority sector.

15. Which organization has joined hands with M1xchange to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-MSMEs through Farm Pass _____ **Mastercard.**

Note:

- This platform will enable easy access to credit and working capital.
- This solution will also allow farmers and FPOs to directly connect with buyers, negotiate the best price for their produce, and get paid faster.
- Farm Pass is part of Mastercard's broader Community Pass platform.

16. According to the Morgan Stanley report, what would be India's GDP in FY24 _____ **6.2 percent.**

Note:

- Inflation in India is likely to be below 5% in the second quarter of the calendar year 2024.
- The headline consumer price index (CPI) for March was in line with expectations.
- Morgan noted that the key to sustained domestic demand is a pickup in capex, which will help create more jobs, thus leading to a virtuous cycle of more jobs-to-higher income-higher savings-higher investment.

17. Which bank is planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie' _____ **IndusInd Bank.**

Note:

- The necessary approvals for all these expansion plans and other logistics by the bank are likely to be completed in 2 years.
- The bank is also planning to enter the mutual funds, insurance, and broking sector.
- It is likely to apply for the license in a few days.
- The Hinduja-promoted bank is likely to approach SEBI, IRDAI, and other regulators to obtain the necessary licences.
- IndusInd Bank HQ: Mumbai

18. Which organization has imposed penalties totaling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks _____ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

Note:

- Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank: Penalty of Rs 13 lakh as it failed to transfer the eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF).
- Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank: Penalty of 16 lakhs as it failed to transfer eligible amounts to DEAF.
- Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank: A penalty of 2 lakhs has been imposed for contravention of certain norms.



19. Which bank and HDFC Bank would acquire up to a 9.94 percent stake in Go Digit-Life Insurance _____

Axis Bank.

Note:

- HDFC Bank informed that it has executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.
- The bank has made the first tranche of payment of ₹10.93 crore for towards the acquisition.
- Axis Bank has also executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.

20. Which central bank will launch a gold-pegged digital currency and legalize them in the country _____

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Note:

- It is believed that the government took this step for stabilizing the local currency after its continuous devaluation in comparison to the U.S. dollar.
- This initiative taken by Zimbabwe will allow the exchange of Zimbabwean dollars with digital gold tokens and secure Zimbabweans against currency volatility.
- Zimbabwe Capital: Harare; President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

21. Which Neobanking platform has received a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India to enter into the lending business _____ **Jupiter.**

Note:

- The startup, Jupiter will be offering the loan under Amica Financial Technologies.
- Jitendra Gupta (founder of Jupiter) has informed that there will be an equity infusion of Rs 100 crore from Jupiter to develop the NBFC product.
- The startup will be looking to raise a loan from banks for an additional Rs 100 crore.

22. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of which co-operative bank with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023 _____ **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank.**

Note:

- RBI has allowed Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function as a non-banking institution.
- RBI has also stopped to conduct the banking business, including acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect.
- The bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it.

23. Which bank has opened an exclusive branch for startups at the Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai _____ **State Bank of India (SBI).**

Note:

- This is the fourth startup-focused branch, after Bengaluru, Chennai, and Gurugram.
- In Mumbai, the bank has entered into multiple MoU with the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at IIT-Bombay, Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration, and S.P Jain Institute of Management & Research
- Aim of MoU: To boost the startup ecosystem in the region

24. Which general Insurance company has become India's first general insurance company to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee for premium payments _____ **Reliance General Insurance.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide customers with an easy, safe, instant, and green payment solution
- The company has partnered with Yes Bank to enable premium collection.
- Customers with an active e-wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's e-Rupee QR code to make immediate payments.

25. Which bank has launched the "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens _____ **Bank of India.**

Note:

- With this scheme, seniors, including super senior citizens can take benefit of an additional interest rate of 0.50% for senior citizens and 0.65% for super senior citizens.



- It provides super senior citizens seniors with 501-day fixed deposits at a high-interest rate of 7.80%.
 - Other senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 80 can invest at a rate of 7.65%.
26. Which FMCG giant has overtaken the market capitalization of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges _____ **ITC**.

Note:

- ITC's market cap currently stands at ₹5.11 trillion (at the time of writing this report).
 - This achievement comes after the share price of ITC rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023.
 - Meanwhile, Infosys shares have fallen by 20% in 2023.
 - Top 5: Reliance, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL
27. Which bank has introduced a Digital Distribution Platform, 'Smart Saathi' for its agents and business correspondents to sell services, especially in rural areas _____ **HDFC Bank**.

Note:

- HDFC Bank Smart Saathi provides a secure and user-friendly experience to its users.
- The newly launched feature will use advanced technology solutions to connect Business Correspondents/Business Facilitators to the bank.
- Aim: To boost financial inclusion by taking banking products and services to the last mile

Obituaries

1. An actor and comedian Allu Ramesh passed away due to cardiac arrest in Visakhapatnam, was associated with which regional cinema _____ **Telugu**.

Note:

- Allu Ramesh started off his career as an actor by doing theatre performances.
- He made his debut in Tollywood with Tarun's Chirujallu and starred in almost 50 films.
- Allu Ramesh acted in movies like Napoleon, Tholubommallata, Madhura Wines, and Ravana Desam.

2. Sidharth Rao, who passed away, was a co-founder and former CEO of which organization _____ **Webchutney**.

Note:

- In 1999, he founded India's first and top digital agency WebChutney.
- In July 2021, Rao was chosen to serve as the global CEO of Dentsu McGarrybowen.
- In 2022, he stepped down as group CEO of dentsuMB India and joined hands and launched a new venture in the marketing technology (MarTech) space, called Punt Partners along with serial entrepreneur Madhu Sudan.

3. Trilochan Kanungo, who passed away in Bhubaneswar, was a _____ **Politician**.

Note:

- Kanungo was elected to the assembly in 1971, 1974, and 1985.
- In 1999, he was elected from the Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seat on a BJD ticket.
- He was a former chairman of Cuttack Municipality and ex-chairperson of the state finance commission.
- He was born on November 24, 1940, in Badamulei village in Cuttack district, Odisha.

4. Tarek Fatah, who passed away, was associated with which field _____ **Journalist**.

Note:

- He was emigrating to Canada from Pakistan in 1987.
- He worked as a political activist, journalist, and television host.
- He also authored several books including, 'Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State' and 'The Jew is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism.'
- He won various awards such as the Donner Prize, and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award.



5. Parkash Singh Badal, who passed away, was CM of which of state ____ **Punjab.**

Note:

- He became the CM of Punjab for the first time in 1970.
- Later, he became the chief minister four times, from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012, and from 2012 to 2017.
- He briefly joined Morarji Desai's government as the Agriculture minister at the Centre in 1977.
- He was awarded the second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

6. Mamukkoya, who passed away, was a veteran actor-comedian of which regional cinema ____ **Malayalam.**

Note:

- He started his acting career by doing theatre in 1979, then he went on to become an actor by doing comic roles and was popular for playing characters that spoke Malabar accent.
- He acted in around 500 films, including comedies like Sandesam, Nadodikkattu, Innathe Chintha Vishayam, and Varavelpu.
- He won several awards and honours for his various roles during his extensive career.

