

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



Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates 1st -15th May 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 May 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. How much gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) was revenue collected in April 2023 _____ **Rs 1.87 lakh crore (increased 12%)**.

Note:

- It is the highest monthly mop-up since the inception of the indirect tax regime in July 2017.
- The government has collected CGST of Rs 38,440 crore, SGST of Rs 47,412 crore, and IGST of Rs 89,158 crore (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 12,025 crore.
- The highest GST collection was recorded in April 2022 at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

2. Which ministry has canceled the Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA) license of the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) _____ **Home Ministry**.

Note:

- About FCRA: Enacted in: 1976; Validity: 5 years
- It requires every person/NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be:
 - Registered under the Act
 - To open a bank account for the receipt of foreign funds in SBI, Delhi
 - To utilize those funds only for the purpose they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.

3. India and which country have agreed to explore the possibility of accepting each other's payment cards, RuPay (India) and Mir _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- Reason: For hassle-free payments between the two countries
- This decision was made during the meeting of the Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).
- This meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar and Russia's Deputy PM Denis Manturov.

4. The World Bank will provide financial aid of 2.25 billion dollars to which country for five infrastructure and development projects _____ **Bangladesh**.

Note:

- Accelerating transport and trade connectivity in Eastern South Asia worth \$753.45 million
- USD 500 million for Resilient Infrastructure Building Project
- USD 500 million First Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development
- USD 250 million Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation
- USD 250 million Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation

5. Which Payments Bank has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India to roll out Face Authentication for Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) _____ **Airtel Payments Bank**.

Note:

- AePS allows customers to carry out financial and non-financial transactions at any banking point using their Aadhaar number/ virtual ID to access their Aadhaar-linked bank account.
- This facility will enable customers to validate the transaction by undertaking face authentication along with the Aadhaar number.



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6. According to the IMF report, the growth of the Asia-Pacific region is expected to increase to what percent in 2023 from 3.8% in 2022 _____ **4.6%.**

Note:

- The two largest emerging market economies (India & China) of the region are expected to contribute around half of global growth in 2023.
- 2023 will be challenging for the global economy, with global growth decelerating as the effects of monetary policy tightening and Russia's war in Ukraine continue to weigh on economic activity.

7. Merchant commerce platform, Pine Labs has partnered with which bank for the acceptance of the digital Rupee on its PoS terminals _____ **ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- The technology integration between the two entities will now support Digital Rupee acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Pine Labs' execution of the Digital Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR (quick response) built within its smart Android PoS terminals.

8. Cashfree Payments has partnered with which bank to offer 'Global Collections', an international collection service for exporters _____ **YES Bank.**

Note:

- Under this partnership, the bank's account holders will be able to collect payments in over 30 foreign currencies using the Global Collections service.
- The funds so received can then be converted into rupee and settled into their local bank account in India within one business day.

9. Which organization has released a report titled, 'Currency and Finance 2022-23' with a theme of 'Towards A Greener Cleaner India' _____ **RBI.**

Note:

- This report covers four major dimensions of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India.
- Areas: Unprecedented scale and pace of climate change; its macroeconomic effects; implications for financial stability; and policy options to mitigate climate risks.
- The country's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070.

10. Capital markets regulator SEBI has introduced LEI system. What is the expanded form of LEI _____ **Legal Entity Identifier.**

Note:

- Reason: For issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts
- It is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions.
- It is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity party to a financial transaction.

11. RBI and which organization have jointly launched the fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint, a global technology competition _____ **Bank for International Settlements (BIS).**

Note:

- Focus: On developing innovative technology solutions for cross-border payments
- Shortlisted teams will be invited to develop their solutions over a six-week period and each team will be eligible for a stipend of eight lakh rupees.
- The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of forty lakh rupees.

12. Which organization has updated instructions in the Master Direction on KYC related to wire transfers and aligned the same with the relevant recommendation of the FATF _____ **RBI.**

Note:

- The Banks and other financial institutions ensure cross-border as well as domestic wire transfers contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary.



- Wire Transfer: It is an electronic transfer of funds via a network administered by banks and transfer service agencies worldwide.

13. RBI has announced the interest rate of what percent on the Floating Rate Bond 2024, for the half year from May 7 to November 6, 2023 _____ **6.97%.**

Note:

- Floating Rate Bonds are securities that do not have a fixed coupon rate.
- They have a variable coupon rate which is re-set at preannounced intervals
- The FRB bonds carry a coupon with a base rate equivalent to a weighted average yield of the last three auctions of 182-day Treasury Bills (T-Bill) plus a fixed spread decided by way of auction

14. Which bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd (IndiaShelter) have signed a strategic partnership under the co-lending model to offer secured MSME loans to middle and low-income borrowers in semi-urban areas _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- Axis Bank will bring deep financial expertise, while IndiaShelter will provide loan processing technology to assess borrowers' credit profiles
- This partnership will strengthen the mortgage segment and help the bank augment its priority sector lending portfolio

15. Which bank has launched its retail banking program 'Vishesh' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies wherein it plans to onboard around 1 lakh new customers _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- The bank plans to add more branches and launch tailor-made products and financial solutions for this market segment.
- They will look to add 675 branches in semi-urban and rural geographies in FY24.
- Presently, 52% of the bank's 7,821 branches are in rural and semi-urban locations.

16. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Max Life Insurance Company Limited to offer life insurance offerings to Capital SFB's customers _____ **Capital Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- Capital SFB would offer its customers a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans of Max Life.
- Capital SFB has also partnered with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Limited and HDFC life insurance Limited to provide their life insurance products.
- MD & CEO, Capital SFB: Sarvjit Singh Samra

17. Which organization has rebranded its multi-brand loyalty program, Payback India to Zillion _____ **BharatPe Group.**

Note:

- Aim: To target customers across age groups and add a new dimension to their overall shopping experience, across categories and brands
- Zillion will offer a wide range of options for customers to earn and redeem at a wide range of partners across the country.
- The customers will be able to earn 'Zillion coins' for their routine spending.
- BharatPe CEO (Interim): Nalin Negi.

18. According to the Fitch Ratings, what would be India's GDP growth forecast for 2023-24 _____ **6%.**

Note:

- 6.7% in 2024-25
- Reason: Headwinds from elevated inflation, interest rates, and subdued global demand
- The rating firm has also reaffirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook
- 'BBB' issuer default rating indicates that expectations of default risk are currently low and payment capacity to meet financial commitments is considered adequate

19. RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.73 crore on which international bank for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006 _____ **HSBC.**



Note:

- HSBC has furnished incorrect credit information regarding several expired credit cards with nil dues to all four credit information companies.
- The RBI imposed the penalty in the exercise of powers conferred under the provisions of Section 25(1) and Section 23(4) of the CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005.

