

Monthly GK Digest

April 2023



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of '**April-2023**'. This file is important for **CLAT and Other Law entrance exams**.

Economic & Financial Awareness

1. **Fino Payments Bank** has renewed its association with **Rajasthan Royals (RR)** for Season 16 of the Indian premier cricket competition, IPL.
Note: Fino Bank will be RR's official **digital banking partner**. The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the digital payments partner. The newly launched **FinoPay digital savings account** is expected to get more traction through this engagement.
2. The **interest rate of the National Savings Certificate** will now **attract 7.7%** up from 7%.
Note: The rate for **Sukanya Samriddhi** has increased to 8% from 7.6%. The interest rates for **PPF** and **savings deposits** have been retained at 7.1% and 4%. **Senior citizen savings** scheme: 8.2%. **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**: 7.5%. KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier.
3. India's **GST revenue collection for March 2023** stood at **1.6 lakh crore rupees**, which is 13% higher than the GST revenues in March 2022.
Note: It is for the **fourth time**, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has **crossed 1.5 lakh crore rupees**, since the implementation of GST. Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees. The gross revenues in 2022-23 were 22% higher than in 2021-22.
4. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** in collaboration with **Airtel** has launched **WhatsApp Banking Services** for IPPB customers in New Delhi.
Note: This channel will enable IPPB customers to seamlessly connect with the bank on WhatsApp and effortlessly avail of a host of banking services. It includes doorstep service requests, locating the nearest Post Office, and much more. Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers.
5. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved a **15.6 billion US dollar support package for Ukraine** to assist with the conflict-hit country's economic recovery.
Note: The loan is part of a broader **115 billion US dollar** international support package to help the country meet urgent funding needs. Of the total amount, 2.7 billion dollars is being made available to Ukraine immediately and the rest of the funds are due to be released over the next four years.
6. According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **current account deficit (CAD)** has **narrowed to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP)** in the **October to December quarter (Q3FY23)** from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September 2022.
Note: Reason: The decline was mainly due to the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit. Services exports reported a growth of 24.5% on a y-o-y basis. **CAD:** It is the **difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange**.
7. **Union Bank of India** has become the **first Indian bank** to open its '**Special Rupee Vostro**' account through its corresponding bank in **Malaysia** i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia for trade settlement in rupee.
Note: The trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the Indian rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. In July 2022, RBI decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee. **Malaysia currency: Ringgit**
8. According to the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the government's **fiscal deficit for April 2022-February 2023** has **widened to Rs 14.54 lakh crore**, i.e. **accounted for 82.8%** of the full-year target for 2022-23.
Note: In 2021-22, the Fiscal deficit in the first 11 months was 82.7% of that year's target. The Centre made an upward revision in its **fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 in the 2023 Budget to Rs 17.55 lakh crore** from Rs 16.61 lakh crore.
9. **IRDAI** has identified Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), New India Assurance, and General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) as **domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for 2022-23**.
Note: These were the **same institutions identified as DSII in 2021-22**. D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance, and domestic and global

interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

10. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, **India's foreign exchange reserves increased** by \$5.98 billion to **\$578.78 billion on March 24, 2023**.

Note: Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023. **India's foreign currency assets (FCA) also increased** from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion. **India's gold reserves rose** by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.

11. The **Public sector banks (PSBs)** have **transferred unclaimed deposits of ₹35,012 crore** as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Reason: Risks arising from global and domestic factors. ADB has also highlighted that India's GDP will rise in FY25 to 6.7%. While inflation will likely moderate to

5% in 2023-24, assuming moderation in oil and food prices. Inflation will be at 4.5% in FY25.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. According to the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, released by **the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, the **global merchandise trade volume is expected to grow by 1.7% in 2023** as compared to an earlier estimate of 1% in October 2022.

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

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

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

21. The **PM MUDRA Yojana** has completed **8 years** of its inception on **April 8, 2023**.

Note: As per the government data, around Rs 23.2 lakh crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts under this scheme since its inception. About 68% of accounts under the scheme belong to Women entrepreneurs. 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs

- of SC/ST and OBC categories. **MUDRA Yojana: Launched: 2015;** Aim: To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh
22. **World Bank** Group President David Malpass has informed that the lender has revised its **2023 global growth outlook slightly upward to 2%** from a January 2023 forecast of 1.7%.
Note: But the slowdown from stronger 2022 growth will increase debt distress for developing countries. Reason: The upward revision was due to an **improved outlook for China's recovery** from Covid-19 lockdowns, with growth now pegged at 5.1% this year compared to 4.3%.
23. The Income Tax Department has notified the **Cost Inflation Index (CII)** for the current fiscal beginning April 2023, for **calculating long-term capital gains** arising from the sale of immovable property, securities, and jewelry.
Note: CII is **used by taxpayers to compute gains** arising out of the sale of capital assets after adjusting for inflation. The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2023-24 relevant to AY 2024-25 stood at 348. It is notified under the Income-tax Act, 1961 every year
24. The government official has informed that the union government may set up the **16th finance commission** this FY 2023-24.
Note: Aim: To suggest the ratio in which **tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for five years, beginning April 1, 2026.** Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations. The 15th Commission, under NK Singh, had kept the tax devolution ratio at 42%.
25. **SBI** is planning to launch new variants of the current a/c (with balances of ₹50,000 and ₹50 lakh) and the **"Parivar" (family) savings a/c in FY24.**
Note: Aim: To minimize the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. Domestic deposits of SBI grew 8.86% year-on-year (y-o-y) by the end of 2022. While domestic advances were up 16.9% y-o-y. SBI also expects that it's domestic deposits and domestic advances will grow about 12% and 16% y-o-y, respectively, in FY24.
26. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the framework for **acceptance of Green Deposits** of regulated entities (RE).
Note: Aim: To foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country. The framework will come into effect from June 1, 2023. It is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks including SFB **excluding RRBs, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks.** It also **includes all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, including Housing Finance Companies.
27. The **ICICI Bank** has introduced an **EMI facility for UPI payments** made by scanning a QR code.
Note: Those customers are eligible for **the PayLater facility** can avail of the EMI facility using the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' option. Customers can pay amounts above Rs 10,000 in easy installments for 3, 6, and 9 months. The ICICI Bank's PayLater facility was introduced in 2018 to enable customers to buy small ticket items in a completely paperless manner.
28. **JICA (Japanese lender) and Citibank will provide a USD 125 million funding line to India's IndusInd Bank.**
Note: Reason: For co-finance funding for on-lending to the agricultural sector in the country. The funding includes a **JPY 13 billion (approx USD 97.45 million) loan** from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and another **USD 30 million from Citi** to IndusInd Bank. In the past, Citi has committed USD 1 trillion to sustainable finance by 2030.
29. The annual World Economic Outlook of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has **lowered India's economic growth projection** for the current fiscal (2023-24) to 5.9% from 6.1% earlier.
Note: Yet India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world. It has also lowered the forecast for 2024-25 to 6.3% from the 6.8% it had predicted in January 2023. IMF growth forecast is lower than projections by the RBI, which predicted a 6.4% in the current fiscal.
30. **NSE Indices Ltd**, an arm of the National Stock Exchange, has launched the country's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts index - **Nifty REITs and InvITs Index.**
Note: Aim: To track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE. A **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** or an **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** is an investment vehicle that owns revenue-generating real estate or infrastructure assets.
31. The **RBI** has proposed **to prohibit the capitalization of penal charges** and additional interest levied by banks on customers for **loan defaults.**
Note: Aim: To streamline divergent practices followed by lenders. As per the **draft circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'**, the quantum of penal charges should be proportional to the defaults/non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contracts up to a threshold.
32. **HDFC Bank** has signed a **"Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement"** with the **Export-Import Bank of Korea** for a **USD 300 million line of credit.**
Note: The pact was signed by the two entities at **GIFT City in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. It will help bank to raise foreign currency funds which it would extend to Korea-related businesses. It can be utilized towards funding requirements of consumers for the purchase of cars manufactured by Korean companies.
33. **RBI** has authorized the **Karnataka Bank** to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
Note: The RBI authorized on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Customers are enjoying seamless online payments for custom duty by