7. Dr. N Gopalakrishnan, who passed away, was a veteran ____ **Scientists.**

Note:

- He was a scientist at Advanced Seismic Testing and Research Laboratory (ASTaR) of CSIR-SERC.
- He had served as a design engineer at TATA Consulting Engineers, Bengaluru and later joined as scientist in the Structural Dynamics and Machine Foundation division of CSIR-SERC.
- He was the co-author of 61 national and international journal articles and filed for five Indian patents.

Important Days

1. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is celebrating the National Panchayat Awards Week from ____ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2.0 ____ **17th – 21st April 2023.**

Note:

- The ministry has conceptualized a series of Thematic Conferences for the National Panchayat Awards Week on the theme “Panchayaton ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav”.
- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh has released a booklet on ‘Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats’.

2. World Hemophilia Day is celebrated every year on which date to honor the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, who established the World Federation of Hemophilia ____ **April 17th.**

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness and provide information about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders
- It is a rare medical condition where the blood fails to clot correctly due to the lack of specific clotting factors.
- Theme 2023: Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care

3. World Heritage Day (or International Day for Monuments and Sites) is celebrated on which date to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and the need to preserve it for future generations ____ **April 18.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Heritage Changes
- It was established by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and was approved by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India (As of April 18, 2023): 40

4. World Liver Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about liver-related diseases ____ **April 19.**



Note:

- Theme 2023: Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone
- This day educates the public on lifestyle modifications that can help prevent liver diseases, such as maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly, and getting vaccinated against hepatitis.
- As per the WHO, liver ailments amount to the 10th most common reason for death in India.

5. India has observed National Civil Services Day every year on which date to honour the contributions of the officers who work for the nation's numerous public service departments _____ **April 21.**

Note:

- On this day, the PM will award the officers from the central and state governments for their outstanding contributions to public administration
- On April 21, 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel (Home Minister) gave a speech to the first group of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House.

6. Earth Day is being celebrated every year on which date to honor the environmental movement and raise awareness to protect natural resources _____ **22nd April.**

Note:

- Theme for Earth Day 2023: "Invest in Our Planet".
- American senator Gaylord Nelson founded the Earth Day for environmental education in 1970.
- Generally, Earth Day is either celebrated on 22nd April or on the day when the spring equinox occurs around the world.

7. World Malaria Day is observed every year on which date to commemorate the recognition of global efforts to control malaria _____ **April 25.**

Note:

- WHO Member States instituted this day during the World Health Assembly of 2007.
- Theme 2023: Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement
- Malaria is a disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- India has registered over 85% decline in malaria cases from 2015 to 2022

8. The world commemorates World Intellectual Property Day on which date for promoting awareness of intellectual property and its safeguarding _____ **April 26.**

Note:

- The theme for the 2023 celebration of World Intellectual Property Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity".
- This day was initially proposed during the 33rd Assembly Session of the WIPO Member States in September 1988, and it was officially established on August 9th, 1999.

9. International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated annually on which day of April to encourage and empower girls and young women to explore and pursue careers in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) _____ **Fourth Thursday.**

Note:

- In 2023, it is being observed on April 27.
- 2023 theme: Digital Skills for Life
- It raised awareness about the gender gap in the tech industry and inspires women to consider careers in ICT.
- This day was declared by ITU on April 8, 2011.

10. World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on which date to promote safe and decent work environments across the globe _____ **April 28.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work
- It coincides with the anniversary of the 1971 adoption of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention by the International Labour Organization (ILO)
- It was first observed in 2003 after the ILO declared it an annual international campaign.



11. World Veterinary Day is celebrated on which day of April to mark the importance of veterinary doctors who serve to protect animal's _____ **Last Saturday of April.**

Note:

- In 2023, this day was observed on April 29.
- 2023 theme: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession
- The World Veterinary Association (WVA) established World Veterinary Day in 2000 to recognize the role of veterinarians in safeguarding the health and well-being of animals, people, and the environment.

12. India observed Ayushman Bharat Diwas every year on which date to promote the Ayushman Bharat Yojana values _____ **April 30.**

Note:

- In 2018, PM Modi announced the Ayushman Bharat Yojna to give healthcare coverage to all Indians who cannot afford basic medical services.
- This initiative was established along the lines of universal health care to satisfy one of the United Nations' SDGs - "leave no one behind."
- This scheme covers all expenses of patients.

13. India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day every year on which date to commemorate the constitutional change that established the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) _____ **April 24.**

Note:

- PRIs are considered the third tier of the government.
- It manages the local-level administration in rural areas.
- The first Panchayati Raj system was initiated in the year 1993.
- 2023 theme: Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages

New Appointments

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sekhar Rao as interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of which bank with effect from April 15, 2023 _____ **Karnataka Bank.**

Note:

- He has been appointed for a period of three months or till the appointment of regular MD and CEO whichever is earlier.
- He has replaced Mahabaleshwara M S, whose term ended on April 14, 2023.
- Prior to this role, he was serving as an executive director of the bank.

2. Who has assumed charge as Controller of Personnel Services on April 17, 2023 _____ **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan.**

Note:

- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare.
- Earlier, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command, Flag Officer Defence Advisory Group, and Flag Officer Sea Training.
- He was the second Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

3. Who has been confirmed as the new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court _____ **Judge Rowan Wilson.**

Note:

- He is also New York's first Black chief judge.
- He was appointed by the 57th governor of New York, Kathy Hochul.
- Since 2017, he has been an associate judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court.
- He studied at Harvard College, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1984.



4. Miguel Diaz-Canel has become the president of which country for second term ____ **Cuba.**

Note:

- His bid was confirmed by 97.66% of votes cast in the Communist Party of Cuba-aligned National Assembly.
- He took over the reins in 2018 as the first civilian leader of Cuba.
- His first five years in office were marked by the worst economic crisis in three decades.
- Cuba Capital: Havana; Currency: Cuban Peso

5. Tata Group has appointed whom as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) ____ **Dr. Randhir Thakur.**

Note:

- Before this, he was associated with the global electronic chip and circuits manufacturing giant Intel.
- He has also held leadership and technical positions at Applied Materials Inc., SanDisk Corp, and Micron Technology Inc.
- TEPL was founded in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata Group with expertise in manufacturing precision components.

6. Who has been appointed as the brand influencer of HSBC India ____ **Virat Kohli.**

Note:

- HSBC India is also set to launch a multimedia campaign featuring Kohli, aimed at re-establishing the value proposition of banking with the company.
- Virat Kohli will help to amplify HSBC's purpose of opening up a world of opportunity as it strives to support the ambitions of an aspirational India going global.
- HSBC India CEO: Hitendra Dave.