20. RBI has added how much of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tons _____ **34.22 metric tonnes.**

Note:

- RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022.
- A recent World Gold Council (WGC) report showed that the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold in January-March 2023.
- The latest WGC report showed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the largest single buyer of gold (69 metric tonnes) during January-March 2023.

21. Which small finance bank has partnered RuPay to launch the Business Cashback Rupay credit card to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers _____ **AU Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a diverse range of benefits to small businesses
- It was launched in the presence of Dilip Asbe (CEO, NPCI) and Sanjay Agarwal (MD & CEO of AU SFB).
- It simplifies financial operations for businesses with benefits like up to 2% cashback, 48 days of interest-free credit, and instant loans.

22. Which life insurance has partnered with the Indian Industries Association (IIA) to provide life insurance plans to the MSME sector's workforce in Uttar Pradesh _____ **Max Life Insurance.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP
- Max Life is the appointed lead insurer for UP, under IRDAI's State insurance plan
- It offers life insurance access to more than 11 lakh MSME workforce affiliated with IIA and their families in the State.

23. Rukart has tied up with which bank for providing easy loans to customers for buying the cold storage system 'Subjee Cooler' _____ **SBI.**

Note:

- Rukart sells 'Subjee Cooler' to enhance the shelf life of fruits and vegetables by 4-6 days.
- It is a cold chain storage system that requires only 20 liters of water a day.
- The cost of the product is Rs 50,000 each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg.
- It is dedicated to minimizing the carbon footprint through innovative solutions.

24. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed stock exchanges to extend DMA to registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) with immediate effect. What is the extended form of DMA _____ **Direct Market Access.**

Note:

- Reason: To promote institutional participation in Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs)
- DMA facilitates the clients of a broker to directly access the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to place orders without manual intervention by the broker.

25. Yes Bank has launched which initiative for offering financial assistance to MSMEs manufacturers, who wish to install solar panels at their premises _____ **YES KIRAN.**

Note:

- Aim: To support the adoption of sustainable energy practices by small and mid-sized enterprises
- MSMEs will get various benefits such as reduced operational cost, a flexible loan tenure at competitive interest rates, and a broad range of tie-ups with leading solar panel manufacturers and installers to help MSMEs



26. RBI has stated that fees and charges payable in India on forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards must be denominated and settled in which currency _____ **Local**.

Note:

- The use of such cards is limited to permissible current account transactions.
- It is subject to the prescribed limits under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules.
- The RBI had previously stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.

27. RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹2.92 crore on which bank for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmarks, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities _____ **Canara Bank**.

Note:

- A scrutiny of the bank was carried out by RBI in July 2020 based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank.
- After scrutiny, the RBI found that the bank failed to link interest on floating rate retail loans and loans to MSME to an external benchmark.

28. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be participating in the GFIN Greenwashing TechSprint. What is the correct form of GFIN _____ **Global Financial Innovation Network**.

Note:

- Aim: To address the concern over exaggerated, misleading, or unsubstantiated claims related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials
- GFIN support financial innovation in the interest of consumers.
- The RBI has invited Indian firms to participate in the TechSprint to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.

29. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched which campaign for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days _____ **100 Days 100 Pays**.

Note:

- Aim: To reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants
- An unclaimed deposit is one that does not see any activity for 10 years or more and is deemed inactive.

30. Which branchless banking and digital network in India, has launched a new meta-commerce platform called _____ Mall _____ **PayNearby**.

Note:

- This platform is designed to enable easy access to goods and services and will be integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.
- Aim: To upgrade every retailer in its million+ active network and help them meet the demand of their customers
- Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby: Anand Kumar Bajaj.

Obituaries

1. Manobala, who passed away at 69, was a veteran _____ **Actor**.

Note:

- In 1979, he started his film career as an assistant director with Bharathiraja's Puthiya Vaarpugal.
- He made his directorial debut with the 1982 Tamil film Aagaya Gangai.
- He also directed many films like - Mera Pati Sirf Mera Hai, Pillai Nila, Sirai Parvai, and Oorkavalan among others.

2. Tori Bowie passed away at 32 in Orlando, was a/an _____ **Athlete**.

Note:

- She was crowned world champion in 2017 and won three Olympic medals at the Rio Games in 2016.



- She won the Olympic Gold with the USA relay team at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
 - She was born and raised in Mississippi.
3. Samaresh Majumdar, who passed away at 79, was a _____ **Renowned Bengali author.**
- Note:**
- He was best known for his political trilogy – Uttaradhikar, Kalbela, and Kalpurush.
 - He has conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Kalbela', which was set against the backdrop of the Naxalite movement.
 - He was awarded 'Bangavibhushan' by the West Bengal government in 2018.
 - Famous books are: Daur, Kalbela, Kalpurush, Garbhadharini, Uttaradhikar, Arjun Samagra, Satkahan etc
4. AR Khaleel, who passed away at the age of 9, was a former Vice President of which organization _____ **All India Football Federation (AIFF).**
- Note:**
- He had also served as the president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) for 28 years till 2018.
 - He was a footballer, who ran Jawahar Union FC, one of Bengaluru's traditional clubs.
 - He also donned managerial roles for the Indian National Teams in various age groups.

Important Days

1. The states of Gujarat and which state commemorated their 63rd Foundation Day on 1st May 2023 _____ **Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- Gujarat celebrates its 63rd foundation day as Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Maharashtra are also celebrated as 'Maharashtra Din'.
 - During the event, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects in Jamnagar worth Rs. 300 crore.
 - Gujarat was carved out of the Bombay State on May 1, 1960, after the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960.
2. World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the importance of freedom of the press _____ **May 3.**
- Note:**
- This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day.
 - Theme 2023: Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights
 - This day was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1991 in response to the increasing number of attacks on journalists around the world.
3. World Athletics Day 2023 is observed every year on which date to mark the importance of athletes and sportspersons globally _____ **May 7.**
- Note:**
- The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is 'Athletics for All – A New Beginning'.
 - This day was established by the late Primo Nebiolo, the then-president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).
 - The first World Athletics Day was held on May 15, 1996.
4. World Laughter Day is celebrated on which day of May _____ **First Sunday.**
- Note:**
- In 2023, World Laughter Day falls on 7th May 2023.
 - The theme for this year's celebration is "World Peace Through Laughter."
 - The day was first observed in 1998 by Dr Madan Kataria, who founded the Laughter Yoga movement.



