

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (16-31 May 2023) English PDF



Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

16-31st May 2023

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-31st) of **May 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Mizoram Rural Bank and 2 lakh rupees on Tripura Gramin Bank for the failure of which norm _____ **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms**.

Note:

- Reason: Both banks have failed to categorize certain loan accounts as non-performing in line with the Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms
- The bank was asked to provide a justifiable reason as to why a penalty should not be imposed for its non-compliance with the directions.

2. Which card has introduced the CVV free payment experience for its debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders who have tokenized their cards on the merchant application or webpage _____ **RuPay**.

Note:

- It ensures that the cardholder will not have to reach out to their wallet or remember card details if they have saved their card on the e-commerce merchant.
- Tokenization is a simple technology to secure card transactions without sharing real card details with the merchants.

3. IRDAI has constituted a five-member expert committee to advise it on matters related to mental health and insurance. This committee is headed by whom _____ **Pratima Murthy**.

Note:

- Pratima Murthy is a Director at NIMHANS, Bangalore.
- The panel will advise on coverages offered/to be offered under insurance products, for mental illnesses.
- The panel will also provide expert advice/inputs on terminology, concept, and the like on matters relating to mental illnesses from the medical domain perspective.

4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed SBI Funds Management (SBIFML) to acquire up to how much percent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of HDFC Bank _____ **9.99%**.

Note:

- SBIFML has been advised by RBI to acquire the aforesaid major shareholding in the bank within a period of six months i.e. by November 15, 2023.
- SBIFML must ensure that the aggregate holding in HDFC Bank remains below 10% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times.

5. According to Morgan Stanley, India is expected to contribute how much percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP) growth over 2023-24 _____ **16%**.

Note:

- The Indian economy is a key contributor to Asian economic growth outperformance and the broad-based recovery in demand runs counter to the weakness seen outside Asia.
- In recent months, a wide variety of indicators suggest that India's recovery is strong and broad-based, and is well-placed to sustain growth rates of above 6%.

6. Which mutual fund organization has launched India's first mutual fund focussed on the defence sector _____ **HDFC AMC Ltd.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide investors with an opportunity to participate in the growth potential of this space
- The new fund offering (NFO) of HDFC Defence Fund is an open-ended equity scheme, that opened on May 19 and close on June 2, 2023.
- The fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in defence and allied sector companies including stocks forming part of aerospace and defence.



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7. IRDAI has formed a task force to facilitate ease of doing KYC and allied matters using Aadhaar. KYC refers to ____ **Know Your Customers**.

Note:

- At present, the UIDAI framework allows insurance companies to identify the customer by using his/her Aadhaar with consent management.
- Besides the simplicity of customer onboarding and avoiding potential fraud, there are problems with providing the services and making claims.

8. Which finance service organization has launched an MSME-focused portal, Udyog Plus ____ **Aditya Birla Capital**.

Note:

- Aim: To provide capital and other business solutions to small businesses, including investments and utility services.
- It offers online loans up to Rs 10 lakhs to MSMEs through various product offerings such as supply chain finance.
- Loans up to Rs 2 lakhs are provided without collateral or documentation.
- For loans above Rs 2 lakhs, MSMEs are required to submit financial statements, ITR, and GST returns.

9. As per a Finance Ministry notification, the spending in foreign exchange through international credit cards (ICCs) will be covered under the RBI's LRS. What is the correct form of LRS ____ **Liberalized Remittance Scheme**.

Note:

- Under this scheme, a resident can remit money abroad up to a maximum of USD 2.50 lakh per annum without the authorization of the Reserve Bank.
- Earlier, the usage of ICCs for making payments for fulfilling expenses during travel outside India was not included in the LRS limit.

10. RBI has decided to withdraw which denomination banknotes from circulation under the Clean Note Policy ____ **Rs 2000**.

Note:

- The policy says that 2,000-rupee notes will continue to be legal tender but will not be circulated.
- RBI has said members of the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes into their bank accounts or exchange them for banknotes of other denominations.
- Exchange of Rs 2000 banknotes of other denominations can be made up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time from 23rd May, 2023.

11. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board has approved the transfer of how much amount as surplus to the government for FY23, surpassing the budget estimate by 82% ____ **₹87,416 crore**.

Note:

- The union budget estimated an aggregate dividend of ₹48,000 crore from the RBI and public sector lenders.
- The large surplus transfer by the central bank would help the government manage its fiscal math.

12. The Ministry of Finance has notified that no Tax Collection at Source (TCS) will be levied on individual payments using international debit and credit cards of up to what amount in a financial year from July 1, 2023 ____ **Rs 7 lakh**.

Note:

- Further, the Union Budget 2023 has increased TCS for foreign remittances under the LRS from 5% to 20% (except for education and medical purposes).
- This rule will be effective from July 1, 2023.

13. Which organization has launched the most advanced bond platform for retail investors in India ____ **Paytm Money**.

Note:

- This platform will simplify debt investing for individuals.
- Investors can invest in three types of bonds – government, corporate, and tax-free on Paytm Money.
- It provides all relevant information on one platform to investors.
- Investors can find all information related to coupon vs yield, clean price vs dirty price, coupon frequency, and coupon record dates on one dashboard.



14. Which organization in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) rolled out support for RuPay credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) _____ **Google Pay.**

Note:

- With this, the users can now link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to pay at all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted.
- It is now available to RuPay credit card holders of Axis Bank, BoB, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, PNB, and Union Bank of India.

15. According to the RBI's March 2023 bulletin, the Reserve Bank of India bought what amount on a net basis in the spot foreign exchange market in March 2023 _____ **\$750 million.**

Note:

- The RBI has purchased \$6.91 billion and sold \$6.16 billion.
- In February 2023, the central bank bought \$254 million on a net basis in the spot market.
- The Indian rupee appreciated by 0.6% against the dollar in March 2023.
- The RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at \$23.6 billion as of end-March 2023.

16. The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at the IIT Kanpur joined hands with which bank by signing an MoU that seeks to provide crucial support to the startups incubated at SIIC _____ **YES Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To identify innovative startups and extend them the necessary financial backing
- It bolsters the startup ecosystem in India by granting these ventures access to a wide range of resources through YES Bank's specialized startup-focused program called YES Head Startup.