selecting Karnataka Bank in the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway 'ICEGATE' portal of CBIC.

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

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

35. **YES Bank** has become the **first Indian company** to have over **50 lakh shareholders**.

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

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

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

37. According to the **United Nations**, **India's economic growth** is projected to **decelerate to 6% in 2023** from 6.6% in 2022.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

42. **Gazprombank** 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.

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.

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

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.

44. The CBIC (**Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs**) is likely to introduce a system of publishing daily currency exchange rates on the integrated customs portal.

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.

45. ADB will provide a loan of USD 230 million to **Bangladesh** to help the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the northeastern part of the country affected by devastating floods in May-June 2022.

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.
- 46. AU Small Finance 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.
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.
- 47. RBI** has approved the AU Small Finance Bank and **Equitas Bank** to deal in foreign exchange.
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
- 48. South Indian Bank** has introduced SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE, two flexible saving accounts, for NRI customers.
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/-
- 49. Federal Bank** has signed with an agri fintech start-up, KiVi as Banking Correspondent.
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
- 50. Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd.** provider has introduced three add-on covers for its vehicle insurance policies - Smart Save, Roadside assistance, and Return-to-invoice.
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.
- 51. HDFC Bank** has received a three years to comply with the priority sector lending norms (PSL).
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.
- 52. Mastercard** has joined hands with M1xchange to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-MSMEs through Farm Pass.
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.
- 53. According to the Morgan Stanley report, 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.
- 54. IndusInd Bank** is planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie'.
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
- 55. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed penalties totaling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks.
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.
- 56. Which bank and HDFC Bank** would acquire up to a 9.94 percent stake in Go Digit-Life Insurance.
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.
- 57. Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** will launch a gold-pegged digital currency and legalize them in the country.
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

58. Neobanking platform **Jupiter** has received a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India to enter into the lending business.
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.
59. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank** with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023.
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 on-members held by it.
60. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has opened an exclusive branch for startups at the Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.
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
61. **Reliance General Insurance** has become India's first general insurance company to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee for premium payments.
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.
62. **Bank of India** has launched the "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens.
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%.
63. FMCG giant **ITC** has overtaken the market capitalization of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges.
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
64. **HDFC Bank** has introduced a Digital Distribution Platform, 'Smart Saathi' for its agents and business correspondents to sell services, especially in rural areas.
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. Noted **author Sara Thomas** passed away at 88 due to age-related ailments.
Note: She is a two-time recipient of the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi award**. Her noted work 'Narmadipudava' won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1979. She was also awarded the academy's award in 2010 for her overall contribution to Malayalam literature. Her second novel 'Muripadukal' was made into a movie titled 'Manimuzhakkam' in 1976, which won several national and state awards.
2. Former India **all-rounder Salim Durani** passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
Note: He played 29 Tests for India from 1960 to 1973, scoring 1,202 runs at an average of 25.04, with one century (104 against West Indies in 1962) and seven fifties. He was a left-arm spinner and claimed 75 wickets at 35.42 apiece. In first-class cricket, he **played for Saurashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan**. He was born in Kabul (Afghanistan) in 1934 and was raised in Jamnagar.
3. **Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Thottathil B Radhakrishnan** passed away in Kochi at the age of 63.
Note: He also served as the **Chief Justice of Telangana and Chattisgarh HC** and was a judge of the Kerala HC. He was an expert in civil, constitutional, and administrative matters. He also chaired the expert committee formed by the Kerala Forest Department to record details of houses and commercial establishments that surround wildlife sanctuaries.
4. **Veteran composer and green activist Ryuichi Sakamoto** passed away at the age of 71 due to cancer.
Note: He was a **Japanese composer**, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO). As a film-score composer, he won an Oscar, a BAFTA, a Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards. He won an Academy Award with his score for the 1987 period epic "The Last Emperor".
5. **Jharkhand minister Jagannath Mahto** passed away at 56 in Chennai.

- Note:** He was the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in the Giridih district, Jharkhand. He was also known as **Tiger Mahto or Tiger Jagarnath Da**. He was born on January 1, 1967, in the Alargo village of Bokaro District in Jharkhand and dropped out of high school and attended Nehru High School in 1995 before leaving his studies to pursue a career in politics.
6. **Legendary theatre actor & co-founder of Akshara Theatre, Jalabala Vaidya** passes away at 86 in New Delhi.
Note: She was the daughter of Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English classical singer Madge Franckeiss. She was **awarded the Delhi government's Varisht Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, Delhi Natya Sangh Award, the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honor, and Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA.**
 7. **A former IAS officer and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Naresh Gupta** passed away at 72 after a prolonged illness.
Note: He was a native of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was the CEO during the DMK regime between 1998 and 2000. Subsequently, late chief minister J Jayalalithaa appointed him as home secretary. He was again posted as the CEO between 2005 and 2010 and held the post during the 2006 assembly election and 2009 general elections.
 8. The **former chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra Group** of companies, **Keshub Mahindra** passed away at 99 in Mumbai.
Note: He served as chairman of the conglomerate from 1963 to 2012. He joined the Board of the company in 1948 and was elected chairman in 1963. He was awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur by the French Government in 1987. He re-entered the **Forbes list of India's Richest Billionaires for 2023** with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.
 9. **Veteran Liberation Warfighter and legendary public health activist Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury** passed away at 81 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Note: He was a **vascular surgeon and a pioneer in public health**. He won the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** in the Community Leadership category in 1985 and the Right Livelihood Prize in 1992 for his outstanding work in the public health sector. In 1971, he left his medical studies in the UK to join the liberation war of Bangladesh.
 10. **Veteran film and television actress Uttara Baokar** passed away at 79 in Pune, Maharashtra.
Note: In 1984, she won India's **National Academy for Acting, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**. She also appeared in Marathi films like Doghi (1995) with Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Renuka Daftardar, Uttarayan (2005), Shevri (2006), and Restaurant (2006), with Sonali Kulkarni. She has played various roles in different plays such as Padmavati in Mukyhamantri and Mena in Mena Gurjari.
 11. An actor and comedian Allu Ramesh passed away due to cardiac arrest in Visakhapatnam, was associated with **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, Tholubommalata, Madhura Wines, and Ravana Desam.
 12. Sidharth Rao, who passed away, was a co-founder and former CEO of **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.
 13. 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.
 14. Tarek Fatah, who passed away, was associated with **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-Smitism.' He won various awards such as the Donner Prize, and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award.
 15. Parkash Singh Badal, who passed away, was CM of **Punjab** state.
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.
 16. Mamukkoya, who passed away, was a veteran actor-comedian of **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.
 17. 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