5. Which day is held on the first Tuesday in May, every year _____ **World Asthma Day.**

Note:

- This year, this day falls on May 2.
- This day was organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- 2023 theme: Asthma care for All

6. International Firefighters' Day is observed every year on which date to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all _____ **May 4.**

Note:

- In 1999, this day was established to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices made by firefighters worldwide.

7. World Red Cross Day is celebrated on which date every year to honor the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who founded the Red Cross _____ **May 8.**

Note:

- World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day.
- The theme of World Red Cross Day 2023 is 'Everything we do comes #fromtheheart'.
- This day recognizes the significant contributions of the International Red Cross toward providing humanitarian services to individuals regardless of their race, religion, or political beliefs.

8. World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated every year on which date to create awareness about the disorder and explore treatment options _____ **May 8.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Be aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap
- This day was created by Panos Englezos (President and Founder of the Thalassemia International Federation) in 1994.
- Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder that is inherited by children from their parents.

9. National Technology Day is observed every year on which date across the nation to commemorate India's nuclear test success that was conducted on May 11th, 1998, at Pokhran, Rajasthan _____ **May 11.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate
- This term was coined by former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee to recognize the contributions of Indian scientists.
- On May 11, 1998, India successfully fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at an Army test range in Rajasthan's Pokhran.

10. International Nurses Day is observed every year on which date to recognize the efforts of nurses for their dedication, compassion, and expertise in delivering quality healthcare services _____ **12th May.**

Note:

- 2023 Theme: Our Nurses. Our Future.
- This day commemorates the birth of Florence Nightingale (founder of modern nursing), who was born on May 12, 1820, in Italy.
- She was a nurse, statistician, and social reformer.
- She gained prominence during the Crimean War in the 1850s.

11. Which day is observed twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October _____ **World Migratory Bird Day.**

Note:

- Aim: To promote the conservation of migratory birds and raise awareness about their significance
- In 2023, May 13 marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day.
- 2023 theme: Water and its importance for Migratory Bird



- World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held on 13 May and 14 October.
- It is a worldwide initiative launched in 2006 by the AEWA and CMS Secretariats.

New Appointments

1. Who has won the presidential election of Paraguay, defeating Efraín Alegre, the candidate of the Concertación Nacional coalition _____ **Santiago Peña (Colorado Party)**.

Note:

- He got more than 42% votes, while his opponent Efraín Alegre received nearly 28%.
- The Colorado Party has dominated the political scene in Paraguay's landlocked South American nation for more than 70 years.
- Paraguay's economy is expected to grow by more than 4% this year.

2. Who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Australia's flagship carrier, Qantas _____ **Vanessa Hudson**.

Note:

- She will succeed Alan Joyce, who will retire in November 2023.
- She has been market-facing as CFO since October 2019.
- She had held several senior roles there, including chief customer officer and senior vice president for the Americas and New Zealand.

3. The government of India has cleared the appointment of Justice T. S. Sivagnana as the Chief Justice of which High Court _____ **Calcutta**.

Note:

- Presently, he is serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.
- On 25 October 2021, he took oath as a Judge of Calcutta High Court.
- He was appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court and later he was appointed Permanent Judge on 29 March 2011.

4. Who has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Coal India Limited _____ **T. S. Sivagnana**.

Note:

- He is currently posted as CMD of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Ranchi.
- In 2015, he joined NTPC as Executive Director (Coal Mining) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) in 2018 as Director of Technical (P&P).
- In 2019, he was also appointed as CMD of BCCL.
- The Union coal ministry has set a target for Coal India Limited to produce 1012 MT of coal by 2023-24

5. Who has been appointed as the new president of the World Bank, effective June 2, 2023 _____ **Ajay Banga**.

Note:

- He was nominated by US President Joe Biden in February 2023.
- Presently, he is serving as the vice chairman at US investment firm General Atlantic LP.
- Before that, he worked as president and CEO of Mastercard.
- In 2016, he was awarded the fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri.

6. Who has taken his oath and been crowned King in a ceremony in London witnessed by over two thousand guests and dignitaries in Westminster Abbey _____ **Charles III**.

Note:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the King's head during a ceremony at Westminster Abbey and after the King was crowned, his wife Camilla was crowned as the Queen.
- King had taken the solemn oath to govern the United Kingdom people with justice and mercy.

7. Accenture board has appointed whom as the MD of Accenture India, succeeded Rekha M. Menon, who retired after 20 years _____ **Ajay Vij**.



Note:

- He will be responsible for expanding his current responsibilities as Corporate Services & Sustainability lead to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making.
- While Sandeep Dutta will lead the company's Market Unit
- He will serve as the company's India business lead and drive business and operations.

8. Who has been interim CEO of Vodafone Group _____ **Margherita Della Valle**.

Note:

- She has replaced Nick Read, who stepped down in December 2022. Della Valle's career at Vodafone has included marketing, operational, commercial, and financial positions.
- Vodafone Group is a British multinational telecommunications company headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

9. Who has been appointed as his Domestic Policy Advisor to help him craft and implement his domestic policy agenda _____ **Neera Tanden**.

Note:

- She has replaced Susan Rice as Biden's Domestic Policy Advisor.
- She served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks.
- Tanden previously served as senior advisor for health reform at the Department of Health and Human Services.

10. The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) has recommended whom as a new Chairman and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) _____ **Parminder Chopra**.

Note:

- She will be the first woman to be appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Maharatna company.
- She has been working with the company since 2005.
- **Power Finance Corporation:**
 - It is India's largest NBFC by net worth (all reserves).
 - It was incorporated on July 16th, 1986.
 - Registered office: New Delhi

11. Larsen & Toubro board has appointed whom as Chairman and MD, with effect from October 1, 2023 _____ **S N Subrahmanyam**.

Note:

- He will succeed A M Naik, who steps down as Non-Executive Chairman of the L&T Group at the end of his tenure on 30 September 2023.
- Currently, S N Subrahmanyam is serving as the CEO and MD of L&T.
- He has also worked as Deputy MD & President leading L&T's infrastructure business to its position as the country's largest construction organization.