17. As per the announcement of Red Hat, Inc., which bank has adopted Azure Red Hat OpenShift to transform its next-generation mobile banking applications for an efficient mobile banking experience for its customers _____ **YES BANK.**

Note:

- It will enable YES BANK to improve customer experience and provide innovative banking solutions.
- It will have the agility and flexibility to increase the demand and also support creating a seamless customer experience across multiple banking solutions.

18. Which bank has launched 'Sarathi' a digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- This platform provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants.
- Onboarding process: Realtime database checks for faster application processing
- Live video verification to authenticate merchant information
- Eliminates the field verification process which helps in instant decision-making
- Instant installation of POS

19. The Indian government has signed a loan agreement of USD 141.12 million with which international bank for the development of infrastructure in three industrial clusters situated in Andhra Pradesh _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- This financing is the second tranche of the 500 million multi-tranche financing facility.
- Aim: To promote industrialization to increase the share of manufacturing in the state's gross domestic product, build competitiveness and create jobs in the project's target areas

20. Which bank has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2022-23 _____ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).**

Note:

- BoM has also recorded the highest growth in profitability with the bottom line growing almost 126% to Rs 2,602 crore during the year.
- In terms of percentage increase in gross advances, BoM recorded a 29.4% rise in loans at Rs 1,75,120 crore as of March 2023.
- It was followed by Indian Overseas Bank and UCO Bank.

21. Which bank has partnered with Manipal Global Academy of BFSI to launch its Future Banker 2.0 programme _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To groom young graduates into banking professionals within a year



- The nationwide recruitment initiative seeks to establish a talent pipeline for the bank's retail banking division.
- The one-year professional diploma incorporates classroom sessions, guest lectures, role plays, and practical fieldwork.
- It also includes eight months of paid internship.

22. The Central govt has cleared a prompt digital reporting and communication mechanism between banks and Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) to plug defaults on loans of over what amount _____ **Rs 50 crore.**

Note:

- CEIB will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of Rs 50 crore or higher at the pre-approval stage within 15 days of request.
- The new system will require banks to submit their requests to CEIB through dedicated emails in a specific format

23. Which fintech organization has become the first digital payments app to successfully enable the linkage of two lakh RuPay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) _____ **PhonePe.**

Note:

- Besides, it has also processed a total payment value (TPV) of Rs 150 crore via RuPay credit on UPI.
- PhonePe offers a comprehensive suite of solutions for RuPay Credit on UPI in partnership with NPCI.
- It has already enabled the acceptance of RuPay Credit Cards on UPI across 12 million merchant outlets.

24. Which SFB has signed an agreement with International Business Machines (IBM) to design and build a digital banking platform _____ **Equitas Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a secure experience to customers
- The collaboration will boost the digital products offered by Equitas as well as its service offerings, as it evolves its business for a digital-first generation.
- Equitas SFB aims to commence its modernization journey with a cloud-native platform architecture.

25. The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 84.50 lakh on which bank for non-compliance with norms related to fraud classification and reporting _____ **Central Bank of India.**

Note:

- The RBI had conducted a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021.
- The reports revealed that the bank had failed to report as fraud to RBI certain accounts within seven days of the decision of the JLF to declare the accounts as fraud.

26. RBI has approved the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of which bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, with effect from May 29, 2023 _____ **Maratha Sahakari Bank.**

Note:

- The central bank had placed Maratha Sahakari Bank under Directions under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, on August 31, 2016.
- All the branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited.
- Maratha Sahakari Bank has seven branches in Mumbai.

27. Which bank has entered into an agreement with Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd. (ICCL) as its Clearing and Settlement Bank _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Indian Bank will now facilitate banking services to members of BSE, Mumbai for clearing and settlement operations.
- Clearing members can now open settlement accounts with the bank for funds settlement under the equity derivatives segment.
- The proposal to extend this facility to the members of NSE is under active consideration.

28. SEBI has formed an Intermediary Advisory Committee to advise the market regulator on changes in the legal framework, is headed by whom _____ **S Ravindran.**

Note:



➤ The committee will also advise SEBI on increasing transparency in the functioning of market intermediaries like stock exchanges, clearing corporations, etc.

➤ Other members: Ashish Chauhan (CEO of NSE) and Sundararaman Ramamurthy (CEO of BSE), representatives from the broking community, legal, and FI

29. Which bank has emerged as the best bank as far as the management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) _____ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).**

Note:

➤ The NPA fell as low as 0.25% during the financial year ended March 2023.

➤ This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore and not just public sector banks (PSBs).

➤ While HDFC Bank's net NPA fell to 0.27% followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank placed third spot with 0.37% of net advances.

30. According to PwC report 'The Indian Payments Handbook - 2022-27, UPI transactions are likely to reach 1 billion per day by which year, accounting for 90% of the retail digital payments _____ **2026-27.**

Note:

➤ UPI is driving the digital payments revolution, accounting for about 75% of the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23

➤ The Indian digital payments market also saw steady growth at a CAGR of 50% (volume) and is expected to reach 411 billion transactions in FY 2026-27

31. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, the Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India has declined by what percent to \$46 billion in 2022-23 _____ **22%.**

Note:

➤ Reason: Lower inflows in computer hardware and software, and the automobile industry

➤ The FDI inflows stood at \$58.77 billion during 2021-22.

➤ Top Investors (April-March 2022-23): Singapore (\$17.2 billion), Mauritius, US, and UAE

➤ State-wise, Maharashtra received the highest inflows of \$14.8 billion.

32. Which international organization has launched its 2023-27 country partnership strategy for India _____ **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

Note:

➤ Aim: To identify accelerating structural transformation and job creation, promoting climate-resilient growth, and deepening social and economic inclusiveness as key focus areas

➤ ADB highlighted that India has quickly rebounded from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with economic growth projected at 6.4% in FY24

➤ India ranks among the fastest-growing major global economies.

Obituaries

1. Robert E. Lucas Jr. passed away at 85, was a veteran _____ **Economist.**

Note:

➤ He was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Economics for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations, and thereby having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy in 1995.

➤ He was well known for his investigations into the implications of the assumption of the rational expectations theory.