- World Autism day** is observed annually on **April 2** to promote awareness and advocacy for the rights of people with autism.
Note: This year marks the 16th anniversary of the day. This year the **theme is "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."** In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day, following a proposal put forward by the State of Qatar.
- International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed every year on **April 4** to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication.
Note: Theme 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait. The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads the mine action community, which plays an important role in achieving the goals of mine action. On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April to observe as this day.
- India** observed the **60th National Maritime Day on April 5, 2023**, to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty.
Note: The ship sailed from Mumbai to London. This day was started by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways in 1964. **The theme for 2023 has not yet been announced.** The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'. World Maritime Day is observed on 28 September.
- The **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)** takes place on **April 6** to celebrate the role of sports and physical activity in our lives across the globe.
Note: 2023 theme: Scoring for People and the Planet. On August 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 67/296 to proclaim April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. This day was supported by the International Olympic Committee.
- World Health Day** is celebrated every year on **April 7** to spread awareness about health-related issues that affect people all over the world.
Note: On this day, World Health Organisation (WHO) was founded in 1948 and this year marks the 75th founding anniversary of WHO. This year, **the theme for World Health Day is 'Health for All'.** The theme highlights an opportunity for the world to look back at public health successes that have helped improve the quality of life.
- International Conscience Day** is celebrated on **April 5** to promote peace.
Note: Conscience is the ability of a person to distinguish between what's right and what's wrong. It allows people to have a moral backbone and to protect those who are weak.
- The Indian Government organized the **Prevention of Blindness Week from April 1-7 every year.**
Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness. The annual event aims to support individuals with visual impairments and to promote access to eye care services.
- World Chagas Disease Day** is observed every year on **April 14th** to raise awareness about a life-threatening illness that can cause severe heart and digestive problems.
Note: It is also known as American trypanosomiasis, silent disease, or silenced disease. It is more common in Central America, Mexico, and South America. **The theme for 2023 is Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care.** World Chagas Disease Day was established in 2020.
- World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10th** to honor the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.
Note: Samuel Hahnemann is the founder of homeopathy and a German physician. This year (2023) marks the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann. **The theme for 2023 is 'One Health, One Family'.**
- India** has commemorated the **132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** on April 14, 2023, as Ambedkar Jayanti.
Note: This day has been declared a public holiday by the central government. He is widely recognized as the "father of the Indian Constitution. He was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- India** marked the **104th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.**
Note: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab. The incident continues to remind us of the brutalities inflicted upon the Indian people during British colonial rule. To commemorate the spirit of revolutionaries and those who lost their lives in the brutal massacre, the government set up a memorial in 1951 at Jallianwala Bagh.
- The **International Day of Human Space Flight** is observed annually on **April 12th** to commemorate the beginning of human space exploration.
Note: It also acknowledges the significant contribution of space science and technology in achieving the

peaceful use of outer space. This day is dedicated to honoring the first human to orbit the Earth, a Russian cosmonaut, on April 12th, 1961. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, completing a full orbit around the Earth.

13. **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed every year on **April 11** for promoting the well-being and safety of mothers and expectant mothers by increasing awareness of proper healthcare.

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

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

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'.

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

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

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

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

17. World Liver Day is observed annually on **April 19** to raise awareness about liver-related diseases.

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.

18. India has observed National Civil Services Day every year on **April 21** to honour the contributions of the

officers who work for the nation's numerous public service departments.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

24. World Veterinary Day is celebrated on **Last Saturday of April** to mark the importance of veterinary doctors who serve to protect animal's.
- 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.
25. India observed Ayushman Bharat Diwas every year on **April 30** to promote the Ayushman Bharat Yojana values.
- 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.

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

- Amit Kshatriya**, an Indian-American software and robotics engineer was appointed as the **first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme**, with immediate effect.
Note: The new office aims to carry out the agency's human exploration activities on the Moon and Mars for the benefit of humanity. He will be responsible for planning and executing human missions to these celestial bodies for the betterment of humanity. **NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson**
- Adani Group has appointed the **former envoy of Israel to India, Ron Malka** as the **Executive Chairman of the Haifa Port Company**.
Note: He served as the **ambassador of Israel to India from 2018-2021**. It is the second-largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers. The Adani Group officially took over this port in January 2023. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Israel's Gadot Group won the tender in July 2022 to privatize the Port of Haifa for USD 1.18 billion.
- Vice Admiral, **Sanjay Jasjit Singh** assumed the charge of **the vice chief of naval staff** on April 2, 2023.
Note: He **succeeded Vice Admiral SN Ghormade** who retired after over 39 years of service. He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and was commissioned in 1986 in the executive branch of the Indian Navy. In his career, he has served on most classes of ships of the Indian Navy and has held a range of command, training, and staff appointments.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Neeraj Nigam** as **executive director (ED)** who will look after four departments, including consumer education and protection.
Note: Before being promoted to ED, he was heading the Bhopal regional office of the RBI as director. During his long career, he served in Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts, and other areas in the Reserve Bank.
- The American Space Agency, NASA has selected the **first woman astronaut, Christina Koch** for its **Artemis II mission**.
Note: Other crew members: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10-day journey back to Earth. It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.
- Chennai-based **Sudha Shivkumar** has assumed the charge as the **40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** at the 39th annual session.
Note: FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia. She is a lawyer and investment banker by profession and presently serving as a director at auto ancillaries. She was the Chairperson of the FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17. **FLO is the women's wing of the FICCI.**
- The board of members of **Suzlon Energy** has appointed **J P Chalasani** as the **new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company with immediate effect, i.e. from 5th April 2023.
Note: He has **replaced Ashwani Kumar**, who resigned from the post on account of personal reasons. He had been Group CEO of Suzlon from April 2016 to July 2020 and continued as Strategic Advisor to the Suzlon Group thereafter. He was also the Group CEO and Managing Director of Punj Lloyd.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice has notified the elevation of **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** as **Chief Justice of Tripura High Court**.
Note: He was appointed as an **Additional Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand** on 24th January 2012 and confirmed as a permanent Judge on 16th January 2014. He has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court from the 20th of December, 2022 to the 19th of February, 2023.