12. Who has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the State Department _____ **Geeta Rao Gupta**.

Note:

- She was confirmed by the US Senate by 51 to 47 votes.
- Prior to this, she has worked as the Executive Director of the UN Foundation's 3D Programme for Girls and Women.
- She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of InterAction and the Moriah Fund.

Important News – India

1. Australian High Commission in India has announced its Government Grant for a Project in which city _____ **Kargil**.

Note:

- This was announced during a Special Meeting at Srinagar chaired by the Australian high commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell.



- The project "Return to Roots" aims to integrate traditional knowledge with the current school science curriculum in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP).
2. India's exports to which country are expected to reach \$50 billion by 2026-27 from \$31.3 billion at present on the back of the free trade agreement between the countries _____ **UAE**.

Note:

- Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal has informed that the trade between India and the UAE has grown significantly after the implementation of the trade agreement on May 1, 2022.
- The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022.
3. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate of India has surged to a four-month high of _____ in April, compared to 7.14% in March 2023 _____ **8.11%**.
- Note:**
- The rise in the unemployment rate came on the back of higher labor participation, which has risen to 41.9% from 39.7% in March.
- Rural India: 20.3 million people entered the workforce and 95% of them got jobs
- Urban India: 5.2 million people entered the workforce, but only half of them got jobs
4. India's domestic coal production has increased by over _____ during the last five years _____ **22%**.

Note:

- The overall coal production has seen a quantum jump to 893.08 Million tonnes in 2022-23 from 728.72 Million tonnes in 2018-2019 with a growth of about 22.6%.
- The govt aims to enhance domestic coal production to reduce the dependence on substitutable coal imports
- Several measures have been taken to ramp up domestic coal production to ensure adequate coal stocks at thermal Power Plants
5. Which Maharatna power finance company has exclusively listed its recently issued Green bonds worth \$750 million at GIFT IFSC Stock Exchanges, under its Global Medium Term Programme of \$7 billion _____ **REC Limited**.
- Note:**
- The Green bond issuance by REC Limited reinforces its status as one of the most accomplished and frequent issuers in the international capital markets.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority Chairman Injeti Srinivas attended the ceremony as chief guest.
6. UGC Chairman has launched the Central University Faculty recruitment portal CU-Chayan. Who is the chairman of UGC _____ **M Jagadesh Kumar**.

Note:

- It is a completely user-friendly portal and caters to the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process.
- Aim: To create an enabling environment for both, universities and the applicants with universities driving all the stages of the recruitment independently
- It has been developed after consultations with all the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities.
7. According to a National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, conducted by the Department of Science and Technology and UNIDO, which state has topped the ranking of the most innovative state in manufacturing _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Followed by Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Haryana.
- The survey also highlighted that Karnataka has the highest number of companies in manufacturing that carry out innovations.
- Bottom: Northeastern states (excluding Assam), followed by Bihar.
8. Which country will launch its own heat index in 2024 to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations _____ **India**.



Note:

- IMD started issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country.
- It includes various parameters like wind, temperature, humidity, duration of exposure, etc.
- Impact of Heat waves: It has an immense impact on human health, causing cramps, exhaustion, stress, and heat stroke.

9. Who inaugurated National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2023-24 _____ **Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar.**

Note:

- During the conference, he announced that the Ministry of Agriculture has set a target of a record 3,320 lakh tonnes (332 million tonnes) production of foodgrains for the year 2023-24.
- In 2022-23, 3,235 lakh tonnes were produced.
- The target for the production of Pulses is fixed at 292.5 lakh and for oilseeds at 440 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.

10. India has operationalized the Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the departure of the inaugural shipment, the MV-ITT LION (V-273), from which port _____ **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.**

Note:

- It is a part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project.
- IT carried 20,000 bags containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement and is expected to reach Sittwe Port on 9 May.
- It was built under a grant of assistance from the Indian government.
- Aim: To boost trade and commerce between the two countries

11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the National SC-ST Hub Scheme, which crossed over one lakh beneficiary registrations. This scheme was launched in which year _____ **2016.**

Note:

- About National SC-ST Hub Scheme: It is an initiative of the Union MSME Ministry.
- Aim: To empower and promote entrepreneurs among SC, ST Communities
- It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a public-sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.

12. Which ministry will organize Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) on 8th May in 200 districts across the country _____ **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**

Note:

- PMNAM will witness the participation of many companies representing various sectors, providing relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth
- Through this, participating organizations can connect with potential apprentices, while strengthening the livelihood opportunities of the youth.

13. Which organization and the National Institute of Urban Affairs jointly organized the 'River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities' in New Delhi _____ **NMCG.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a platform for officials of member cities and international stakeholders to discuss and learn good practices for managing urban rivers
- This seminar has witnessed the participation from Embassies/High Commissions of selected countries and their respective river cities.

14. Which organization has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to develop nuclear power projects _____ **NTPC.**

Note:

- The JV company shall develop two pressurized heavy-water reactors (PHWR) projects, Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW.
- Presently, NTPC has a total installed power generation capacity of 71.644 GW, of which 3.01 GW is renewable energy.



15. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and IHub-Data signed an MoU at _____ **IIIT Hyderabad campus.**

Note:

- Aim: For cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IHub-Data to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities
- IFSCA is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services.
- IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy.

16. Sri Lanka's mobile telecommunication firm, Dialog Axiata, and which telecommunication company have signed a binding term sheet for the merger of their Sri Lankan subsidiaries _____ **India's Bharti Airtel.**

Note:

- With this merger, Bharti Airtel will get access to a large customer base in Sri Lanka.
- Bharti Airtel started its operations in 2009 in Sri Lanka and has a customer base of 1 million in the country.
- Dialog Axiata is a subsidiary of Malaysian Axiata.
- Dialog accounts for 57% of the mobile market in Sri Lanka.

17. India and which country have signed an MoU on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation _____ **Israel.**

Note:

- Aim: To collaborate in high technology areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, and semiconductors, synthetic biology, etc.,
- The MoU was signed between CSIR and the DDR&D, Ministry of Defense of Israel.
- It enables cooperation in the industrial R&D programs in mutually agreeable industrial technology fields through the implementation of specific projects.

18. Union Minister Nityanand Rai has inaugurated the Dawki Land Port in which Indian state _____ **West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya.**

Note:

- Aim: To promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh
- The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district.
- The Dawki Land port will facilitate the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border.
- It will also facilitate passenger movement across the border.