2. Ambala MP Rattan Lal Kataria passed away at 71, was a _____ **Politician.**

Note:

➤ He has served as minister of state in the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from May 2019 till July 2021.

➤ He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Ambala in 1999, 2014, and 2019.

➤ He also served as the party's Haryana unit chief from 2000 to 2003.

➤ He was also a minister in the Haryana government.

3. Srichand Parmanand Hinduja, passed away in London, was a noted _____ **Businessman.**

Note:

➤ He was a chairman of the Hinduja Group.

➤ He was a British billionaire businessman, investor, and philanthropist.

➤ As of August 2022, together with his brother Gopichand, he was the UK's richest man.



- In 1952, he joined his father PD Hinduja (founder of Hinduja Group) in the family business.
- Subsidiaries of Hinduja Group: Ashok Leyland, IndusInd Bank, Gulf Oil International Ltd, Quaker-Houghton, etc.

4. Martin Amis passed at 73 in Florida, was a veteran _____ **British novelist**

Note:

- He was a prolific writer and published 15 novels during his career.
- He was best known for his works "Money: A Suicide Note" and "London Fields."
- He was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his memoir "Experience."
- His novels "Time's Arrow" and "Yellow Dog" were recognized with nominations for the Booker Prize.

5. Sarath Babu, who passed away at 71 from Multi-Organ failure, was veteran _____ **Actor.**

Note:

- He has primarily worked in Tamil and Telugu films and was known for his roles in 'Annamalai' and 'Muthu'.
- He has appeared in more than 200 films, including Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi films.
- He started his career in 1973 through a Telugu film and later became popular through the Tamil film 'Nizhal Nijamagiradhu', directed by K Balachander.
- He was honored with eight state Nandi Awards.

6. Tina Turner, who passed away, was a _____ **Singer.**

Note:

- She started her career with Ike Turner's Kings of Rhythm in 1957.
- Under the name Little Ann, she appeared on her first record, "Boxtop", in 1958.
- She received 12 Grammy Awards, including eight competitive awards, three Grammy Hall of Fame awards, and Lifetime Achievement Award.
- She was the first black artist and woman on the cover of Rolling Stone.

7. Govindaraj H Nayak, who passed away, was a _____ **Writer.**

Note:

- He won the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award for his work 'Uttarardha' in 2014.
- He was also awarded the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award for 'Nirapeksha' and V M Inamdhara Memorial Award for 'Nijadani'.
- He had also been the recipient of the prestigious Pampa Award.
- His works include Samakaalina and Anivaarya

8. Balu alias Suresh Dhanorkar passed away, was a _____ **Politician.**

Note:

- Dhanorkar was born in Yavatmal district on June 4, 1975.
- In 2014, he was elected as an MLA of Shiv Sena, winning the Warora-Bhadrawati Assembly seat.
- He resigned from the Shiv Sena in 2019 and was elected as a Congress MP from Chandrapur Vani Arni Lok Sabha constituency.
- His wife Pratibha Dhanorkar is also a Congress MLA from the Varora constituency.

Important Days

1. Which edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week is being observed from 15-21 May 2023 _____ **7th.**

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents
- 2023 slogan: #RethinkMobility
- The week is organized by the WHO and the UN regional commissions and supported by governments, NGOs, and individuals.
- The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 reflects an ambitious target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030.

2. International Day of Families is celebrated on which date to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society _____ **May 15.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Demographic Trends and Families
- The UN adopted a resolution in 1994 establishing the International Day of Families to celebrate the institution of family and to raise awareness regarding the issues faced by families.



- It acknowledges the role of families in promoting social and economic development.
3. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is celebrated annually on which date _____ **May 17.**

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other ICT.
- 2023 theme: Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies
- The first World Telecommunication Day was celebrated on May 17, 1969, to mark the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

4. World Hypertension Day is observed on which date every year to raise awareness about hypertension or high blood pressure, its consequences, and preventive measures _____ **May 17.**

Note:

- It was established in 2005 by the World Hypertension League (WHL).
- 2023 theme: Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
- According to the WHO, hypertension affects around one billion people worldwide, with complications resulting in over 7.5 million deaths annually.

5. International Museum Day is observed annually on which date in order to recognize the vital role that museums play in fostering cultural exchange _____ **May 18.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being
- This theme highlights the crucial role that museums can assume in advancing the concepts of well-being and sustainability.
- This day was first celebrated four decades ago in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

6. National Endangered Species Day is observed annually on which day in May each year to raise awareness about endangered species and the need for their conservation _____ **Third Friday of May.**

Note:

- In 2023, this day is celebrated on May 19.
- 2023 theme: Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act
- In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed, which is designed to protect endangered and threatened species in the USA.
- In India, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, was enacted.

7. The world observed the International Day for Biological Diversity on which date to increase understanding and encourage the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems _____ **May 22.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity
- The origins of the International Day for Biological Diversity can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, commonly referred to as the Earth Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

8. The non-profit organization, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) celebrates World Turtle Day on which date every year _____ **May 23.**

Note:

- Reason: To raise public awareness regarding the need to protect turtles, tortoises, and their rapidly diminishing habitats
- 2023 theme: I love Turtles
- The theme highlights the critical need to conserve these species and their future in the face of dwindling habitats.
- According to ATR, around 61% of turtles worldwide are threatened or already extinct.

9. Commonwealth Day is celebrated every year on March 13, across the world, while India and some other countries observe it on which date _____ **May 24.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future
- Aim: To unite 2.5 billion Commonwealth citizens in celebration of their shared values and principles and pursue a common future, centered on sustainability and peace



➤ It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of the accomplishments of 54 Commonwealth countries in various areas

10. Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed annually on which date to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene and break stigma around menstruation _____ **May 28.**

Note:

- The theme for 2023 is 'Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030.
- This day was selected because the menstrual cycle averages 28 days in length and people on average menstruate for five days each month.
- This day was started by Germany-based NGO WASH United in 2013 and it was observed for the first time on May 28, 2014.

11. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is celebrated every year across the globe on which date to highlight the efforts of the UN peacekeepers work to establish and maintain peace in conflict areas _____ **May 29.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Peace Begins With Me
- The first UN peacekeeping effort commenced in the Middle East in 1948 and this year (2023) marks the 75th year of operation of UN peacekeeping
- The Dag Hammarskjöld medal was posthumously awarded to peacekeepers who passed away in 2022.