9. RBI has approved the **reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal** as Managing Director (MD) & **CEO of AU Small Finance Bank (SFB)** for the next three years, till 2026.
Note: He was first appointed as MD of AU Financiers on 14 February 2008. Later, he became the Managing Director & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank. Meanwhile, RBI has also approved the **appointment of Uttam Tibrewal** as **Whole Time Director of AU SFB**. Uttam Tibrewal joined the board of AU Small Finance Bank in 2005.
10. **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has appointed **Ratnakar Patnaik** as the **new Chief Investment Officer**.
Note: He has **replaced PR Mishra**, who stepped down from the role on April 10, 2023. Additionally, PC Paikray has been named the new Chief Risk Officer, taking over from Tablesh Pandey on the same date. Patnaik has begun his career at LIC as a Direct Recruit Officer in September 1990.
11. The **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** has appointed **Anshuman Singhania** as the new chairman.
Note: He is currently serving as the Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd. While **Arnab Banerjee**, Managing Director & **CEO of CEAT Ltd** has taken over as the **Vice-Chairman**. ATMA was formed in 1975 in India to represent the interests of tyre manufacturers.
12. **Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India** has appointed **Tsutsumu Otani** as the new **President, CEO & Managing Director**.
Note: He is **currently the Vice President at Honda Motor Co., Japan**. He will **take over from Atsushi Ogata**, who will be relocating to Shanghai, China, to serve as the Executive General Manager at Shanghai Branch, Honda Motor (China) Investment Co. Ltd.
13. **Kenichi Umeda** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.**
Note: He **takes over from Satoshi Uchida**, who has completed his term as Managing Director. He has an experience of more than 27 years of industry experience across various global markets and will be responsible for growing and strengthening Suzuki Motorcycle India's position in the Indian and overseas markets.
14. The **Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan** has appointed **Dr. Sheenu Jhavar** as the **new President** for a term of two years (2023 to 2025).
Note: She becomes **the first woman** to hold this position in the 21-year history of TiE Rajasthan. She **takes over from Dr. Ravi Modani**, who had been leading the chapter effectively since 2021.
15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sekhar Rao as interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Karnataka Bank** with effect from April 15, 2023.
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.
16. **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** has assumed charge as Controller of Personnel Services on April 17, 2023.
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.
17. **Judge Rowan Wilson** has been confirmed as the new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.
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.
18. Miguel Diaz-Canel has become the president of **Cuba** for second term.
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
19. Tata Group has appointed **Dr. Randhir Thakur** as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL).
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.
20. **Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand influencer of HSBC India.
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.
21. 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 **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.

- 22. Oliver Dowden** has been named the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom.
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.
- 23. Rajesh Kumar Singh** has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, and Industry.
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.
- 24. Microsoft India President, Anant Maheshwari** has been appointed as the chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24.
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
- 25. Shreekant M Bhandiwad** has taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB).
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.
- 26.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **N Kamakodi** as Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank.
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.
- 27. Hari Hara Mishra** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
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.
- 28.** The government has confirmed the appointment of **Debadatta Chand** as a Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of Baroda for three years.
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.
- 29. Ajit Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.
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

- According to the data from **the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, **India's unemployment rate increased to 7.8%** in March 2023.
Note: The unemployment rate in the country surged in December 2022 to 8.30% but declined in January to 7.14%. It edged up again in February 2023 to 7.45%. In March 2023, the unemployment rate in urban areas of India reached 8.4%, while in rural areas it stood at 7.5%. In March 2023, unemployment was the **highest in Haryana at 26.8%**.
- Union Minister for Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched the App Version of the **National Logistics Portal (Marine)** named **Sagar-Setu**.
Note: The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc.
Benefits for Traders: Improve convenience with the reduced turnaround time for approval and compliance. Increase the visibility of operations and tracking.
- According to the report titled '**Women and Men in India 2022**', released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, an average **Indian woman aged between 15 and 29 spends 5.5 hours doing unpaid labor**.
Note: While a **man between 15 and 29 spends about 50 minutes daily** doing work that **yields no money**. A senior woman (above 60) spends four hours a day doing unpaid labor, while a senior man spends 1.5 hours on the same.
- Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in India** for a two-day visit and was received by EAM S Jaishankar in New Delhi.
Note: Both countries will discuss **hydro-power cooperation, economic and trade partnership, space**

cooperation, scholarships, youth-centric and STEM-based initiatives, and establishing digital infrastructure matters. The defense and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.

5. According to the new joint report from the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** and **JMK Research and Analytics**, India could become the **world's second-largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer by 2026**, after China.

Note: India's cumulative module manufacturing nameplate capacity more than doubled from 18GW in March 2022 to 38GW in March 2023. In terms of upcoming PV manufacturing installations, Gujarat would be the leading state in India.

6. According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, an initiative of **Tata Trusts, Karnataka** emerged at the **top among the 18 large and mid-sized states** with a population of over one crore.

Note: **Tamil Nadu** ranked second, followed by Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. **Small States (population less than 1 Crore):** Sikkim (top), followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. Four core pillars of the justice system: Police, Prisons, Judiciary, and Legal aid

7. Indian PM Narendra Modi holds a bilateral meeting with **King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** in New Delhi on April 5.

Note: The two sides will set up the **first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing**. The two sides agreed to find a technically sound and cost-effective way forward for the Punatsangchhu-I plant. They also agreed to expedite the operationalization of the third international internet gateway for Bhutan.

8. The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a **14-members committee to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them**.

Note: **Headed by: Amitabh Kant** (India's G20 Sherpa and the former CEO of NITI Aayog). Other members: NOIDA CEO, Finances Services secretary of the Union Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs secretary, chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and other officials.

9. The government has announced a **plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity** in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy **by 2030**.

Note: The government has decided to invite bids for **50 GW of renewable energy capacity** annually for the next five years (2023-28). These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.

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

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

11. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the **Indian Space Policy, 2023**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. PM Narendra Modi has released the latest **Tiger census data**, which shows the country's big-cat count increased by **200 in four years to 3,167 from 2,967 in 2018**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has granted the **national party status to Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**.

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

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

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

25. PM Narendra Modi has flagged off **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express** train on April 12, 2023.