19. According to a report commissioned by the oil ministry, India should ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population by which year and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles _____ **2027.**

Note:

- The report of the committee headed by former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor
- It has also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035
- It help India to achieve the goal of cutting emissions to net zero by 2070

20. Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary has launched the SAKSHAM. What is the expanded form of SAKSHAM _____ **Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management.**

Note:

- It is a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of MoHFW.
- Developed by: National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi
- SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.

21. India has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) with what percent of villages achieving ODF Plus status under phase II of the Mission _____ **50%.**

Note:

- Top performing states (percentage of ODF Plus villages):



- Big States: Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%)
 - Small states: Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%)
 - UTs: A&N Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep (100%)
22. Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the Green Port Guidelines 2023, under the name of _____ **'Harit Sagar'**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To promote environment-friendly practices across all our Ports
 - It provides a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines and achieving SDG.
 - It also aims to minimize waste through reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling to attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
23. Union Ministry of WCD has launched which campaign for strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) _____ **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi.**
- Note:**
- This unique initiative is aimed at ensuring that India has a high-quality preschool network.
 - ECCE is a significant component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 and is envisaged under the NEP.
 - The work will be taken by Anganwadis across the country for providing nutrition as well as better education to children.
24. The Union government has lowered the threshold limit of e-invoicing from Rs 10 crore to _____ **Rs 5 crore.**
- Note:**
- It will be mandatory for smaller businesses to carry out business transactions via e-invoices from August 1, 2023.
 - In the exercise of the powers of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, the government has made the amendment in the notification on the recommendations of the Council.
 - The threshold was lowered to Rs 10 crore on October 1, 2022.
25. India has extended a \$ 1 billion credit line for which country by one year, a backup infusion of dollars for essential imports Post-negotiations, the credit line was extended till March 2024 _____ **Sri Lanka.**
- Note:**
- The credit line, part of about \$ 4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis early last year, which was scheduled to end in March
 - The situation has improved with Sri Lanka finalizing a nearly USD 3 billion bailout package from IMF
26. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) division of the commerce ministry has recommended imposing anti-dumping duties on imports of a specific type of optical fibre from which countries _____ **China, Korea, and Indonesia.**
- Note:**
- Reason: To protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments
 - The DGTR has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fiber' from these countries.
27. According to the Data Governance Quality Index for 2022-2023 Q3, conducted by DMEQ, NITI Aayog, which ministry has secured the second position among 66 ministries _____ **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**
- Note:**
- The Ministry has achieved an impressive score of 4.7 out of 5.
 - Aim of the survey: To measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in the decision-making of various Ministries and Departments on the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).



28. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister attended the 8th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries through video conferencing. Name the agriculture minister _____ **Narendra Singh Tomar**.

Note:

- During the conference, he informed that India's exports of agricultural and allied products have crossed four lakh crore rupees.
- He has also highlighted India's performance in the agriculture sector and contribution to global food security with food grain production.

29. Who has inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad _____ **Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy**.

Note:

- Aim: To provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth
- It was launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at a low cost.
- PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana:
 - Launched by: Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - Initially launched in 2008

30. The Ministry of Railways and which ministry jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail' (Project-SMART) _____ **MoHUA**.

Note:

- Project-SMART envisages developing surrounding areas of Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations.
- This also aimed to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

31. India Post, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), and Tripta Technologies signed an MoU for which portal _____ **Bharat eMart portal**.

Note:

- This portal will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country.
- In the recent past, India Post has entered into similar agreements with GeM, Regional Centers of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

32. Which AIIMS has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control _____ **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS)**.

Note:

- A core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for the implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives.
- For this initiative, AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with Duke-NUS.

33. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Canada have co-chaired the discussions for the sixth India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) in which city _____ **Ottawa**.

Note:

- MDTI is a bilateral mechanism that provides an institutional mechanism to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment-related issues and cooperation areas.
- The Ministers have also reviewed India-Canada CEPA negotiations.

34. The 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) started in which country on May 8, 2023 _____ **Indonesia**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth
- Aim: To demonstrate the bloc's hopes and efforts to become the center and driving force behind global development



- ASEAN is an organization formed by the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore in 1967.
 - Aim: To promote economic growth in the Southeast Asian region
35. Which edition of the two-day International Indian Ocean Conference has been started in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 12, 2023 _____ **Sixth.**

Note:

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the conference.
 - The conference is being organized by the India Foundation in association with the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - 2023 theme for this conference is 'Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership for a Resilient Future'.
 - The event is being attended by about 150 delegates.
36. The fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival (Gaf 2023) will be held in which Indian state from December 1 to 5 _____ **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

Note:

- The theme of the event is 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda'.
- Aim: To bring together Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders from around the world to showcase Ayurveda's potential in addressing health challenges
- The event will also feature over 750 research papers and 750 poster presentations on the sidelines.

Important News – State

1. Which state government launched the Facial Recognition System (FRS) for Inner Line Permit (ILP) system and flagged off two camera-mounted mobile FRS vehicles _____ **Manipur.**

Note:

- It will help in the effective checking of ILP holders whose validity has expired and in better management of the system.
- The system has been implemented on a trial basis.
- In addition, two mobile vehicles will be stationed at different locations in Imphal East and West districts to identify ILP defaulters

2. Which country govt will be introducing a new feature on the 'eSamiksha portal' _____ **Haryana.**

Note:

- Aim: To enable Administrative Secretaries and Head of Departments to monitor the follow-up action taken on decisions made during their meetings and presentations
- It will provide updates on file number, meeting date, chairperson, meeting description, and other documents such as the minutes of the meeting (MOM), which can be accessed by officers of the concerned departments.

3. The Central Government has recently promulgated Article 355 in which state to take charge of the security of the state ____ **Manipur.**

Note:

- Article 355 of the Indian Constitution is a part of emergency provisions contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India, from Article 352 to 360.
- It encourages the centre to take all necessary steps to protect the state against internal disturbances and external aggression.
- It empowers the Centre to take necessary steps to protect a state.

4. The Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship was inaugurated at the KITS Warangal campus in which state _____ **Telangana.**

Note:

- It was inaugurated by Telangana's IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao.
- The govt has promoted innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers.