12. World No Tobacco Day, also known as Anti-Tobacco Day, has been observed every year on which date _____ **May 31.**

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.
- This global initiative was led by the World Health Organization.
- 2023 theme: We need food, not tobacco
- The 2023 theme highlights alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourages them to grow sustainable crops

New Appointments

1. Who was appointed as the new CBI director for a period of two years _____ Praveen Sood.

Note:

- He would replace current CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal, who will retire on May 25, 2023.
- He started his career in Mysore as Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1989.
- Later, he served as Superintendent of Police, Bellary, and Raichur before being posted in Bengaluru as Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

2. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter _____ Linda Yaccarino.

Note:

- Prior to this, she was serving as the head of advertising at NBCUniversal.
- She had served 19 years at Turner Entertainment and has been credited with dragging the network's ad sales operation into the digital future.
- She is an alumna of Penn State University, having studied liberal arts and telecommunications.
- In October 2022, Elon Musk completed \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter.

3. Who has taken oath as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on May 16, 2023 _____ Manoj Soni.

Note:

- He administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman of UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, a senior member of the Commission.
- He joined the Commission as a member on June 28, 2017, and has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022.
- He served as VC at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (Gujarat), and Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

4. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for five years _____ Ravneet Kaur.

Note:



- She has replaced CCI Member Sangeeta Verma, who has been serving as an acting Chairperson since October 2022.
 - There has been no full-time Chairperson for the competition regulator since Ashok Kumar Gupta was demitted from office.
 - The Chairperson will get a consolidated salary of Rs 4,50,000 per month without a house and car.
5. Who took over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff _____ **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit.**

Note:

- He is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer, and transport aircraft.
- He participated in the operations 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'.
- He is an alumnus of NDA and was commissioned in the fighter stream in 1986.
- He is a graduate of the Staff Course (Bangladesh), and National Defence College (New Delhi).

6. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board _____ **Anil Kumar Jain.**

Note:

- He has been appointed for five years (from the date assumption of charge) or attaining 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.
- He is a 1986-batch IAS officer from the MP cadre.
- PNGRB was constituted under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

7. Who was appointed as the interim prime minister of Slovakia, who will lead the country until early elections _____ **Economist Ludovit Odor.**

- He is a politically independent economist who comes to the job straight from the board of the country's central bank.
- Odor and his caretaker cabinet were picked by President Zuzana Caputova.
- Slovakia is a member of the European Union, the Euro Zone, and NATO.
- Slovakia is struggling with high inflation due to war in neighboring Ukraine.

8. Who has been appointed as the new union law minister _____ **Arjun Ram Meghwal.**

Note:

- He is a retired IAS officer, social worker, and farmer, who later turned politician from Rajasthan.
- Currently, he is serving as the MoS for Parliamentary Affairs and MoS for Culture.
- He has also served as the Union Minister of State, and Ministry of Finance from 2016 to 2017.
- He has replaced Kiren Rijiju, who will now handle the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

9. Who has been appointed as the president and chief operating officer (COO) of Paytm _____ **Bhavesh Gupta.**

Note:

- He has served as the CEO of Clix Capital (formerly known as GE Capital) and head of SME & business banking at IDFC Bank.
- He will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments – online and offline, consumer payments, and drive key initiatives including user growth, operations risk, fraud risk, and compliance.

10. CJI DY Chandrachud has administered the oath of office to Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and _____ as judges of the Supreme Court _____ **Senior advocate Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan.**

Note:

- Current sanctioned strength: 34
- Justice KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice V Ramasubramanian will retire in June 2023.
- Currently, Justice PK Mishra is serving the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- KV Viswanathan is a senior advocate and a former Additional Solicitor General.

11. Who took oath as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka for the second time _____ **Siddaramaiah.**

Note:

- Apart from him, DK Shivakumar was sworn in as the cabinet minister and has been designated as the sole deputy chief minister of Karnataka.
- Karnataka has a parliamentary system of government with Legislative Assembly, and Legislative Council.
- Capital of Karnataka: Bangalore.



12. Paytm Payments Bank for the re-appointment of whom as part-time chairman for a year, effective from May 23, 2023 _____ **Vijay Shekhar Sharma.**

Note:

- At present, One97 Communications owns a 49% stake in Paytm Payments Bank and Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds the remaining stakes in the entity.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the promoter of Paytm Payments Bank
- Paytm Payments Bank: It was founded in 2017 and is headquartered in Noida

13. The World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Renée Fleming and whom as the Goodwill Ambassadors for Arts and Health _____ **Pretty Yende.**

Note:

- Renée Fleming is one of the most celebrated singers and Pretty Yende is an extraordinary soprano known for her dazzling performances.
- They would join other distinguished WHO Goodwill Ambassadors such as Alisson, Natalia Becker, Didier Drogba, Michael Bloomberg, Cynthia Germanotta, Gordon Brown, and James Chau, among others.

14. The President of India has named whom as the acting Chief Justice of the Madras high court, with effect from 25.05.2023 _____ **Justice S Vaidyanathan.**

Note:

- He has succeeded the acting Chief Justice of the Madras HC, Justice T Raja, who retired.
- He served as an editor of Labour Law Books published by the Madras Book Agency
- He was elevated as an additional high court judge on October 25, 2013, and became a permanent judge on April 14, 2015.

15. Co-founder, and CEO of Dream Sports, has been elected the chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25. Who is he _____ **Harsh Jain.**

Note:

- He has replaced Sanjay Gupta, vice president, and country manager of Google India.
- Rajesh Magow (co-founder and group CEO of MakeMyTrip) was elected as vice chairman, while Satyan Ganjwani (vice chairman of Times Internet) as the treasurer of the association.
- The IMAI governing council election is held every two years.

16. Which bank has appointed Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as the new managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for three years _____ **Karnataka Bank.**

Note:

- The appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing AGM or within a period of 3 months from the date of assuming charge whichever is earlier.
- His expertise and leadership would drive the bank toward continued growth and success.
- He has worked at HDFC Bank Limited, Yes Bank, and Jio Payments Bank.