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

26. **WhatsApp** has launched a new **campaign** named '**Stay Safe with WhatsApp**' to highlight the several safety features that are pre-built on the messaging app.

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

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

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

28. Union Minister of Fisheries, **Parshottam Rupala** will be launched the **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)** on April 14, 2023.

Note: He will also launch the **World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health**

- (AHSSOH) project.** Aim: To create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach. It will be implemented over a five-year as a Central sector scheme with a financial provision of Rs. 1228.70 Cr.
29. Uttarakhand CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched a program named **A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)**.
Note: Women have been chosen to strengthen livestock-related activities in remote rural areas, keeping in mind their important role under the A-HELP scheme, envisioned by Govt. of India. Trained A-HELPS will help to prevent the various infectious diseases of animals, and artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
30. **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has signed an agreement with **49 Universities** to inspire youth towards water conservation and river rejuvenation.
Note: Aim: To bring the student community to the forefront of the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem of rivers. This also ensures the cleanliness and purity of River Ganga with the rejuvenation of rivers being the prime objective of the Namami Gange Mission. **Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**
31. The **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)** and **State Museum, Lucknow** signed an MoU to work together toward environmental conservation and education among the masses.
Note: The multi-dimensional efforts will be made in organizing programs for school and college students to create awareness about nature. NMNH was established to **portray and promote awareness** of the country's **Natural Heritage**. It is an institution devoted to environmental education.
32. According to the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, **Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy** has the **highest assets totaling Rs 510 crore**, followed by Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over Rs 163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Pattnaik (over Rs 63 crore).
Note: While **West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee** has the **lowest total assets** of about Rs 15 lakh. Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 are crorepaties with the average assets being Rs 33.96 crore for every CM.
33. **India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named 'RAPIDX'** by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
Note: The trains will run on the **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors**, being implemented to connect key urban nodes across NCR. It is a joint venture company of the Union government and Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The NCRTC will commission the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor by 2025.
34. **AIM, NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Agriculture** signed to promote innovation in the **agricultural sector among school students** across India.
- Note:** The **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** with **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)** and Agricultural Technology Management Agency agreed to connect. KVKs work as a Single Window Agricultural Knowledge Resource and Capacity Development Centre. KVKs, in partnership with ATMA, will collaborate with nearby ATLs to support agricultural-related innovation.
35. According to the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, **India's labor market has witnessed an improvement** with over 15 million people entering the workforce in the last three quarters.
Note: The country's **employment rate increased to 36.9%** in March 2023 from 36.6% in December 2022. The labor participation rate (LPR) declined from 40.5% in December to 39.8% in March 2023. While the unemployment rate saw a small decrease from 8.3% to 7.8% during this period.
36. The festivals of **Vaisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi, Meshadi, Naba Barsha, and Puthandu Pirappu** are being celebrated in different parts of the country on April 14, 2023.
Note: **Baisakhi is celebrated with pomp in the North region**, especially in Punjab. Rongali Bihu is marked as Assamese New Year. Poila Baisakh falls on April 15, marking the beginning of the Bengali New Year. Vishu marks the new year in Kerala, while Puthandu marks the Tamil New Year.
37. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a three-day **International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics** in New Delhi on April 12, 2023.
Note: Through this platform, policymakers, academicians and government officials can share their insights and experiences on Defence Finance and Economics for evolving security challenges. Delegates from the USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya will participate in the conference.
38. **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has joined hands with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)** to develop a robust touchless biometric capture system.
Note: They will carry out joint research to build a mobile capture system for fingerprints along with a liveness model integrated with the capture system. The touchless biometric capture system will allow fingerprint authentication from home alike face authentication.
39. The **Indian government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Food Programme (WFP)** for sending **10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan**.
Note: The MoU was signed between the **Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations WFP**. This MoU marks the fifth tranche, to be shipped through the Chabahar Port in Iran, of humanitarian food assistance that India committed in 2020. In 2022, India has contributed 40,000 metric tons of wheat.

40. PM Modi has launched a series of railway projects across the Northeast, a methanol plant, and laid the foundation stone for a bridge over **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.
41. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with Tiger Reserve **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem**, spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
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
42. PM Modi has inaugurated the All Indian Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in **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.
43. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** is planning to set up a joint venture with US-based clean energy technology company LanzaJet Inc and multiple domestic airlines.
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.
44. According to the provisional data, released by the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and **The US** increased by 7.65% to USD 128.55 in 2022-23 as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22.
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.
45. According to the government data, India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation has declined to a 29-month low of **1.34%** in March 2023.
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.
46. **Eight projects** worth ₹638 crore (approx) were approved in the 48th meeting of the Executive

Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

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.

47. Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar launched **SATHI Portal** to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.

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.

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

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.

49. **ACC (Army Commanders' Conference)** is an apex-level biannual event, is scheduled from 17 to 21 April 2023

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.

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

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.

51. A three-day Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) under India's G20 presidency has been started on April 17, 2023, in **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.

- 52. Confederate of Indian Industry** has co-organized a Digital Health Summit 2023 with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on April 16, 2023.
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
- 53. PM Modi** will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in **New Delhi** on April 20, 2023.
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.
- 54. The Union Minister of State for Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste** will inaugurate India Steel 2023, organized in **Mumbai** from 19-21 April 2023.
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.
- 55. 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 **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.
- 56. Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh** has launched a YUVA PORTAL 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.
- 57. Union Minister of Rural Development** 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).
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.
- 58. The Centre** has launched over 254 network towers to provide 4G mobile connectivity in border areas of **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.
- 59. India** 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.
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
- 60. The government** has launched **Fifth** round of the regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas.
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.
- 61. PM Modi** has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth more than 17,000 crores in **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.
- 62. Ministry of Jal Shakti** has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies across the nation.
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
- 63. Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal** has inaugurated National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts, IIT - Discovery Campus at Chennai.
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.

64. The Unique Identification Authority of India and **National Payments Corporation of India** are setting up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer).
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.
65. The Ministry of Petroleum has successfully completed the Bihar portion of the Barauni Guwahati pipeline (BGPL) under **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. Aim: Caters to the energy requirements of five states (UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and WB).
66. **SAIL-Bokaro Steel 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.
Note: This project would include SAIL's Mines and Collieries, Central Coal Supply Organization, and the SAIL refractory unit in Jharkhand.
67. PM Modi has inaugurated India's first water metro in **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.
68. India has launched a rescue operation named Operation Kaveri to evacuate its stranded citizens from **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.
69. Union Minister for Labour **Bhupender Yadav** has launched new features in eShram Portal.
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.
70. **Union Minister Amit Shah** has launched IFFCO's nano liquid Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle.
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.
71. **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023** approved by the union government to reduce India's heavy import dependence on the medical sector.
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
72. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States and Union Territories of India.
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.
73. India's first cable-stayed bridge **Anji Khad bridge** will be completed by May 2023.
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
74. **Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)** signed the tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government of Assam to avoid the violence and join the mainstream.
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).
75. **MoHUA** has launched 'City Beauty Competition' portal.
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
76. **Union Finance Ministry** has given its approval to upgrade Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from Category-I Miniratna.