7. In the exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti as Acting Chief Justice of which high court with effect from April 24, 2023 ____ **Kerala High Court.**

Note:

- He would replace the current Chief Justice S Manikumar, who will retire on the aforementioned date.
- He served as a Judge from the Andhra Pradesh High Court and is presently working as the senior-most judge of the Kerala High Court.

8. Who has been named the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom ____ **Oliver Dowden.**

Note:

- He has replaced current Dy PM and Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, who has resigned.
- Before this role, he had been serving as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Office secretary, under the present UK government.
- He will continue in the roles alongside his new responsibilities.
- While Alex Chalk becomes the 10th justice secretary in 10 years.

9. Who has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry ____ **Rajesh Kumar Singh.**

Note:

- He is an IAS officer of the 1989 Batch from the Kerala cadre.
- Before this, he served as Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- He has replaced Anurag Jain, who was appointed secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

10. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24 ____ **Microsoft India President, Anant Maheshwari.**

Note:

- Earlier, he served as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom'.



- He has succeeded the president of business and technology services at TCS, Krishnan Ramanujam.
 - Meanwhile, Nasscom has also appointed chairman and managing director of Cognizant India, Rajesh Nambiar as its vice-chairperson for 2023-24
 - Nasscom refers to National Association of Software and Service Companies
11. Who has taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) _____ **Shreekant M Bhandiwad**.
- Note:**
- KVGB is an Indian RRB sponsored by Canara Bank headquartered in Dharwad, Karnataka.
 - He has replaced the current chairman P Gopikrishna, who was repatriated to Canara Bank as Circle Head, Bengaluru, in Karnataka.
 - He has an experience of 29 years in Canara Bank, having worked across India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka) in various capacities.
12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of whom as Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank _____ **N Kamakodi**.
- Note:**
- The tenure of his re-appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023.
 - He joined the bank as deputy general manager in 2003 and was elevated to general manager in 2005.
 - In 2006, he was appointed as executive director.
 - From May 2011, he was serving the bank as its managing director and chief executive officer.
13. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) _____ **Hari Hara Mishra**.
- Note:**
- He has started his career with the State Bank of India in 1982 and worked there until 2004.
 - He is an experienced professional in the field of asset reconstruction.
 - The ARCs are the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies in India.
 - Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
14. The government has confirmed the appointment of whom as a Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of Baroda for three years _____ **Debadatta Chand**.
- Note:**
- Currently, he is serving as Executive Director of the bank.
 - He has succeeded Sanjiv Chadha, whose term was extended for five months till June 30 by the government.
 - In January 2023, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Debadatta Chand as MD & CEO of the Bank of Baroda.
 - Headquarters: Vadodara
15. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy _____ **Ajit Kumar Mohanty**.
- Note:**
- He has replaced K N Vyas.
 - He was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.
 - In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School.

Important News – India

1. PM Modi has launched a series of railway projects across the Northeast, a methanol plant, and laid the foundation stone for a bridge over which river _____ **Brahmaputra river**.

Note:

- He commissioned a methanol plant at Namrup in Dibrugarh by Assam Petrochemicals Ltd (APL) with 500 tonnes per day (TPD) capacity.



- He has also witnessed a mega-Bihu dance performance, which has made it to the Guinness World Records, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Assam.
- 2. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with which Tiger Reserve, spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana _____ **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem**.

Note:

- Reason: To facilitate a seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area.
 - It will provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points
 - It will extend the benefit of a collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination fees through FASTag at various entrance points of the Tiger Reserve
3. PM Modi has inaugurated the All Indian Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in which North-Eastern state _____ **Guwahati, Assam**.

Note:

- The foundation stone was laid in May 2017 and was built at a cost of over Rs 1,120 crore.
 - It has a total capacity of 750 beds, including 30 AYUSH beds, and also has an intake capacity of 100 MBBS students per year.
 - He also laid the foundation of the Rs 546 crore Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute, a joint initiative of the state government and IIT Guwahati.
4. Which oil company is planning to set up a joint venture with US-based clean energy technology company LanzaJet Inc and multiple domestic airlines _____ **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.

Note:

- Reason: For the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)
 - The proposed venture will set up a plant to make SAF with alcohol-to-jet technology at the state-run company's Panipat refinery in Haryana at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore.
 - IOC will possess a 50% share, while LanzaJet Inc will hold a 25% share.
5. According to the provisional data, released by the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and which country increased by 7.65% to USD 128.55 in 2022-23 as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22 _____ **The US**.

Note:

- The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23.
 - During 2022-23, India's two-way commerce with China declined by about 1.5% to USD 113.83 billion.
 - In 2022-23, the UAE (USD 76.16 billion) was the third largest trading partner, followed by Saudi Arabia.
6. According to the government data, India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation has declined to a 29-month low of how much percent in March 2023 _____ **1.34%**.

Note:

- This is the 10th straight month of decline in WPI-based inflation.
 - The WPI inflation data was 3.85% in February, 4.73% in January 2023, and 14.63% in March 2022.
 - While the food index inflation eased to 2.32% in March 2023 from 2.76% in February 2023.
7. How many projects worth ₹638 crore (approx) were approved in the 48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) _____ **Eight projects**.

Note:

- Chaired by: Director General, G Asok Kumar
 - In an initiative to clean River Hindon, four projects worth Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution abatement in the Shamli district.
 - As part of preparations for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in 2025, one project for the development of seven ghats was approved.
8. Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar launched which portal to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification _____ **SATHI Portal**.



Note:

- SATHI refers to Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory.
- It has been developed on the theme of Uttam Beej - Samriddh Kisan.
- The minister highlighted that the government is constantly trying to overcome the challenges and difficulties faced by farmers.

9. Which organization is working towards the development of around 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across the country by FY2024-25 _____ **NHAI**.

Note:

- The network of Digital Highways will be implemented by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a fully owned SPV of NHAI.
- Under the pilot routes for the Digital Highway development, around 1,367 km on Delhi - Mumbai Expressway and 512 km on Hyderabad - Bangalore Corridor have been identified.

10. ACC is an apex-level biannual event, is scheduled from 17 to 21 April 2023. What is the fullform of ACC _____ **Army Commanders' Conference**.

Note:

- It is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.
- For the first time, it is being conducted in Hybrid format exploiting available technology for secure communication.
- Army Commanders will meet virtually on the first day and then travel to Delhi for balance physical meetings.

11. IFGE- CBG Producers Forum will organize a two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas in which city from 17 April 2023 _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- Theme: Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth.
- Aim: To apprise the industry regarding the initiatives taken for the development of the compressed biogas industry and to identify the areas where policy modifications are required
- Union Minister for Petroleum, Hardeep Singh Puri will also attend the event.

12. A three-day Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) under India's G20 presidency has been started on April 17, 2023, in which city _____ **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- They will discuss sustainable agriculture and food systems for healthy people and the planet, Agriculture research and development, including food security and nutrition, public-private partnership etc.
- The 'Millets And Other Ancient GRains International ReSearch Initiative (MAHARISHI)' is also proposed.