17. The Central government has notified the appointment of whom as the Chief Justice (CJ) of Himachal Pradesh HC _____ **Justice MS Ramachandra Rao.**

Note:

- He has succeeded CJ Amjad Sayed, who retired in January 2023.
- In addition, Justice SV Gangapurwala was appointed as the CJ of Madras HC.
- Presently, Justice S Vaidyanathan has been serving as the Acting CJ of Madras High Court.
- Justice Ramesh Dhanuka has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay HC with a tenure of four days.

18. The National Council of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has elected whom as the president of CII for 2023-24 _____ **R Dinesh.**

Note:

- He is an executive vice-chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.
- He has replaced Sanjiv Bajaj, the chairman and managing director, Bajaj Finserv Limited.
- Sanjiv Puri (chairman and managing director of ITC Ltd) has taken over as president-designate of CII for the year 2023-24.
- Rajiv Memani has taken over as vice-president of CII for the year 2023-24.

19. Which Indian personality has been named as a member of the international advisory committee that will provide guidance and counsel to the presidency of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28), UAE _____ **Mukesh Ambani.**

Note:



- He is among 31 international experts named on the panel.
- The panel will inspire collaborative and transformative action across adaptation, mitigation, damage, food, and nature-based solutions.

20. Who has won the presidential election in Türkiye, extending his rule to a third decade _____

Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Note:

- He defeated opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in a runoff vote.
- Out of 99.43% of the votes, Erdogan got 52.14% of the votes and Kilicdaroglu received 47.86%.
- The vote seals Erdogan's place in history as he extends his 20-year rule for a further five years.
- Türkiye capital: Ankara and Currency: Turkish lira

21. Who has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a four-year term (2024-2027) _____ **CAG Girish Chandra Murmu.**

Note:

- The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO for a four-year term (2019-2023).
- In the election held at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, the CAG was re-elected with a majority of 114 out of 156 votes.
- Earlier, the CAG was selected as an External Auditor of the ILO.

22. The Maharashtra govt has named whom as 'Smile Ambassador' under the state medical education & drug department's 'Swachh Mukh Abhiyan' _____ **Sachin Tendulkar.**

Note:

- Aim: To spread awareness about oral health and hygiene
- Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis signed an MoU with Sachin Tendulkar.
- Deputy CM has informed that he has offered his association free of cost, and for the entire duration the government wishes to run the program.

23. The Central Government has notified the appointment of whom as Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court _____ **Justice Nitin Jamdar.**

Note:

- He has succeeded Chief Justice RD Dhanuka, who demitted office on May 30.
- He is from Solapur and is the third generation to pursue law.
- He practiced at the Bombay High Court in diverse fields, primarily in administrative and constitutional law.
- He represented various public bodies and was also Senior Standing Counsel for the Union of India.

Important News – India

1. Who has launched a mobile application named Meri LiFE (My life) in New Delhi _____

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

Note:

- This app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, envisioned by PM Modi at COP 26.
- This app will showcase the power of citizens, especially young people in saving the environment.
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched in October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Focus: Behaviour changes in individuals through simple easy-to-do actions

2. India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation fell below zero in which month for the first time since July 2020 _____ **April 2023.**

Note:

- The WPI inflation fell (-) 0.92% in April 2023, as compared to 1.34 percent recorded in March 2023.
- Reason: Fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food articles, chemical and chemical products, rubber and plastic products, and paper products
- It was at 3.85% in February 2023 and 4.73% in January 2023.

3. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has set up the C-PACE. What is the correct form of C-PACE _____ **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit.**

Note:

- Reason: To centralize the process of striking off companies from the MCA Register
- The C-PACE will reduce the burden on the registry and provide stakeholders with hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound striking off of their company's names from the register.



➤ The C-PACE institution is established under sub-section (1) of section 396.

4. Who has inaugurated the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 18 May 2023 _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

➤ He will also unveil several key initiatives, including the Mascot, a Graphic Novel titled 'A Day at the Museum', the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.

➤ The Mascot is an artistic representation inspired by the iconic Dancing Girl sculpture in the Chennapatnam art style.

➤ Indian Museums Directory serves as a comprehensive survey of museums in India.

5. Which government organization has launched a newly redesigned website and portals named 'UTSAH' and 'Professor of Practice' _____ **University Grants Commission.**

Note:

➤ UTSAH refers to Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education.

➤ This portal will serve as a platform providing detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education.

➤ The Professors of Practice portal facilitate institutions to get experienced professional experts in the required area.

6. According to a UN report titled, 'World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023', India's economy is expected to grow by how much percent in 2023 _____ **5.8%.**

Note:

➤ 6.7% in 2024 (CY), supported by resilient domestic demand.

➤ The report has also highlighted that the higher interest rates and weaker external demand will continue to weigh on investment and exports this year for the country.

➤ Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023 as global commodity prices moderate.

7. Minister of Communications has launched the Sanchar Saathi portal. Who is he _____ **Ashwini Vaishnaw.**

Note:

➤ He has also introduced three reforms:

➤ CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) – for blocking stolen/lost mobiles.

➤ Know your mobile connections – to know mobile connections registered in your name.

➤ ASTR (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) – to identify fraudulent subscribers.

8. Union MoS for Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in which Indian city on May 17, 2023 _____ **Delhi.**

Note:

➤ Agenda: Chronic cases will be taken up and resolved.

➤ Till now, 7 All India Pension Adalats have been organized, in which 24,218 cases have been taken up and 17235 cases have been resolved.

➤ The Minister has also presided over the 50th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop, conducted by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.

9. MoS for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan has launched the ORAN testbed project. What is expanded form of ORAN _____ **Open Radio Access Network.**

Note:

➤ For conformance, certification, and interoperability testing of O-RAN-based solutions.

➤ It will facilitate the testing of ORAN elements and will facilitate the development of a fully indigenous 5G radio network in India.

➤ He has also released a Postal Stamp to mark the glorious 20 Years of Universal Service Obligation Fund of the Ministry of Communications.

10. The Ministry of Cooperation has informed that government will form _____ New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the Cooperative Sector _____ **1,100.**

Note:

➤ These additional 1100 FPOs have been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the FPO Scheme.