- 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.
77. Union MoS (IC) S&T, Dr Jitendra Singh visited **Imperial College London** in the United Kingdom and interacted with the Indian students of the college.
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.
78. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) has increased by **3.6%** (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022.
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).
79. According to the Kpler report, **India** has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia.
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.
80. **Army Southern Command** and some civil agencies conducted a day-long firefighting exercise called 'Agni Daman - 23'.
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.
81. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed an MoU with Art of Living as part of **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.
82. India and **United Kingdom** have agreed to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre.
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.
83. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** 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).
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.
84. **Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR)** has organized a four-day International Conference on 'Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces: Psychological Perspective' in Delhi on April 25, 2023.
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.
85. The Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India will host the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 April 2023 in **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.
86. 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 Indian city **Leh**.
Note: 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.
87. **Australia** will host the third in-person Quad Summit in Sydney on May 24, 2023.
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.
88. Union Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology in **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.

89. The Indian Merchants Chamber has organized the 'India Calling Conference 2023' in **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'.

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

91. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the revamped CGTMSE(**Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises**) Scheme.

Note: 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. The Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has released **Rs 877 crore to 43 lakh farmers** through **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** mode on the occasion of **Utkal Divas**.

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

2. **Telangana govt** has launched **India's first Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028** at the CDMA office in Telangana.

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

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

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

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

Note: Aim: To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab. The initiative was initially launched for **four cities of the state:** Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara. The formation of these Yogshalas will be under a pilot project. Trained Yoga instructors will impart free Yoga training to people in open parks and other public places.

5. A flagship initiative of **Telangana government** to prevent controllable blindness, '**Kanti Velugu program**', has achieved a milestone by **screening 1 crore people** for eye problems.

Note: The **second phase** of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June. Health staff is screening all individuals over 18 years old at Kanti Velugu camps set up in all Gram Panchayats in the State. A total of 1,500 teams are working towards creating a Guinness World Record.

6. **Tripura** has been given the **best state award in the northeastern region** by the Centre for the successful implementation of e-procurement.

Note: To maintain transparency, the state has made it mandatory to go for e-procurement if the value of any government purchase or contract goes beyond Rs 25,000. The total value of payments made through e-procurement and Government eMarketplace (GeM) portals increased from Rs 4,451 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 7441 crore in 2021-22.

7. The **Tamil Nadu CM, M K Stalin** has inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras' (IIT-M) initiative** which connects one lakh government school students to electronic devices.

Note: This outreach programme on STEM, which is part of the '**Anaivarukkum IITM**' (**IITM for all**) initiative, aims to connect one lakh rural Tamil Nadu students. The CM also distributed electronic kits to government school students which were developed by IIT Madras.

8. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has inaugurated the **largest Tulip Garden of Jammu region** at Sanasar tourist destination in Ramban district of Jammu division.

Note: As a **Tourism Mission initiative**, **75 new destinations, 75 Sufi/religious sites, 75 new cultural heritage sites** and **75 new tracks** are being developed in J&K to open up new economic avenues. Tulip Garden is

spread over 40 Kanals of land with 2.75 Lakh Tulip Bulbs of 25 different varieties

9. The **Himachal Pradesh government** is planning to introduce the **HP Sukh Ashraya (Care, Protection and Self Reliance of Children) Bill, 2023 in the State Assembly.**

Note: Aim: To provide proper care protection, development, and self-reliance to orphans, semi-orphans, and specially-abled children in need. Under the scheme government will also provide recurring deposit accounts for each child with contributions from the **State government up to the age of 27 years.**

10. The **Tamil Nadu government** has formed a one-man committee to recommend measures for the effective administration of the homes functioning as per the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015.**

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

11. India's tallest statue of Ambedkar, a 125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in **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.

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

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.

13. **Andhra Pradesh** has renamed the proposed Bhavanapadu port in the Srikakulam district as Mulapeta port at the request of the locals.

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.

14. **Kerala** 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

17. Manohar Lal Khattar has launched three online services to digitally empower people, is a CM of **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.

18. **Kerala** 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.

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.

19. In a meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Board, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed the development of **Gandhisagar Sanctuary** as a habitat for cheetahs in the next six months .

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

20. The government of **Maharashtra** has decided to constitute a new Commission to decide the backwardness of the Maratha Community.

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.

21. **Kondh Tribe** of Nayagarh district in Odisha celebrates Bihan Mela, which refers to a seed festival.

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 **France** have announced a common platform for talks among bilateral creditors to coordinate the restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt.
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. **Syria** has become the world's foremost narco-state, as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon.
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 **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 **USD 500,000 (Rs 4.09 crore)** to the UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
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 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. The name of this landmark deal is **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 Fadnis has unveiled a statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in **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. Russian company **Sberbank** launched its own AI chatbot GigaChat to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT.
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 **3.7%** in real terms in 2022 to reach a new high of \$2240 billion.
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.
10. The Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, Jens Stoltenberg has informed that **Finland** has become the **31st member of the alliance**.
Note: Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO. Finland shares a long border (over 1,300 kilometers) with Russia, and its decision to join NATO

was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, Turkey and Hungary have declined Sweden's application to join NATO.

11. **OPEC members** including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production **cuts exceeding one million barrels per day from May 2023 until the end of the year.**

Note: Reason: It is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market. OPEC slashed its collective output by two million barrels per day last year. OPEC is a group of 23 oil-producing countries.

12. **France has invited PM Narendra Modi** to visit Paris as a guest at the **annual Bastille Day parade**, which will be held in **July 2023.**

Note: The Indian PM and **French President Emmanuel Macron** are expected to discuss several major agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defense, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership. Earlier, **Manmohan Singh was invited as the Bastille Day parade guest in 2009.**

13. **Bahrain's government** has launched a new initiative called '**Golden Licence**' to incentivize investments and the **creation of jobs.**

Note: It is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain. **Eligibility for the Licence:** Companies with significant strategic projects and investments exceeding US\$50 million or those creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain.

14. According to the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list, **Mukesh Ambani** has regained his spot as **Asia's richest person** after rival **Gautam Adani (USD 47.2 billion) tumbled to No. 24.**

Note: Ambani (65) was ranked at No. 9 on the world billionaire list with a net worth of USD 83.4 billion. Bernard Arnault (CEO of LVMH) topped the Forbes Billionaires 2023 Rankings with an estimated net worth of a whopping 211 billion. Elon Musk placed second, followed by Jeff Bezos and Larry Ellison.