13. Which organization has co-organized a Digital Health Summit 2023 with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on April 16, 2023 _____ **Confederate of Indian Industry**.

Note:

- The theme of the event was 'Building One Health Together – Improving Health Equity'.
- Objective: To bring together the policy makers, industry leaders, and global healthcare experts and thought leaders to deliberate upon key issues confronting the digital health space

14. PM Modi will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in which city on April 20, 2023 _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- Theme 2023: Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis
- This two-day summit will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture and its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation.
- It will be attended by scholars, Sangha leaders, and Dharma practitioners from all over the world.
- It will also enhance the cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries.



15. The Union Minister of State for Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste will inaugurate India Steel 2023, organized in which city from 19-21 April 2023 _____ **Mumbai.**

Note:

- The event will be conducted by the steel ministry, Department of Commerce, and FICCI.
- Aim: To bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the steel industry.
- It will showcase advance technologies, products, and solutions from the Indian steel industry.

16. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has launched the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme in which state _____ **Manipur.**

Note:

- This scheme has been introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region.
- Vision: To strengthen the livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.

17. Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched a YUVA PORTAL for which purpose _____ **For connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups in the country.**

Note:

- He has also launched the One Week -One Lab program.
- This program will offer the opportunity to the CSIR labs to showcase the work being done by them so that others can avail of it.
- During the launch event, he also hailed the launching of the astronomy lab that has come up in Karnal, Haryana.

18. Which ministry has launched the 'Sangathan Se Samridhi' campaign to empower marginalized rural households by bringing all eligible rural women into the fold of Self Help Groups (SHGs) _____ **Union Minister of Rural Development.**

Note:

- The govt is targeting to bring 10 crore women under the purview of SHGs (existing nine crores).
- The govt has also set a target that every woman associated with SHGs should be able to earn 1 lakh rupees per annum.
- He also urged women to produce millet.

19. The Centre has launched over 254 network towers to provide 4G mobile connectivity in border areas of which state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- It will provide 4G coverage in uncovered villages of the state, thereby bringing digital connectivity to 336 villages, including several areas which have remained unconnected since Independence.
- Over 70,000 subscribers are expected to benefit from the service.

20. Which country has improved its ranking in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023 by six places from 44 in 2018 to 38 in 2023, among 139 countries _____ **India.**

Note:

- LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities on trade logistics and the scope of improvement.
- India's category-wise ranking: International shipments: 22; Logistics competence and equality: 48; Timeline: 17; Tracking and tracing: 38

21. The government has launched which round of the regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas _____ **Fifth.**

Note:

- Under this scheme, viability gap funding (VGF) will be capped at 600 km stage length for both priority and non-priority areas, which was earlier capped at 500 km.



- Besides this, no pre-determined routes would be offered and only network and individual route proposals by airlines will be considered.
22. PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth more than 17,000 crores in which state _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- He has also inaugurated the integrated e-Gram Swaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level.
 - Objective: To enable Panchayats to market their goods and services through GeM
 - With the handing over of around 35 lakh Swamitva Property Cards, about 1 crore 25 lakh property cards have been distributed under this scheme in the country.
23. Which ministry has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies across the nation _____ **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To provide a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like lakes
 - Over 24.24 lakh water bodies have been enumerated in the country out of which more than 23 lakh water bodies are in rural areas and nearly 69,000 are in urban areas.
 - Top 5 (number of water bodies): WB, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam
24. Union Minister of Ports has inaugurated National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts, IIT - Discovery Campus at Chennai. Who is he _____ **Sarbananda Sonowal.**
- Note:**
- Under the Sagarmala Programme, the centre has been established in IIT Chennai at a cost of 77 Crore rupees.
 - The institute acts as a technological arm of the Ministry and develops cutting-edge technologies and application products to provide solutions to various challenges faced by the Ports and Shipping Sector.
25. The Unique Identification Authority of India and which organization are setting up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer) _____ **National Payments Corporation of India.**
- Note:**
- The process of Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials to get a mobile connection or open a bank account.
 - The process can be completed using biometrics or through the use of OTP.
 - It is being used by financial services players, and government agencies.
26. The Ministry of Petroleum has successfully completed the Bihar portion of the Barauni Guwahati pipeline (BGPL) under which scheme _____ **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.**
- Note:**
- It will connect six districts in Bihar to the National Gas Grid.
 - Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project is also known as Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Pipeline Project (JHBDPL) project.
 - Launched: 2016
 - Aim: Caters to the energy requirements of five states (UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and WB).
27. Which steel production plant has signed a Memorandum of understanding with Telecommunications Consultants India (TCIL) to explore the potential of the application of 5G/ IT/ telecom and other wireless communication technologies _____ **SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant.**
- Note:**
- This project would include SAIL's Mines and Collieries, Central Coal Supply Organization, and the SAIL refractory unit in Jharkhand.
 - SAIL Chairperson: Soma Mondal
28. PM Modi has inaugurated India's first water metro in which city _____ **Kochi (Kerala).**



Note:

- The metro project will start with eight electric hybrid boats developed under Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- It was funded by the Kerala govt and the German company KfW.
- It consists of 38 terminals and 78 electric boats.
- The first phase of this project started from the High Court-Vypin and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.

29. India has launched a rescue operation named Operation Kaveri to evacuate its stranded citizens from which country _____ **Sudan.**

Note:

- Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha is on standby to evacuate Indians.
- The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister Modi chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine Operation Ganga.
- Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

30. Union Minister for Labour has launched new features in eShram Portal. Who is he _____ **Bhupender Yadav.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganized workers
- A feature for capturing the family details of migrant workers has been added to the eShram portal.
- Through the portal, the eShram-registered workers can now connect with employment opportunities, pension schemes, digital skilling, and states' schemes.

31. Who has launchedIFFCO's nano liquid Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle _____ **Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah.**

Note:

- Aim: Farmers to use nano urea and DAP extensively to make the country self-reliant and reduce import dependence
- One bottle (500 ml) of nano-liquid DAP is equivalent to one bag (50kg) of conventional granular DAP, which is currently being sold at Rs 1,350.
- In 2021, IFFCO launched the world's first nano urea fertilizer.

32. What is the name of the policy, which was approved by the union government to reduce India's heavy import dependence on the medical sector _____ **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023.**

Note:

- It will help the Medical Devices Sector, grow from the present 11 billion USD to 50 billion USD in the next five years.
- It also aims to facilitate orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, and innovation.
- The Cabinet has also approved establishing 157 nursing colleges

33. Which organization has released a report titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States and Union Territories of India _____ **NITI Aayog.**

Note:

- The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery.
- Report's theme:
 - State Missions and initiatives to promote millets;
 - Inclusion of millets in ICDS;
 - Research and development and use of technology for innovative practices
- It will serve as a guiding repository to revive and mainstream millets in our diets.