- Aim: To face the latest Engineering, technological, and entrepreneurship challenges in the 21st Century.
5. The Uttar Pradesh's Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched which program _____ **School Health Program**.
- Note:**
- This program has been started by Lucknow Smart City in three schools in Lucknow.
 - A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project.
 - The benefit of health insurance worth Rs 25,000 is also being given to these children.
6. Union minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the trailer of the "first ever" movie in which language of his home state Arunachal Pradesh _____ **Tagin language**.
- Note:**
- The film "Love in 90s" will be tax-free and will ask the state government to promote it through other means as well.
 - The film looks at displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world.
 - Tagin or Ghasi Miri tribe is an indigenous community of the Tawang and West Kameng districts, Arunachal Pradesh.
7. Which state government has introduced a Robotics Framework, for providing a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State _____ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- This is the first-of-its-kind policy in the country.
 - The Government will set up a Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC) to implement the framework, which will focus on the key pillars of infrastructure access, business enablement, fostering research and innovation, development of a skilled workforce, and responsible deployment.
8. PM Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth over 5,500 crore rupees in which Indian state _____ **Nathdwara, Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- He has also laid the foundation stone for the gauge conversion project and for setting up a new line from Nathdwara to Nathdwara town in Rajsamand.
 - He dedicated three NH projects, including a six-lane Udaipur to Shamlaji section of NH-48 and the widening and strengthening work of the Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur Section of NH-25.
9. Which state has become the first state in India to implement the 'right to walk' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansions of roads and construction _____ **Punjab**.
- Note:**
- Reason: Every month more than 10 pedestrians/ bicycle riders are killed in road accidents due to encroachment on pedestrian footpaths
 - Road-owning agencies include NHAI, the public works department, local bodies, and urban development departments.
10. Which Indian airport has become the first in India to have a reading lounge _____ **Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport**.
- Note:**
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi has inaugurated the lounge.
 - Apart from books on Kashi, the lounge's library has a collection of literature and books in many international languages besides books of youth authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana.
 - The lounge has been established with the assistance of National Book Trust (NBT).



Important News – World

1. Who will be the guest of honour at France's traditional military parade, which will be held during Bastille Day on 14th July _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- PM's visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between France and India.
- Bastille Day is named after the fall of a fortress that symbolized the French revolution of 1789.
- PM Modi will be 2nd Indian PM to be the guest of honour after Manmohan Singh in 2009.

2. Which country's agency has approved the world's first Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults _____ **United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).**

Note:

- However, this vaccine still needs approval from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, before its launch in Public.
- The vaccine was approved for people aged 60 and older.
- RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms.
- It can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.

3. According to a report, released by the UN, an estimated 13.4 million babies were born pre-term in 2020, with 45% of them being born in just five countries, including India, Pakistan, Nigeria, China, and Ethiopia. What is the title of report _____ **Born Too Soon: Decade of Action on Pre-term Birth.**

Note:

- It is jointly produced by the WHO, UNICEF, and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH).
- The global pre-term birth rate increased to 9.9% in 2020, compared to 9.8% in 2010.

4. WHO has declared which disease is no longer a global health emergency _____ **mpox outbreak.**

Note:

- In July 2022, WHO declared mpox, previously known as monkeypox, a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).
- This move indicates that the crisis due to mpox has come under control.
- Mpox spreads through direct contact with body fluids and causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled skin lesions.
- The WHO recently also declared an end of public health emergency status for COVID-19.

5. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)'s annual report, the number of internally displaced people around the world reached _____ as of the end of 2022 _____ **71 million.**

Note:

- The number of movements in which people fled in search of safety and shelter was also unprecedented in 2022 with a figure of 60.9 million.
- The conflict in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements and monsoon floods in Pakistan triggered 8.2 million.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been conferred a BAFTA Fellowship, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) _____ **Meera Syal.**

Note:

- Recognition: For an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film/television
- She was honored with an MBE and then a CBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to drama and literature.
- She is best known for television shows such as 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42'.



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2. The Cannes Film Festival will honor whom with an honorary Palme d'Or _____ **Michael Douglas.**

Note:

- Reason: For his outstanding career and contributions to cinema
- He will be honoured during the festival's opening ceremony on May 16.
- Douglas has worked in various films like The China Syndrome, Basic Instinct, Falling Down, and Behind the Candelabra.

3. Who was awarded the title of "Shatabdi Purush" (Man of the Century) in New Delhi _____ **Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan.**

Note:

- Reason: For his contributions as a socialist leader
- The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye (renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian).
- Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush".

4. Which organization has awarded its annual World Press Freedom Prize to three imprisoned Iranian female journalists _____ **UNESCO.**

Note:

- The winners, Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi.
- They were recognized for their work in reporting on human rights abuses in Iran and their commitment to truth and accountability.

5. With whom Barbara Kingsolver (American Novelist) has shared the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in the fiction category _____ **Hernan Diaz (Argentina Writer).**

Note:

- Barbara Kingsolver was awarded for her novel 'Demon Copperhead' and Hernan Diaz won for his novel 'Trust'.
- Other categories:
- Drama: English, by Sanaz Toossi
- Biography: G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century, by Beverly Gage (Viking)
- Memoir or Autobiography: Stay True, by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)

6. ICC has named which cricket player as ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2023 _____ **Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman.**

Note:

- While Thailand's skipper Naruemon Chaiwai as ICC Women's Player of the Month
- Fakhar Zaman: He becomes the first Pakistani player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen in November 2022.
- Naruemon Chaiwai: She chipped in with 55 runs across the T20I series that followed, her 29 in the second T20I helping her side edge out Zimbabwe in a five-wicket win.

7. Who has been named the Sportsman of the Year at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards _____ **Argentina footballer, Lionel Messi.**

Note:

- He was awarded for his remarkable achievements on the pitch in the past year, which included leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup.
- Sportswoman of the Year: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica) Athletics
- Team of the Year: Argentina Men's Football Team
- Breakthrough: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Tennis
- Comeback: Christian Eriksen (Denmark) Football

8. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred how many Gallantry awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, CAPF, and State or Union Territory Police during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) in New Delhi _____ **37.**



Note:

- The 37 Gallantry awards include eight Kirti Chakras (including five posthumous) and 29 Shaurya Chakras (including five posthumous).
 - The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty
9. Name the eminent astronomer, who was awarded the first-ever Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) _____ **Prof Jayant V. Narlikar.**

Note:

- He was also a founder director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune.
 - The ASI instituted the award in 2022 to recognize eminent Indian astronomers for their contributions to the field of astronomy and astrophysics.
 - Prof Narlikar is known for his study of the Universe.
10. Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has conferred CDS Unit Citations award to the Strategic Forces Command, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad and which special force _____ **2 PARA (Special Forces).**