15. **India** has been elected to the **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a four-year term** beginning on 1 January 2024.

Note: India received a resounding 46 out of 53 votes, ahead of South Korea (23), China (19), and UAE (15). India was elected by secret ballot while Argentina, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America were elected by acclamation. **UNSC is the highest body of the global statistical system.**

16. **India's Permanent Representative** to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj has handed over the **contribution of USD 2 million to the UN Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).**

Note: Reason: New Delhi's commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Earlier, India had contributed USD 4 million to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). **ATMIS was established on 1 April 2022.**

17. **The first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Emine Dzhaparova** is on a four-day visit to India from April 9, 2023.

Note: During the visit, she will **hold talks with Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.** Both sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest. Both shares warm and friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation.

18. **Bangladesh, Japan, and India** will hold a meeting in **Tripura** on 11-12 April, 2023, for **connectivity initiatives** to harness the commercial potential of the region.

Note: The event will be **organized by Asian Confluence**, a think tank based out of North East India, in collaboration with India's foreign ministry. It will be attended by deputy foreign ministers of Bangladesh and India along with the chief minister of Tripura and the Japanese envoy to India

19. **EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar will be on official visits to Uganda and Mozambique** from 11-15 April 2023.

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

20. During External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Kampala (Uganda), he has launched the '**Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project**' of Varanasi.

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

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

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

22. **Actor Shah Rukh Khan** has secured **the top position in Time Magazine's poll** for its annual TIME100 list.

Note: For the **second spot, the readers picked the Iranian women protesting for more freedom** in the

- country's Islamic regime. The healthcare workers of the US made it to third place. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle took the fourth spot, with each of them getting 1.9% of the votes. Lionel Messi secured the fifth spot.
23. According to a survey, published by London-based 'Time Out' - a media outlet, **Berlin (Germany) was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally.**
Note: It is followed by Prague (Czech Republic), Tokyo (Japan), and Copenhagen (Denmark). While India's city Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city. **Mumbai's Suburban Railways** form the

backbone of public transport for a population of 12.5 million.

24. **TIME Magazine** has published a list of the **100 Most Influential People of 2023**, which includes Jennifer Coolidge (Actor), Doja Cat (Recording Artist), Bob Iger (CEO of The Walt Disney Company), and Salman Rushdie (Writer).

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

Honor & Awards

1. **Anjali Sharma of Kangra district** of Himachal Pradesh has conquered **Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa**, wearing Lunachari.
Note: She is working to **promote Gaddi culture** on the peaks of the mountains. Lunachari is a traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh. Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) is the tallest mountain in Africa and the world's largest free-standing mountain. It has three main volcanic peaks namely Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
2. **Kiran Nadar** was **conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur"** (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain in April 2023.
Note: Reason: In recognition of her **contribution to the field of art**, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties. She is a chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.
3. Bihar's **West Champaran** was awarded the **GI tag for its 'Mircha' rice.**
Note: The size and shape of the **grain appear like that of black pepper**, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice. This rice is famous for its aroma, palatability, and its aromatic chura (rice flakes) making qualities. The cooked rice is fluffy, non-sticky, sweet, and easily digestible with a popcorn-like aroma.
4. Former Indian cricket team captain, **MS Dhoni** was named among the five Indians to have been inducted with the **Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) honorary life membership.**
Note: Other four Indian Cricketers: Yuvraj Singh, Maithali Raj, Suresh Raina, and Jhulan Goswami. MS Dhoni had featured in 538 international games across formats, scoring over 17,000 runs during the same. Yuvraj Singh was an integral part of the Indian team that won the first T20 World Cup in 2007.
5. An Indian-American physician and professor, **Dr. Nitya Abraham** was honored with the **Young Urologist of the Year Award** by the **American Urological Association (AUA).**
Note: She is an **Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine** and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency program. Other honorees:

Rena Malik, Jesse D. Sammon, Sarah Vij, Alexander J. Ernest, Kerri Thurmon, Zachary Klaassen, and Yahir Santiago-Lastra

6. According to the data shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has secured the ninth position** in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022.
Note: As per the data, this airport is handling 59.5 million passengers annually. IGI Airport has improved its ranking from 2021 (13th). **Top: Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** (93.6 million passengers)
7. The **Bharat Biotech** has **won the 'Best Production /Process Development'** award as part of the **Vaccine Industry Excellence (VIE) awards** at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.
Note: The event was held during April 3-6 in Washington, USA. It is the **world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc.** World Vaccine Congress: It is the largest global meeting dedicated to vaccines, from basic research to commercial manufacture, it covers the whole vaccine value chain.
8. An Indian-American mathematician and statistician, **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao** (102) will be awarded the **2023 International Prize in Statistics** in July 2023.
Note: Reason: For his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionized statistical thinking. He is currently a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University and Research Professor at University at Buffalo. He will receive the prize, with an \$80,000 award. It is awarded every two years to an individual or team.
9. Retired Indian track and field athlete, **PT Usha** has been **awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the Central University of Kerala** at Sabarmati Hall, Periya Campus.
Note: She was **conferred by Vice Chancellor Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu.** She has won 33 medals including 19 gold in the Asian Games and Asian Championship. She was the first Indian athlete to win medals in four consecutive Asian Games and also won six medals

- including five gold in the Jakarta Asian Athletic Meet in 1985.
- 10. Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla** has received the AIMA's Business Leader of the Decade Award 2023.
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
- 11. Union HM Amit Shah** has presented the Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2022 to **Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari** at Raigarh, Maharashtra.
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.
- 12. Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
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.
- 13. Nandini Gupta** has been crowned the 59th edition of the beauty pageant, Femina Miss India World 2023.
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.
- 14. Karnataka** has bagged the national award for the best implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the country.
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.
- 15. Utsa Patnaik** has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.
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.
- 16. Former Chancellor Angela Merkel** has received the highest Order of Merit of Germany from the President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
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.
- 17. Legendary singer Asha Bhosle** will be felicitated with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award on April 24, the Memorial Day of theatre-music veteran Deenanath Mangeshkar.
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.
- 18. National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme** of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the innovation category.
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.
- 19. Wing Commander Deepika Misra** was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari.
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.
- 20. The West Stand at Sharjah cricket 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.
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
- 21. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded the country's prestigious HUDCO Award for 2022-2023.
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.