➤ Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees is provided to each FPO.

➤ Further, financial assistance of 25 lakh rupees per FPO is provided to the Cluster-Based Business Organizations.



11. PM Narendra Modi embarked on tour to Japan, Papua New Guinea, and which country on May 19, 2023 _____ **Australia**.

Note:

- At first, he will attend G7 Summit in Japan at an invitation of Japanese PM Fumio Kishida.
- G7 Summit preferences: Nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, food and health and development
- Later, he will visit Papua New Guinea to host the third Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation with his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape.

12. Minister of Ayush has inaugurated the National Ayush Mission Conclave in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health). Who is the Minister of Ayush _____ **Sarbananda Sonowal**.

Note:

- Minister of Health informed that the Government will launch an 'Integrative Health Policy' for the health and wellness of public at large.
- It would be a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Ayush.
- Two ICT initiatives of Ministry of Ayush i.e. E-Learning Management System and AHMIS were launched.

13. India launched 'Operation Karuna' to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by which Cyclone _____ **Mocha**.

Note:

- Three INS (Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri) carrying relief material have already reached Yangon, Myanmar.
- The ships are carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and hygiene items.
- EAM Dr. Jaishankar informed that India continues to be the first responder in the region.

14. Ministry of Education and which international organization has organized a one of its kind workshops on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program in Mumbai _____ **World Bank**.

Note:

- This workshop was attended by the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the six STARS states: Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
- STARS program was launched for strengthening of Vocational Education and the workshop focused on discussion on a Skill Gap analysis.

15. Which airline has successfully operated India's first commercial flight on the Pune-Mumbai sectors using an indigenously produced sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) blend _____ **AirAsia India**.

Note:

- Flight I5767 was powered by SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
- It was supplied by Indian Oil in partnership with Praj Industries, which provided the technology for the blend
- SAF: It is also referred to as bio-jet fuel.
- SAF made from renewable biomass and waste resources

16. The Union Health Ministry has launched the "75/25" initiative to screen 75 million people for hypertension and diabetes on Standard Care by which year _____ **2025**.

Note:

- The government has launched the Shashakt Portal to train the 40,000 primary healthcare medical officers on the Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs.
- The MoHFW has also released revised operational guidelines for the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) for wider coverage.

17. School students from all 25 districts across which country have received the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships _____ **Sri Lanka**.

Note:

- This scholarship provides Rs 2500 Lankan per student every month to the top six students from each district, based on merit cum means.
- In 2023, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 period.



18. The 50 start-ups exchange program was launched between India and which country _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- **The** first group of 10 start-up companies returned to Dhaka after completing a successful five-day visit to India from 8-12 May 2023.
- Under this program, 50 Startups from Bangladesh and 50 Startups from India will exchange visits to each other's countries.
- Reason: To explore partnerships, expand business relations, share experience and knowledge, and expand youth and entrepreneurial cooperation

19. The Union Government has approved the signing of the Project Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Health Research (DHR) and which international organization on Assistive Technology _____ **WHO.**

Note:

- Aim: Working towards drawing global attention toward access to assistive technology, fostering research and innovation, and developing and disseminating appropriate training programs.
- The government has also approved an MoU between the CCI and the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA).

20. The first ministerial-level meeting of the India-European Union Trade and Technology Council held which city on May 16, 2023 _____ **Brussels, Belgium.**

Note:

- Aim: To discuss ways to increase cooperation in strategic technologies, digital connectivity, clean energy, trade, and investments
- Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal will co-chair the meeting along with EAM S Jaishankar and MoS, Electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

21. The annual ASEAN Tourism Forum will be hosted by which country in January 2024 _____ **Laos.**

Note:

- The theme of the forum will be "Quality and Responsible Tourism -- Sustaining ASEAN Future".
- The forum will include a tourism exhibition and serves to spur tourism and further service improvement in associated businesses.
- Previously, Laos hosted the ASEAN Tourism Forum in 2004 and 2013.
- The Lao government is working to promote the country's potential as a nature-based tourism destination.

22. G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference on Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for sustainable blue economy held in which city on 18 May 2023 _____ **Diu.**

Note:

- The main theme of RIIG during India's G-20 Presidency in 2023 is "Research and Innovation for an Equitable Society".
- Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr Srivari Chandrasekhar has chaired the G20 RIIG conference.

23. Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has organized a curtain raiser ahead of Wings India 2024 in which city _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- The ministry has also unveiled the event and promo video and released the Wings India 2024 brochure.
- Wings India 2024 is expected to be Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation on Commercial, General and Business Aviation and will bring together various stakeholders.

24. Who has formally inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at ICFRE, Dehradun _____ **Union Minister of Environment, Bhupendra Yadav.**

Note:

- Aim: To promote South-South Cooperation and address land degradation issues through sustainable land management practices
- The CoE-SLM is poised to make a lasting impact in addressing land degradation issues, by leveraging sustainable land management practices, and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).



25. Union Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has informed that the government will provide financial support of what percent for the promotion of Green Shipping _____ **30%.**

Note:

- In addition, Green Hydrogen hubs will be developed at the Deendayal Port (Kandla) and Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin).
- Under the Green Tug Transition program, two tugs each will be procured for the Jawaharlal Nehru, VO Chidambaranar, Paradip, and Deendayal ports.
- A portal will be designed for cruise bookings.

26. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023 in which Indian city _____ **Kolkata.**

Note:

- Aim: To identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions toward technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups
- Focus: AI, Renewable/Green Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Efficiency Enhancement
- It was launched by G Surya Prakash, Assistant Manager (Finance) of GRSE.
- GRSE was established as a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company.

27. The Heavy Industries Ministry notified that the government would reduce the subsidy provided under the FAME-II scheme applicable to electric two-wheelers registered on or after which date _____ **June 1, 2023.**

Note:

- The subsidy for electric two-wheelers would be reduced to ₹10,000 per kilowatt hour (kWh).
- The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers will be 15% of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40% (present).
- FAME India Scheme is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan

28. The Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh has launched which campaign Campaign on promote Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats' in Lucknow _____ **'SAMARTH'.**

Note:

- Implemented by: Ministry of Rural Development
- Aim: To promote Digital Transactions in rural areas, focusing on women
- Minister has lauded the SHG's NPA, which was reduced from 9.58 % in 2013 to below 2%, and urged banks to recognize and outstanding credit performance of SHG Didis and facilitate loans.

29. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has raised the tax exemption on leave encashment on the retirement of non-government salaried employees from ₹3 lakh to what amount, effective from 1 April 2023 _____ **₹25 lakh.**

Note:

- It was announced in the union budget 2023.
- It applies to the period of earned leave in the credit of the employee at the time of retirement whether on superannuation or otherwise.
- In the case of government employees, the entire leave encashment amount received is tax-exempt.

30. India will unveil its new _____ petaflop supercomputer for weather forecasting institutes by the end of 2023 _____ **18.**

Note:

- The new supercomputer will be bought at a cost of Rs 900 crore.
- NCMRWF will be allocated eight petaflop supercomputing power with the remaining 10 petaflops going to IITM
- The NCMRWF houses 'Mihir', a 2.8 petaflop supercomputer

31. PM Modi inaugurated the new New Delhi Parliament House on which date _____ **May 28, 2023.**

Note:

- He has also installed the Sengol with Nandi in the Lok Sabha chamber.
- Constructed by: Tata Projects Ltd
- Three main gates: Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar
- The new building can comfortably seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chamber and 300 in the Rajya Sabha chamber
- The new Lok Sabha chamber has a peacock theme and Rajya Sabha's theme is based on National Flower, Lotus



32. Norodom Sihamoni has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India, is a king of which country
Cambodia

Note:

- The King will have bilateral meetings with President Droupadi Murmu and PM Modi.
- He will also pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat.
- The visit marks the culmination of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Cambodia.
- This visit by the King of Cambodia is taking place after almost six decades.

33. Ministry of Education and which country's Department of State launched the India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development **United States of America.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the field of education and skill development
- The working group exchanged perspectives on skill development and vocational education, certification and recognition, partnerships between US and Indian higher educational institutions, and engaging with the private sector.

34. Which Indian personality was accorded a Ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia **PM Modi.**

Note:

- During his visit, India and Australia signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force.
- The MoUs were exchanged after a bilateral meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese.

35. Molbio Diagnostics and _____ have collaborated to design, develop and commercialize point-of-care diagnostic devices, Sickletest _____ **ShanMukha Innovations.**

Note:

- Aim: To diagnose hemoglobin-related diseases.
- ShanMukha Innovations is an IISc spin-off that specializes in creating mobile diagnostic solutions.
- Sickletest is a first-of-its-kind indigenous point-of-care confirmatory test in the country for quantitative detection and differentiation of sickle cell disease/trait.

36. Which country has decided to allow India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited to develop a second hydropower project in the country **Nepal.**

Note:

- Presently, SJVN is developing a 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project, a run-of-river located on the Arun River in Eastern Nepal.
- The draft project development agreement was approved by Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and is to be signed with India's state-owned SJVN to develop the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydropower project in eastern Nepal.

37. Which edition of Arab League Summit has been concluded in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration **32nd.**

Note:

- This declaration focuses on fostering Arab unity and addressing various regional challenges.
- The unanimous decision to readmit Syria to the Arab League
- The declaration emphasizes the need for increased pan-Arab efforts to assist Syria in resolving its ongoing crisis
- It also proclaims the Arab League's commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative

38. Which edition of meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council was concluded in New Delhi, presided over by PM Modi as the Chairman of NITI Aayog **Eighth.**

Note:

- Theme: Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India
- Eight prominent themes were discussed: (i) Viksit Bharat@2047, (ii) Thrust on MSMEs, (iii) Infrastructure and Investments, (iv) Minimising Compliances, (v) Women Empowerment, (vi) Health and Nutrition, (vii) Skill Development, (viii) Gati Shakti for area development and social infrastructure.

39. Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated which edition of International Conference on Pharma and Medical Device Sector **8th.**

Note:



- He unveiled the National Medical Device Policy 2023 and launched the Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices.
 - He also launched a scheme titled 'Assistance for Medical Devices clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)'.
 - Aim: To establish and strengthen common infrastructure facilities in the medical devices clusters
40. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the 5.1 version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), which is specially designed for _____ **Helicopter**.

Note:

- Aim: To further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters.
- For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.
- Airfare caps have been reduced by as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched 'Him Data Portal' _____ **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note:

- Aim: A common digital platform to integrate data of all organizations for the deliverance of welfare schemes and to better serve the public
- The people associated with the Him Pariyojna project would get information about various welfare schemes easily.
- From July 2023, the HP government would start the Him Parivar project which will give a special digital identity to the people of the State.

2. Which state becomes the first state in India to launch a welfare fund for MGNREGS workers _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- The workers who have completed the age of 60 will be entitled to a pension under this fund and it will also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, and other benefits.
- The workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of Rs 50 as a contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount.

3. Which state government has introduced an electronic service delivery system, e-Chits' to regulate and usher in transparency in the sector _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- Aim: Financially protecting chit-fund companies' subscribers amid alleged scams
- The transactions can be done only online, which will enable the registration department officials to verify subscribers and only then give approval
- It also ensures that subscribers know which registered companies are operating in the chit-fund business

4. Which state government will set up an ethanol plant in its Una district by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) with an outlay of Rs 500 crore _____ **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note:

- The government will invest 50% equity in the project and would extend cooperation to the company for setting up the plant
- The plant would provide employment and self-employment opportunities to the local people and farmers from Kangra, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur
- HPCL CMD: Pushp Kumar Joshi

5. Which state government has launched an online rural education program 'Pahal' _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- The Department of secondary education has prepared this program in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
- Free online education will be provided at 10 government secondary schools in the initial phase.
- The rural area students will be able to get the latest information related to science and mathematics.

6. Which state government will launch a 5G technology training program under the Skill Development Mission for the youth _____ **UP**.



Note:

- Aim: To make the youth skilled in new and future employable technologies
- The state government believes that in the future, youths trained in 5G technology will be needed on a large scale in the telecom sector.
- The 5G technology will transform the entire telecom ecosystem of hardware, software, and services.