Note:

- Reason: For their exemplary performance for the Year 2021-22
 - The CDS unit citations award was constituted after the establishment of the Office of Chief of Defence Staff in 2019.
 - Aim: To boost jointness and integration in the Armed Forces
11. Who has won the inaugural edition of the Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature in Translation _____ **Musharraf Ali Farooqi.**

Note:

- He translated Siddique Alam's 'The Kettledrum and Other Stories' from Urdu to English.
 - The book will be published by Open Letter Books in 2024.
 - The Armory Square Prize for translation was instituted by the American venture capitalist firm Armory Square.
 - Aim: To recognize literature from underrepresented traditions
12. Saantinketan has been recommended for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List, is the home of which Nobel laureate _____ **Rabindra Nath Tagore.**

Note:

- The quaint town in West Bengal's Birbhum district is also home to the Visva-Bharti University built by Tagore.
 - Santiniketan, over 160 km from Kolkata, was originally an ashram built by Tagore's father Debendranath Tagore.
 - India has a total of 40 sites that enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage tag.
13. Who has won Swansea University's Dylan Thomas Prize 2023 for a "kaleidoscopic reflection of queer life and love in Nigeria" _____ **Writer Arinze Ifeakandu.**

Note:s

- Dylan Thomas Prize is a recognition of literary works by authors aged 39 or under and is one of the most prestigious awards for young writers.
- His debut book is God's Children Are Little Broken Things', which is a collection of nine short stories on the themes of queer life, love, and humanity.

Sports News

1. Name the Indian pair, who has clinched the men's doubles title at the Badminton Asia Championship 2023 held in Dubai, UAE from 25 to 30 April 2023 _____ **Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.**

Note:

- They defeated eighth-seeded Malaysian pair Teo Ee Yi and Ong Yew Sin in the final.



- They become the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the Badminton Asia Championships title.
 - With this win, they also clinched India's second-ever Badminton Asia Championships title after Dinesh Khanna in 1965.
2. Who has become China's first male world chess champion, after defeating his Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth rapid game of the first tie-breaker at Astana, Kazakhstan _____ **Ding Liren.**
- Note:**
- He succeeded as the winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen.
 - His victory makes him the 17th winner of the world chess tournament.
 - In 2009, he became China's youngest chess champion at national level.
3. Who won the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023 World Championship, in Baku, Azerbaijan _____ **Red Bull's driver, Sergio Perez.**
- Note:**
- He defeated his teammate Max Verstappen to victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.
 - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third and Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place.
 - Previous Grand Prix:
 - Australian GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
 - Saudi Arabia GP: Sergio Pérez (Red Bull)
 - Bahrain GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
4. Which mixed Indian shooters pair won India's first gold medal in the ongoing ISSF World Cup Shotgun 2023, held in Cairo, Egypt _____ **Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon.**
- Note:**
- The Indian mixed doubles pair defeated Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez 6-0 in the final of the Skeet Mixed Team.
 - While the duo of Simona Scocchetti and Gabrielle Rossetti from Italy secured their bronze medal in the tournament.
5. Indian Men's team has surpassed which country to become the number one Test team in the latest rankings released by ICC on May 2, 2023 _____ **Australia.**
- Note:**
- Currently, India has topped the ranking with 121 points, while Australia ranked second with 116 points.
 - Earlier this year, India posted a 2-1 series win against Australia to retain the Border-Gavaskar trophy for the fourth consecutive time.
 - England, South Africa, and New Zealand placed third, fourth, and fifth spots respectively.
6. Which city will host the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) from June 21 to July 2, 2023 _____ **Dubai (UAE).**
- Note:**
- The chess league will be held in association with Dubai Sports Council, the hosting partner of the league.
 - It will feature six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team.
 - The six teams will compete in a round-robin format where each team will play 10 matches.
 - GCL is a joint venture of FIDE and Tech Mahindra
7. Name the Indian weightlifter who has won the silver in the women's 55kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023, held in South Korea _____ **Bindyarani Devi.**
- Note:**
- She had lifted a total weight of 194kg (snatch 83kg and 111kg in clean & jerk) in the non-Olympic 55kg category.
 - Chen Guan Ling (China) won the gold medal with a combined lift of 204kg (snatch 90kg + clean & jerk 114kg) and Vo Thi Quynh Nhu (Vietnam) won the bronze with a lift of 192kg.



8. Which tennis player has successfully defended his title at Madrid Open 2023 and won his fourth ATP Tour trophy of the year and his tenth overall _____ **Carlos Alcaraz**.

Note:

- In the final, he defeated Jan-Lennard Struff (German) 6-4 3-6 6-3.
- While Aryna Sabalenka from Belarus has clinched the Women's singles title at Madrid Open 2023.
- Other winners:
- Men's doubles: Karen Khachanov / Andrey Rublev
- Women's doubles: Victoria Azarenka / Beatriz Haddad Maia

9. Which state cricket academy has launched a Talent Scout Program for women to unearth new talents _____ **Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)**.

Note:

- The Talent Scout Wing which will comprise former men and women first-class cricketers and coaches, will help in identifying the talent across the state
- The TNCA has formed four groups of four members each who will cover all 37 districts in Tamil Nadu.
- Any player who is above 13 years of age can attend the trials.

10. Hriday Hazarika and which Indian shooter have bagged silver medals in the men's and women's 10-meter air rifle events at ISSF World Cup 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan _____ **Nancy Mandhotra**.

Note:

- In the 10m air pistol mixed team, Sarabjot Singh and Divya TS won gold.
- Rhythm Sangwan secured a bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event.
- In the overall medals tally, India finished its campaign second behind China.
- The Baku meet is the penultimate stage of the ISSF World Cup 2023.

Books and Authors

1. Which organization has released the "Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium, 2023" in collaboration with the UNDP _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- Reason: To commemorate 75 years of India's independence and highlight and laud the efforts of Union Ministries and State Governments.
- This compendium includes 75 case studies cutting across 14 key social sectors.
- The aim of this exercise has been to synthesize lessons for the future to expand, enhance and improve life at the grassroots level.

2. Who has authored a new book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise" _____ **Amitabh Kant**.

Note:

- Rupa Publications India published this book.
- He served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022).

3. Who has launched the Hindi version of cybercrime named 'Cyber Encounters' _____ **Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami**.