34. India's first cable-stayed bridge _____ will be completed by May 2023 _____ **Anji Khad bridge.**

Note:

- It connects Katra and Reasi via tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal section.
- Aim: To connect J&K to the rest of the country with all-weather rail connectivity



- The cables weigh 848.7 MT and the total length of cable strands involved is 653km.
 - The asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of river Chenab.
 - Total length of the bridge: 725m
35. Which tribal insurgent group signed the tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government of Assam to avoid the violence and join the mainstream _____ **Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)**.
- Note:**
- According to the MoU, the DNLA will lay down its arms and abide by the Constitution.
 - It was decided to set up a Dimasa Welfare Council and grant a special financial package of Rs. 1,000 crores (Rs. 500 crores each by the Centre and Assam government).
36. Which ministry has launched 'City Beauty Competition' portal _____ **MoHUA**.
- Note:**
- Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can participate in this competition through an online process.
 - Objective: To encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces
 - Five broad pillars: (i) accessibility (ii) amenities (iii) activities (iv) aesthetics and (v) ecology
37. Which ministry has given its approval to upgrade Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from Category-I Miniratna _____ **Union Finance Ministry**.
- Note:**
- RVNL, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, will be the 13th Navratna amongst CPSEs.
 - The company will have more autonomy in terms of investment, setting up JV and other financial decisions.
 - As per the Navratna Company criteria, the company must have Miniratna status, with 4 independent board directors.
38. Union MoS (IC) S&T, Dr Jitendra Singh visited which college in the United Kingdom and interacted with the Indian students of the college _____ **Imperial College London**.
- Note:**
- During his visit, the Imperial College London announced scholarships of £ 400,000 for Indian students studying in the college.
 - Out of which 50% of the scholarship would be given to female students from India.
 - Imperial College London is a public research university in London, England.
39. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) has increased by what percent (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022 _____ **3.6%**.
- Note:**
- ICI measures the combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries - Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
 - The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
40. According to the Kpler report, which country has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia _____ **India**.
- Note:**
- Europe's reliance on Indian crude oil products has grown since the ban on Russian oil.
 - It also showed that Europe's refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day.
 - Russia was the largest exporter of crude oil to India by value in February in spite of the Western price cap of USD 60 per barrel.



41. Which command and some civil agencies conducted a day-long firefighting exercise called 'Agni Daman - 23' _____ **Army Southern Command.**

Note:

- The exercise was conducted with 56 teams at the 29 Field Ammunition Depot (FAD), Dehu Road.
- Aim: To enhance synergy among firefighters to work together in the event of major fire incidents
- The exercise was a landmark endeavor in synergizing all the firefighting resources available with the military and civil establishment in Pune.

42. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed an MoU with Art of Living as part of which campaign _____ **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.**

Note:

- The signing ceremony was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- This campaign will get a boost towards achieving a drug-sensitized India.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has been implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to curb the menace of drug demand.

43. India and which country have agreed to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre _____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source
- Both countries will also join to launch the first-ever UK-India scientific 'deep sea voyage' and 'space parks' partnership.

44. Which ministry will be organizing Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi on 24th April 2023, in partnership with Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) _____ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

Note:

- It will be held under the guidance of Union Minister.
- Aim: to reaffirm political commitment to galvanize action for malaria elimination by 2030.
- It will revitalize national and regional momentum towards the goal of an Asia Pacific Free from Malaria by 2030.

45. Which laboratory of DRDO has organized a four-day International Conference on 'Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces: Psychological Perspective' in Delhi on April 25, 2023 _____ **Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR).**

Note:

- Aim: To deliberate recent advances, emerging trends, and challenges of psychology with respect to the human capital of the Armed Forces upon world over
- The conference has participation from the three Services, DRDO labs, and academia.

46. The Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India will host the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 April 2023 in which city _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Aim: To discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within SCO, and effective multilateralism.
- SCO 2023 theme under India's Chairmanship: SECURE-SCO
- SCO was established in 2001.
- Members: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, and Uzbekistan

47. The Y 20 Pre Summit Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is being organized from 26th to 28th April 2023 in which Indian city _____ **Leh.**

Note:

- Five Y20 themes:
- Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance
- Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills



- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life
- Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War
- Health Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth

48. Which country will host the third in-person Quad Summit in Sydney on May 24, 2023 _____
Australia.

Note:

- It will be the first time when Australia will host the meeting.
- The meeting will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Kishida Fumio, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese.
- The leaders will discuss issues on critical and emerging technologies and high-quality infrastructure, etc.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan, and Australia.

49. Union Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology in which city _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Organized by: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Tractor and Mechanisation Association in New Delhi
- During the event, the minister informed that, about 85% of small farmers in the country, who should get the benefit of technology and machinery.
- It was attended by stakeholders including Original Equipment Manufacturers and design firms.

50. The Indian Merchants Chamber has organized the 'India Calling Conference 2023' in which city _____ **Mumbai.**

Note:

- The theme of the 2023 Conference is "Rising India- Inviting Partnership for Growth".
- The conference was attended by Union Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and MoS for Railways & Textiles Darshana Jardosh.
- Minister Piyush Goyal delivered the inaugural address at the 'India Calling Conference 2023'.

51. PM Modi will attend the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT) initiative in which state _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- This scheme was started by PM Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Aim: To act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient, and time-bound manner

52. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the revamped CGTMSE Scheme. What is the full form of CGTMSE _____ **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.**

Note:

- Modifications:
- Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto ₹1 crore by 50% bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa only.
- Raising of ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore
- Enhanced the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to ₹10 lakh.

Important News – State

1. India's tallest statue of Ambedkar, a 125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in which city of India _____ **Hyderabad.**

Note:

- Reason: To mark the 132nd birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution.
- It stands next to the State Secretariat on the banks of Hyderabad's famous Hussain Sagar Lake.
- It was built using 360 tonnes of stainless steel and 114 tonnes of bronze, at a cost of Rs 146.50 crore.



Join Our Classroom Program Now



2. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu has inaugurated the Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar village, located in which district of Arunachal Pradesh _____ **Tawang.**

Note:

- The Gonpa has great historical importance for the well-being and betterment of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general.
- The 11- 12th-century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse but it has been restored with a new structure.

3. Which state government has renamed the proposed Bhavanapadu port in the Srikakulam district as Mulapeta port at the request of the locals _____ **Andhra Pradesh.**

Note:

- CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay a foundation stone for this nearly Rs 4,000 crore project on April 19, 2023.
- This decision was taken as farmers from Mulapeta and Vishnuchakram villages requested the name change.
- The state govt also issued an order notifying Bhavanapadu Port as Mulapeta Port with the same limits.

4. Which state has become the first state to adopt a water budget in a bid to come up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- The first phase would cover 94-gram panchayats and 15-block panchayats.
- CM Pinarayi Vijayan released Public Water Budget.
- The third phase of the Ini Njan Ozhukatte (Let me flow now) project for the rehabilitation of irrigation networks in the Western Ghats was also launched.
- The idea of a water budget was first mooted by the state in 2019.