22. **Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL)** has been awarded the Global Gold Award 2023 by The Green Organization.
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.
 23. **Bombay IIT's SHUNYA** team has secured second place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the United States.
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.
 24. **Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama** has received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years.
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.
 25. **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL)** has bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" for the year 2021-22.
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1. **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung** from Indonesia has clinched the Women's title in the 2023 Spain Masters, held in Madrid, Spain from 28 March-2 April 2023.
Note: She defeated Indian Badminton player, PV Sindhu. While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the men's title. Other winners: Men's doubles: He Jiting and Zhou Haodong (China), Women's doubles: Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China), Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Bøje (Denmark)
 2. **Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen**, won his first Australian Grand Prix 2023, held at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia.
Note: While Seven-time world champion, L. Hamilton (Mercedes driver) finished second followed by F. Alonso (Aston Martin) and L. Stroll (Aston Martin). The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928. The next F1 Azerbaijan GP will be held in Baku City Circuit, Azerbaijan on April 30, 2023.
 3. According to the latest FIFA rankings in April 2023, the Indian men's football team is now ranked 101.

- Note:** The award was presented by the MoS for Steel and Rural Development Fagga 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.
26. **Maria Stepanova** has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023.
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
 27. **Rajkumar Rao** has been awarded the Best Male Actor award for his role in Badhaai Do at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 28, 2023.
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

- Note:** Reason: Recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament, helped them secure 8.57 rating points. Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions. France ranked second, followed by Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, and Italy. Japan holds the highest rank among Asian countries.
4. **Brazilian artist Dante Akira Uwai** has won the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 medal design competition.
Note: Akira Uwai's creation - 'A Sparkling Future' - was chosen by a panel of judges. His design will feature on the medals for Gangwon 2024 which will be awarded in the Republic of Korea from 19 January to 1 February 2024.
 5. **FIFA withdrew Peru's hosting rights** to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023.
Note: The decision was made after extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF). FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.
 6. An **Indian weightlifter, Sanjita Chanu** has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India.

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

7. Russian tennis player, **Daniil Medvedev** has won his **fourth title of the year** by **defeating Jannik Sinner in Miami Opens 2023**.

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

8. **Indian badminton player, Priyanshu Rajawat (21)** has **clinched the men's singles title** of the **Orleans Masters Super 300 tournament**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. 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

13. 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 **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).

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

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.

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

16. 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, **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.

17. 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 **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.

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

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.

19. Commander Abhilash Tomy has become the first Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022.

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 Neuschäfer 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.

20. Jaden Pariat has won the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park.

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 new book titled Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta ('Gandhi: Politics and Communalism') was released in Hindi.

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

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

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

3. A book entitled "War and Women", authored by Dr. M A Hasan was released.

Note: It was launched during the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. This book highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.

4. Vani Tripathi Tikoo, an actor and member of the Indian censor board, has written her debut children's book titled **"Why Can't Elephants be Red?"**.

Note: It was published by **Niyogi Books**. The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore.

5. A new book titled 'Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema' has been released.

Note: This book chronicles the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker **Basu Chatterjee**. It is written by **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee** and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

6. State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its **coffee table book titled "The Banker to Every Indian"**, which celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and the 200-year history of SBI.

Note: The coffee table book details the Bank's history ever since independence. The book is a tribute to the spirit of India's independence and SBI's contribution to nation-building.

7. Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash has co-authored a new book titled **"The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation"**.

Note: This book discusses **11 scams** that have rocked India since its Independence (1947). The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.

8. 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.

9. Francois 'Faf' du Plessis's memoir 'Faf Through Fire' is all set to release in India in May 2023, is cricketer of **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.

10. World Book Day is celebrated annually on **April 23** to promote the love for reading, writing, publishing, and copyright.

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.

11. 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.

12. 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

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

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.

14. 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. The **10th Edition** of the **annual Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise, SLINEX-2023** is scheduled to be held in **Colombo** on April 3, 2023.

Note: It is being **conducted in two phases** of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase. The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura. The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.

2. In Financial Year 2022-23, **India's defense exports** have reached an **all-time high of 15920 crore rupees**, which is almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year (2021-22).

Note: At present, **India is now exporting to over 85 countries**. India exports major platforms like Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns (ATAGs), Brahmos Missiles, Akash Missile System, Simulators, Mine Protected Vehicles, Armoured Vehicles, PINAKA Rockets & Launchers, etc.

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

Note: This exercise will enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces. **While Japan will also join as an "observer"** in the exercise and witness "air combat and mobility elements" operating from multiple air bases like Kalaikunda, Panagarh, Agra, and Hindon.

4. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Lok Sabha that the central **government approved the induction of women in the Regiment of Artillery**.

Note: In January 2023, the proposal to induct woman officers in the Regiment of Artillery was sent to the government. The exact number of woman officers who will be inducted into the Artillery will only be known at the time of the commission of the next batch from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.

5. **Israel** has successfully launched the "**Ofek-13**" **spy satellite** into space by the Shavit launch vehicle, from Palmachim Airbase spaceport.

Note: This satellite was **manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**. It is the latest in a series of domestically produced satellites that were first put into orbit in 1988. Immediately after launch, the satellite successfully entered orbit and started transmitting data, and completed an initial series of tests

6. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** in association with the **DRDO and IAF** successfully demonstrated a precise landing experiment for a **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) test**.

Note: It was conducted at the **Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka**. This is a part of ISRO's efforts to develop RLVs, or space planes/shuttles, which can travel to low earth orbits to deliver payloads and return to earth for use again.

7. **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired a **fully 3D-printed 'Dhawan II' cryogenic engine for 200 seconds**.

Note: The company developed the engine for its heavier vehicle, Vikram II. This engine will be used as the upper stage of the updated version of Vikram-II. A cryogenic upper stage instead of a solid fuel stage enhances the

payload-carrying capacity of a rocket. In 2022, Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space.

8. **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** has conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' involving the assets of the **Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard**.

Note: KAVACH exercise began on 23rd February 2023 and concluded on April 7, 2023. Aim: Fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & SOPs and enhancing interoperability and operational synergy between the forces. ANC is the first integrated theatre command in India with headquarters at Port Blair.

9. **Prashthan exercise** is held every 6 months under Indian Navy and involves the participation of all stakeholders in the maritime domain.

Note: It is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders. It was conducted on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform, which is about 30 nm South West of Mumbai Harbour. Personnel from Maharashtra Police, Customs, Fisheries Department, Mumbai Port Authority, etc also participated in it

10. An Indian Air Force contingent is participating in the multinational international **Exercise Orion, organized at Mont-de-Marsan in France** from 17 April to 5 May 2023.

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

11. **South African cricketer** has launched its flagship JUICE (JUper ICy moons Explorer) mission on April 14, 2023.

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

12. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at **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.

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

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.

14. **IIT Roorkee** has signed an MoU with the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), Taiwan.

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.

15. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** will set up its first International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania in October 2023.

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.

16. **Moon Village Association** and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands for global outreach activities in connection with the proposed Chandrayaan-3.

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.

17. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and **Indian Navy** has successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in Bay of Bengal.

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.

18. **Indian Space Research Organisations (ISRO)** 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.

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.

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