Note:

- This book was co-authored by state director general of Police (DGP) Ashok Kumar and former DRDO scientist OP Manocha.
- This book will help the readers in becoming aware of various cyber crimes as it has mentioned actually related cases.
- It will serve to inspire people to protect themselves from cybercrime.

4. Oprah Winfrey has co-authored a book titled 'Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier' with which author _____ **Arthur C Brooks**.



Note:

- The book is expected to be released on September 12, 2023, by Portfolio Books.
- This book will introduce readers to the incredible science of happiness, based on the best research available.
- Other books by Winfrey: What I Know for Sure, The Path Made Clear, and Food, Health, and Happiness

Science and Defence

1. Which IIT's researchers has developed a machine learning-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumors in the brain and spinal cord _____ **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)**.

Note:

- The web server known as 'GBMDriver' (Glioblastoma Multiforme Drivers) is now publicly available online.
 - The GBMDriver was developed specifically to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations (passenger mutations are neutral mutations) in Glioblastoma.
2. A new low-cost star sensor, named 'StarBerrySense', developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) from off-the-shelf components, has started functioning properly in its first test launch.

Note:

- It was put into space by Isro's PSLV C-55 on April 22, 2023.
 - Function: Quickly and accurately calculate where a satellite is pointing in space as for any space mission
 - The star sensor can find its pointing direction in space by identifying the stars in its field of view.
3. Which organization and Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'ADC-150' from IL 38SD aircraft, Goa _____ **DRDO**.

Note:

- It is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with a 150 kg payload capacity.
 - The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick responses to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships.
 - It reduces the requirement for ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.
4. India has participated in the inaugural edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise with its two frontline warships- INS Satpura and which INS _____ **INS Delhi**.

Note:

- The harbor phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at the Changi Naval Base (Singapore) from May 2-4, while the sea phase will be conducted from May 7-8 in the South China Sea
 - INS Delhi is India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer, while INS Satpura is an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate.
5. What is the name of an integrated surveillance and firepower training Exercise that was conducted at the Highest Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre _____ **BULAND BHARAT**.

Note:

- It involves the synergized application of surveillance and firepower capabilities of the Artillery and the Infantry in close coordination with Special Forces, Aviation, and CAPF deployed in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - Uninterrupted communication on multiple media was also tested at long distances.
6. Which Indian Naval Ship's has been decommissioned after 36 years of exceptional service to the nation _____ **INS Magar**.

Note:

- The ship's decommissioning ceremony was held at Southern Naval Command, Kochi.



- It was indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, Kolkata and was launched on 16th November 1984 and commissioned into the Indian Navy on 18 July 1987 by Admiral R H Tahiliani.
7. Name the Indian naval sailing vessel, that will be returned to India after a six-month-long transoceanic intercontinental expedition _____ **Tarini**.

Note:

- It commenced from Goa on November 17, 2022, and is scheduled to be completed at the same venue on May 24, 2023.
 - During the expedition, Tarini sailed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Cape Town, South Africa, participating in Cape to Rio Race 2023.
8. Which organization has launched NASA's two satellites to study tropical storms and hurricanes _____ **Rocket Lab**.

Note:

- The two CubeSats, the founding members of the agency's TROPICS network, launched atop a Rocket Lab Electron rocket, which was lifted off from New Zealand.
 - Aim: To improve forecasting and provide new insights into how tropical storms evolve and intensify
 - The TROPICS constellation will consist of four CubeSats in low Earth orbit.
9. IIT Madras and which organization have developed cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications _____ **DRDO**.

Note:

- The Indigenous technology will enable the fabrication of devices at a relatively lower cost.
 - 'Piezoelectric MEMS technology' is required to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo thin film' into state-of-the-art futuristic naval sensors and devices for underwater applications.
 - The Piezo Thin Films are one of the vital components of piezo MEMS devices.
10. Which organization has collaborated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to launch a new geospatial foundation model _____ **International Business Machines (IBM)**.

Note:

- It is designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future.
 - It is expected to be available for preview in the second half of 2023.
 - This model would be part of IBM's watsonx.ai, a next-gen enterprise studio.
11. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of scientific projects worth more than what amount on May 11 _____ **Rs 5800 crore**.

Note:

- One of the most significant projects is the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).
 - The LIGO-India will be developed in Hingoli, Maharashtra.
 - It is an extremely sensitive interferometer of 4 km arm length and act as 'antennae' to detect gravitational waves.
 - It will work in synchronization with two observatories operating in the US.
12. Which space agency has successfully commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines, that would power future launch vehicles _____ **ISRO**.

Note:

- The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine was carried out at the newly-commissioned Semicryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The test is a step towards developing a 2000 kN thrust engine, which works on Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene propellant combination.



13. Which space start up is aiming to launch a school bus-sized space station to orbit by late 2025 in association with Elon Musk's rocket firm, SpaceX _____ **Vast.**

Note:

- The cylindrical spacecraft dubbed Haven-1 is the latest platform planned as a replacement for the International Space Station (ISS).
- The ISS is expected to retire in 2030.
- In 2021, NASA awarded \$415 million in development funds to four companies including Northrop Grumman and Blue Origin.

14. Which space agency has launched a second football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB), under its Scientific Balloon Program, from Wānaka Airport, New Zealand _____ **US space agency, NASA.**

Note:

- The first scientific balloon was launched on April 16, following five failed attempts last year.
- Airways (New Zealand's air navigation services provider) works with Nasa to launch the balloons, which inflate fully in flight to 532,000 cubic meters and carry a scientific payload.

15. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated India's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in which city _____ **Chandigarh.**

Note:

- It will highlight the IAF's role in various wars.
- It also houses the first IAF-made patent aircraft Air Force 'Kanpur-1 Vintage Prototype Aircraft', a single-engine indigenous flying machine designed and built by the late Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in 1958.
- In June 2022, an MoU on the heritage centre was signed between the Chandigarh administration and IAF.

16. Which edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was concluded in the Andaman Sea on May 10, 2023 _____ **35th edition.**

Note:

- Aim: To reinforce maritime linkages between the two countries and ensure the safety and security of the international trade route in the Indian Ocean
- INS Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L), and HTMS Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate participated in the exercise.

17. Which edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 is being organized in Batam, Indonesia from 14-19 May 2023 _____ **4th edition.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance interoperability, jointness, and mutual cooperation between both navies
- India Navy has participated with INS Kavaratti, Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, and Chetak helicopter.
- While the Indonesian Navy participated with KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and AS565 Panther Helicopter



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