5. The first-ever census of which bird was conducted by the Odisha forest officials in the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary _____ **Mangrove Pitta Bird.**

Note:

- In the first census, 179 mangrove pitta birds were sighted.
- The habitats of these beautiful birds are confined to mangrove forest areas in Odisha's Bhitarkanika and Sundarban in West Bengal.
- Mangrove pitta is a colorful bird that has a black head with a brown crown.
- It feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, and insects.

6. Which state government has signed an MoU with the Arunachal Pradesh government to resolve the long pending border dispute between both states _____ **Assam.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on April 20.
- The Assam cabinet has approved the recommendations of 12 Regional Committees formed by the state government to resolve the decades-long border dispute issues with Arunachal Pradesh.
- Assam shares an 804 km long boundary with Arunachal Pradesh.

7. Manohar Lal Khattar has launched three online services to digitally empower people, is a CM of which state _____ **Haryana.**

Note:

- These online services are Pro-active Divyang Pension Service, 'Tau se Poochho' WhatsApp chatbot, and online booking of government rest houses.
- The Pro-active Divyang Pension Service for the physically challenged is committed to delivering all services for them at their doorsteps.
- The Haryana Parivar Pehchan Authority has created a WhatsApp Chatbot Tau Se Poochho.

8. Which state government has launched a project 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project to revive the sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- It was inaugurated by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad.



- For the first phase of the project, the state government has prepared a list of 113 panchayats.
 - Each playground would cost around Rs 1 crore, half will be paid by the Sports department and the rest would be raised from other sources.
9. In a meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Board, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed the development of which sanctuary as a habitat for cheetahs in the next six months _____ **Gandhisagar Sanctuary.**

Note:

- It will be developed as a second home for cheetahs to retain the tag of cheetah state.
 - Reason: The experts suggested that Kuno National Park in Sheopur does not have enough space for all cheetahs, hence it is necessary to relocate a few
10. The government of which state has decided to constitute a new Commission to decide the backwardness of the Maratha Community _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- Its government will file a curative petition in the Supreme Court for Maratha (Social and Economic Backward Class) Reservation.
 - It will ensure all the lapses in the Maratha Reservation law will be overcome and assured that Candidates from Maratha Community will be given all the benefits like other communities.
11. Which tribe of Nayagarh district in Odisha celebrates Bihan Mela, which refers to a seed festival _____ **Kondh Tribe.**

Note:

- The event is participated by farmers from as many as 40 villages in Dasapalla block, surrounded by hills and forests.
- The preparations begin as soon as farmers have harvested Kharif crops, which include both hybrid and indigenous varieties of paddy, millets, maize, and sorghum.
- Kondh tribes are a tribal group found in the hills and jungles of Orissa in eastern India.

Important News – World

1. Japan, India, and which country have announced a common platform for talks among bilateral creditors to coordinate the restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt _____ **France.**

Note:

- This move is expected to serve as a model for solving the debt woes.
- Sri Lanka has secured a 2.9 billion dollar programme from IMF to tackle its huge debt burden.
- But, the middle-income economy could not apply for relief under the G-20's common framework for debt treatment, which targets only low-income countries.

2. Which country has become the world's foremost narco-state, as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon _____ **Syria.**

Note:

- Captagon is a banned illicit drug recognized by the UNODC (2021) and is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine.
- According to the Collins Dictionary, "narco-state" refers to a nation where a significant portion of the economy is reliant on the illicit trade of narcotic drugs.

3. A World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel has ruled that India has violated global trading rules in a dispute against the European Union, Japan, and which country _____ **Taiwan.**

Note:

- The case pertains to import duties for a wide range of products.
- In 2019, the EU, Japan, and Taiwan challenged the import duties on certain IT products.
- The EU had challenged India's introduction of import duties between 7.5% and 20% for products such as mobile phones, mobile phone components, and accessories.

4. Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj has handed over the cheque of _____ to the UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women _____ **USD 500,000 (Rs 4.09 crore).**



Note:

- The cheque was received by Sima Sami Bahous, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women.
 - The Indian government is committed to the goals of gender equality, the empowerment of women, and gender mainstreaming.
5. Mongolia Ambassador to India Dambajav Ganbold has informed that the first oil refinery of Mongolia, which is built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by which year _____ **2025.**

Note:

- The first stage of the Mongol Oil Refinery will be built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan.
 - The development comes with strategic implications as Mongolia is entirely dependent on Russia for its energy imports.
 - It would help Mongolia meet 70% of its demand domestically.
6. US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol have secured a landmark deal. What is the name of this landmark deal _____ **Washington Declaration.**

Note:

- It includes plans to periodically deploy US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea.
 - This deal will be known as the Washington Declaration and strengthen the allies' cooperation in deterring a North Korean attack.
 - The declaration comes amid rising concerns about nuclear threats from North Korea as the country carries out a record number of ballistic missile tests.
7. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has unveiled a statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in which country _____ **Mauritius.**

Note:

- The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to Mauritius in a container ship.
 - During his visit, an MoU was signed between the Economic Development Board of Mauritius and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.
8. Which Russian company launched its own AI chatbot GigaChat to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT _____ **Sberbank.**

Note:

- It was initially designed to support multimodal interaction and communicate in Russian more intelligently.
 - The GigaChat architecture is based on the neural network ensemble model called NeONKA (Neural Omnimodal Network with Knowledge-Awareness).
 - It includes several neural network models along with supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement learning with human feedback.
9. A report on Trends in World Military Expenditure 2022, published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, stated that total global military expenditure increased by what percent in real terms in 2022 to reach a new high of \$2240 billion _____ **3.7%.**

Note:

- The three largest spenders in 2022 are the USA, China, and Russia, accounting for 56% of the total world
- The US remains by far the world's biggest military spender
- India's spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world.



Honor & Awards

1. Who has received the AIMA's Business Leader of the Decade Award 2023 _____ **Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla.**

Note:

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Jyotiraditya M Scindia has presented the 13th AIMA Managing India Awards.
- AIMA JRD Tata Corporate Leadership: TV Narendran, CEO and MD of Tata Steel
- Transformational Business Leader: Sanjiv Bajaj, MD of Bajaj Finserv
- Outstanding Institution Builder: Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor

2. Union HM Amit Shah has presented the Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2022 to which person at Raigarh, Maharashtra _____ **Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari.**

Note:

- He has played a significant role in organizing several tree plantation drives, blood donation drives, free medical clinics, and job fairs.
- Award: A shawl, citation and memento, and a cheque of Rs 25 lakh
- He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2017.
- His father Dr. Narayan Vishnu Dharmadhikari was also awarded the Maharashtra Bhushan in 2008.

3. Which organization has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) _____ **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).**

Note:

- SECI was incorporated in the year 2011 and is the primary implementing agency of the ministry for renewable energy schemes/ projects towards fulfillment of India's international commitments.
- As of date, SECI has awarded RE project capacities of over 56 GW.
- Managing Director, SECI: Suman Sharma

4. Who has been crowned the 59th edition of the beauty pageant, Femina Miss India World 2023 _____ **Nandini Gupta.**

Note:

- Meanwhile, Shreya Poonja from Delhi and Thounaojam Strela Luwang from Manipur were announced as the first runner-up and second runner-up, respectively.
- She hails from Kota, Rajasthan, and holds a Business Management degree.
- Femina Miss India 2023 was held at Indoor Stadium, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, Manipur.

5. Which state has bagged the national award for the best implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the country _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The state has recorded a 47.74% increase in the enrolment of farmers under the scheme, between the Kharif season 2021 and 2022.
- While the area covered under the scheme increased by 41.80%.
- The common service centers have also seen an enrolment of 4.66 lakh non-loanee farmers over the last six years.

6. Who has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023 _____ **Utsa Patnaik.**

Note:

- It is granted for outstanding contributions to Development Studies.
- The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh.
- The award is given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- It is annually given to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury.

7. Who has received the highest Order of Merit of Germany from the President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier _____ **Former Chancellor Angela Merkel.**



Note:

- The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl.
- All three former leaders belong to the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU).
- The Order of Merit entails no financial reward.
- Merkel led Germany from 2005 to 2021, totaling four terms in office.

8. Who will be felicitated with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award on April 24, the Memorial Day of theatre-music veteran Deenanath Mangeshkar _____ **Legendary singer Asha Bhosle.**

Note:

- The family and the trust have instituted the award in memory of Lata Mangeshkar, who died on February 6, 2022.
- This award was aimed to honor people from various fields such as music, drama, art, medicine, and social work.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was its first recipient.

9. Which programme of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the innovation category _____ **National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.**

Note:

- The award was received by Rajesh Bhushan (Secretary, Ministry of Health) from PM Narendra Modi.
- PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative received an award for excellence in public administration 2022 in the 'Innovation (Central)' category.

10. Who was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari _____ **Wing Commander Deepika Misra.**

Note:

- She becomes the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry award.
- She is a trained helicopter pilot, a qualified flying instructor, and an instrument-rated instructor and examiner.
- She was among 58 personnel who received the gallantry award during the investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.

11. The West Stand at which stadium has been renamed after Indian former cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday _____ **Sharjah cricket stadium.**

Note:

- Sharjah Cricket Stadium holds the Guinness record for most One-Day internationals played (244).
- The gate at the Sydney Cricket Ground was also named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday.
- CEO of Sharjah Stadium: Khalaf Bukhatir

12. Which state has been awarded the country's prestigious HUDCO Award for 2022-2023 _____ **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- It was awarded in the Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2022-23 category for cleanliness.
- The award was presented by the secretary of MoHUA, Manoj Joshi to Neha Sharma (State mission director, UP).
- Cash Prize: 1 Lakh Rupees
- This campaign was organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh from January 14 to 24, 2023.

13. Which Maharatna CPSU of the Ministry of Power, has been awarded the Global Gold Award 2023 by The Green Organization _____ **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL).**



Note:

- Reason: For improving Agriculture Productivity and Rural Livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi, Odisha
- The Director (Personnel) of POWERGRID, Dr. V. K. Singh received the award.

14. Which IIT's SHUNYA team has secured second place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the United States _____ **IIT Bombay.**

Note:

- Reason: For their innovative zero-energy house designed to address air quality challenges in Mumbai's hot and humid climate.
- SHUNYA refers to Sustainable Housing for Urbanizing Nation by its Young Aspirants.
- It is a student-driven technical team of IIT Bombay working to build a sustainable future.

15. Who has received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years _____ **Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama.**

Note:

- It was the first international award given for his Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred religion that is the inspiration of their life and culture.
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called the Nobel Prize of Asia.

16. Which organization has bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" for the year 2021-22 _____ **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL).**

Note:

- The award was presented by the MoS for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste to CMD, RINL Atul Bhatt, in the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti held at Srinagar.
- The minister also released RINL's March issue of Hindi In-house Magazine "Rashtriya Ispat Sugandh".
- The members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti appreciated various activities being undertaken by RINL.

17. Who has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023 _____ **Maria Stepanova.**

Note:

- She was honored in Leipzig for her volume of poetry "Mädchen ohne Kleider" (Girls Without Clothes).
- It is described as a sensitive and highly poetic study of often hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression.
- About Leipzig Book Award:
- Literary prizes in Germany
- Prize money: 20,000 euros

18. Who has been awarded the Best Male Actor award for his role in Badhaai Do at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 28, 2023 _____ **Rajkummar Rao.**

Note:

- Alia Bhatt was awarded Best Actor (Female) for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Best Film (Critics'): Badhaai Do
- Best Actor (Critics'): Sanjay Mishra (Vadh)
- Best Actress (Critics'): Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do) and Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2)
- Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)



Sports News

1. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has decided that the top eight participating teams in the Indian Women's League (IWL), have a minimum of 10 Indian players on a fully professional annual contract worth a minimum of _____ **Rs 3.2 lakhs.**

Note:

- Aim: To revamp and restructure women's football in the country, in line with the Strategic Roadmap Vision 2047.
- The 2024-25 season will have 10 teams in the top division followed by two other divisions.
- AIFF President: Kalyan Chaubey

2. Shaili Singh won a gold medal in the women's long jump at the Indian Grand Prix 4 2023 athletics meet in Bangalore, Karnataka, is associated in which sports _____ **Long Jump.**

Note:

- She has logged a 6.76m effort, the second-best by an Indian after the legendary Anju Bobby George.
- With this win, she has also qualified for the Asian Games 2023, scheduled in Hangzhou, China, by breaching the women's long jump qualifying standard of 6.45m set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

3. Who has won two gold medals at the Brazil Para-Badminton International 2023 _____ **Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan.**

Note:

- In the women's singles SH6 category finals, she defeated Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores to win the gold medal.
- In the mixed doubles SH6 final, she combined with Sivarajan Solaimalai to beat Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Choi Wing Kei.
- While Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam also won gold in the men's doubles category.

4. Vedaant Madhavan has claimed 5 gold medals for India at the Malaysian Invitational age group Championships 2023 held in Kuala Lumpur, is associated with which sports _____ **Swimming.**

Note:

- He won gold in the 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 1500m swimming categories.
- In 2022, he also participated in the 48th Junior National Aquatics Championships and became the first person in India to break the record of the 1500m freestyle by finishing the race within 16:01.73 seconds.

5. In the 2023 edition of the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack, Along with England wicketkeeper-batter Ben Foakes, India Women captain Harmanpreet Kaur, NZ all-rounder Daryl Mitchell and England pacer Matthew Potts, which sports person have been named Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year _____ **New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Tom Blundell.**

Note:

- Harmanpreet is the first India Women's cricketer to be named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year.
- She was chosen primarily for her ODI century against England at Canterbury.
- The Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals while the women's wrestlers bagged seven.

6. India has won two gold medals, one each in the mixed team event and women's individual Compound, at the 2023 Archery World Cup Stage 1 in which country _____ **Antalya, Turkey.**

Note:

- Indian mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale outclassed Chen Yi Hsuan and Chem Chieh Lun of Chinese Taipei by 159-154 to win the mixed team gold.
- The second gold came in the women's individual Compound event after Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Sara Lopez of Columbia by 149-146.

7. Who has won the London Marathon and recorded the second-fastest time in history over the distance _____ **Kelvin Kiptum (Kenya).**

Note:

- He set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds.



- He just missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by 16 seconds.
 - In the women's race, Ethiopian-born Dutch athlete, Sifan Hassan won her marathon debut in 2:18:34.
 - Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the elite men's wheelchair race with a time of 1:23:44.
8. Who has become the first Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022 _____ **Commander Abhilash Tomy.**

Note:

- He finished second in the race, a solo around-the-world sailing race.
 - This race was started at Les Sables-d'Olonne in France on Sep 4, 2022.
 - South African sailor, Kirsten Neuschafer also become the first woman to win the Golden Globe Race (GGR), a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids.
9. Who has won the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park _____ **Jaden Pariat.**
- Note:**
- He is a young Indian racing talent representing Argenti Motorsport.
 - He has become the second Indian racer to achieve an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car, following Kush Maini's feat in 2017.

Books and Authors

1. A book titled, 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations Under Six Prime Ministers' is a memoir of _____ **Satinder Kumar Lambah.**

Note:

- It was forwarded by former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh.
 - Satinder Kumar Lambah had served two tenures in Pakistan as Deputy Chief of Mission and High Commissioner and was Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board.
 - He also served as a Special Representative for Afghanistan under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
2. Francois 'Faf' du Plessis's memoir 'Faf Through Fire' is all set to release in India in May 2023, is cricketer of which country _____ **South African cricketer.**

Note:

- The book is published by Penguin Random House India.
 - Presently, he is the captain of the Indian Premier League's Royal Challengers Bangalore team.
 - He is also the former Captain of the South African National Cricket team.
 - In his upcoming memoir, he has shared his journey as a cricketer, love for the game, and also reveals his struggles and triumphs.
3. World Book Day is celebrated annually on which date to promote the love for reading, writing, publishing, and copyright _____ **April 23.**

Note:

- This day is also known as World Book and Copyright Day.
 - The theme for World Book Day 2023 is 'Indigenous Languages.'
 - This theme focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country.
 - It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
4. A new book titled, 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change', is authored by _____ **Ashish Kundra.**

Note:

- The book was launched in the presence of Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Law and Justice); Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas), Pema Khandu (CM of Arunachal Pradesh), and Amitabh Kant.
- Senior bureaucrat-author Ashish Kundra served in the Northeast for eight years.



5. A new book 'Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories', is authored by _____ **Amitav Ghosh**.

Note:

- This book explores the opium trade's effect on world history and how it continues to hugely impact our lives today.
- The book will be published by HarperCollins India's Fourth Estate imprint.
- Other Notable works: The Shadow Lines, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, Gun Island, and The Great Derangement

6. Who has launched the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University during the closing ceremony of 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- PM Modi addressed the closing ceremony via video conferencing.
- The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam takes forward this vision by celebrating the shared culture and heritage between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- The 10-day confluence saw more than 3000 Saurashtrian Tamils come to Somnath on a special train.

7. At the 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', a book called 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' was launched, is authored by _____ **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**.

Note:

- Shashi Shekhar Vempati is a former CEO of Prasar Bharat.
- According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader.
- Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

Science and Defence

1. Which space agency has launched its flagship JUICE (JUperiter ICy moons Explorer) mission on April 14, 2023 _____ **South African cricketer**.

Note:

- The mission was carried by an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.
- It will take an eight-year journey to reach Jupiter.
- Aim: To understand whether there are habitable environments among those icy moons and around a Jupiter
- It will make detailed observations of Jupiter and its three large moons: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa

2. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at which IIT _____ **Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad**.

Note:

- DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat inaugurated the facility at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana.
- The government is taking up futuristic projects towards long-term directed research needed for DRDO.
- The DIA CoE IITH is the largest centre among all 15 CoEs in the country.

3. Which country has successfully launched its inaugural earth observation satellite, Taifa-1 using a SpaceX rocket from the United States _____ **Kenya**.

Note:

- The satellite was carried by the Falcon 9 rocket, launched from Vandenberg Base in California.



- It was developed over a two-year period at a cost of 50 million Kenyan shillings, with assistance from the Bulgarian aerospace firm Endurosat
 - Additionally, under SpaceX's rideshare initiative, the launch rocket carried 50 payloads from other countries
4. Which IIT has signed an MoU with the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), Taiwan _____ **IIT Roorkee.**

Note:

- Aim: To develop scientific and academic cooperation and scientific research to promote relations and mutual understanding between NCDR and the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management of IIT Roorkee
 - The main objective is to develop a technological solution to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, and compound disasters.
5. Which IIT will set up its first International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania in October 2023 _____ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras.**

Note:

- In February 2023, a team of five professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania and held discussions with various officials on starting the campus.
 - It will be the first IIT campus in Africa and classes are to start from October.
 - This information was shared by IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day.
6. Which organization and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands for global outreach activities in connection with the proposed Chandrayaan-3 _____ **Moon Village Association.**

Note:

- Aim: To increase the impact of Isro's lunar program at a global level and ensure further international cooperation
 - It will focus on the global aspect of lunar exploration and identify communication, and encourage the youth to focus on the benefits of every lunar mission.
7. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and which armed force has successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in Bay of Bengal _____ **Indian Navy.**

Note:

- Aim: To engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of Nations having Naval BMD capability
 - Prior to this, DRDO has demonstrated land-based BMD system with capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats.
8. Which organization has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission carrying two Singaporean satellites titled, Singapore's TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and LUMELITE-4 from Satish Dhawan Space Center at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Indian Space Research Organisations (ISRO).**

Note:

- They are co-passenger satellites precisely into their intended 586 km circular orbit
 - PSLV-C55 is a commercial PSLV mission of NSIL, which is the commercial arm of ISRO.
9. Solar Industries Nagpur has recently bagged an order to supply the UAV 'Nagatra' to which armed force, beating competitors from Israel and Poland _____ **Indian Army.**

Note:

- Nagatra is India's first indigenous loitering munition which can strike enemy targets with precision.
- It has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with Z-Motion, Bangalore.
- It has an indigenous content of more than 75%



10. Which edition of a joint military exercise between India and the UK, 'Ajeya Warrior 2023' has been started in the Salisbury Plains, UK _____ **Seventh.**

Note:

- The biennial training event started on 27 April and continues till May 11.
- The Indian Army has participated with indigenous weapons and equipment.
- Scope of exercise: It involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the battalion level and company level field training exercise (FTX)
- Last edition (October 2021): Chaubatia, Uttarakhand



Join Our Classroom Program Now



Buy Test Series

Unlock All 650+ Mock Tests for SSC & Railway

- Unlimited Access
- All Exams covered
- Designed by Experts
- Performance Analysis