7. Which state government has approved a new scheme named 'Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana (Learn and Earn scheme) for unemployed youths _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Youth who have passed class 12th, ITI, Graduation, and post-graduation are eligible for this scheme.
- A stipend amount will also be given to them for learning skills.
- Youths, who have passed Class 12, would be given a stipend of Rs 8000, and an ITI pass would be given Rs 8,500.

8. Who has inaugurated the women laborers convention organized by the Kerala unit of BMS in Thiruvananthapuram _____ **Union WCD Minister, Smriti Irani.**

Note:

- Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan would make the keynote address at the event.
- Around 3,000 women workers and laborers are expected to take part in the convention.
- The trade union informed that 2,000 seminars would be held across the country and out of those 200 would be held in Kerala.

9. Which state government has formulated the 'Green Hydrogen' policy to promote the use of green hydrogen and establish the state as a leading hub for its production _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- It aims to attract investments in large-scale renewable energy projects, ensuring a consistent and sustainable supply of green electricity for electrolysis.
- The government has already signed an MoU with Oil India Limited to enable the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia on a pilot basis.

10. Which state government has launched the Niramaya Health Insurance scheme _____ **Andhra Pradesh.**

Note:

- Beneficiary: Children suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, and others
- The money for the scheme was arranged from Sanjivani Nidhi (funds for which were donated by government employees on New Year's Day).
- The insured person would get 1 lakh a year for health-related issues

11. Which state government has become the first state in the country to conduct pilgrimage by air on government expenditure, under the Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has flagged off a regular Indigo flight carrying a batch of 32 senior citizens on pilgrimage to Prayagraj (UP) from Bhopal (MP) via flight.
- A help center was also set up at the airport for the convenience of the passengers.

12. Which state government has approved a new financial scheme named Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana, under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be paid 6,000 rupees annually _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- The amount is in addition to the 6,000 rupees being paid to farmers by the Centre under the PM Kisan Yojana.
- Maharashtra Cabinet also approved the implementation of 'Gender Inclusive Tourism Policy called 'Aai' to empower women in the tourism sector.

13. Which state government has appointed former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly as the brand ambassador of state tourism _____ **Tripura.**

Note:

- This appointment would help to attract more visitors to Tripura and boost the tourism industry.



- Tripura is a state in Northeast India, bordered by Assam and Mizoram to the east and by Bangladesh to the north, south, and west.
- Tripura is divided into 8 districts and 23 sub-divisions.
- Capital of Tripura: Agartala

14. The officials of the Government of Goa and which state government have signed an MoU for enhancing the tourism landscape of both states _____ **Government of Uttarakhand.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Rohan Khaunte (Minister for Tourism, Goa) and Pushkar Singh Dhimi (CM of Uttarakhand).
- Aim: To promote bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector
- The signing of this MoU is also aligned with the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi.

15. Who has flagged off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express train through video conferencing on May 29, 2023 _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

- This new service will cover the distance of 411 km between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri in 5 hours and 30 minutes.
- The train will stop at Kamakhya, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Alipurduar, and New Coochbehar and culminate at NJP
- This will be the third Vande Bharat for West Bengal, after Howrah-NJP Vande Bharat Express and Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express

16. Which state government has launched 'Artificial Intelligence for Youth' initiatives _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- He has also launched 'Odisha for AI'.
- Odisha for AI: A free 4-hour course on AI by Intel on its app/site
- In the first phase, the initiative will be implemented in Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Cuttack.
- AI for youth: It is for students (below 18) of 2000 5T schools of phase 1 and Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas
- Aim: To create an ecosystem fostering research, innovation, and application across sectors

17. Which state government has launched a 'Mo Ghara' (My House) scheme _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- Aim: to provide credit-linked financial assistance to beneficiaries who face a fund crunch to complete or upgrade their houses
- The scheme will cover all such families who were left out in the existing housing schemes.
- Under the Scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to Rs 3 Lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding a one-year moratorium period in easy installments.

Important News- World

1. Which country will launch pilot projects in more than 20 cities to create a "new-era" marriage and childbearing culture to foster a friendly childbearing environment _____ **China.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost the country's falling birth rate
- China's Family Planning Association will launch projects to encourage women to marry and have children.
- Cities included in the pilot include the manufacturing hub Guangzhou and Handan in China's Hebei province.

2. Who has scaled Mount Everest on May 14, 2023, and become the world's second person to scale Everest 26 times _____ **Pasang Dawa Sherpa.**

Note:

- Kami Rita Sherpa was the first person who climbed Mount Everest 26 times.
- He reached the summit along with a Hungarian climber.
- Pa Dawa had climbed the peak 25 times before, including twice in 2022.
- Since making his first successful climb of the peak in 1998, Dawa has made the trip almost every year.

3. European Union regulators have approved which organization proposed acquisition of gaming firm Activision Blizzard for \$69 billion _____ **Microsoft.**



Note:

- This approval is subject to remedies offered by Microsoft to address antitrust concerns, particularly in the field of cloud gaming.
- The European Commission (EC) has stated that Microsoft has addressed competition concerns while offering 10-year free licensing deals and fair market access for European consumers and cloud game streaming services.

4. Which edition of Cannes Film Festival has been started in France on May 16, 2023 _____ **76th**.

Note:

- The festival has officially kicked off with the world premiere of the Johnny Depp starring film Jeanne Du Barry.
- MoS for I&B, Dr. L Murugan lead an Indian delegation at the 12-day event, accompanied by filmmaker Guneet Monga and others.
- The Indian Pavilion has been conceptualized and designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad with the theme - 'Showcasing India's Creative Economy'.

5. According to the report, 'Turning Off The Tap', plastic pollution across the world can be reduced by up to 80% by 2040, if companies and countries make policy and market shifts using existing technologies. This report was published by _____ **UNEP**.

Note:

- The magnitude and nature of changes required to end plastic pollution and to create a circular economy to replace the widespread use of single-use plastics and their inappropriate disposal.
- About 400 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated every year.

6. Which decade of Bikram Samvat has been marked as 'the Visit Nepal decade' _____ **Decade of the 2080s**.

Note:

- 2025 as a special year for tourism
- This was announced by the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel while presenting the policies/ programmes
- As per the latest statistics maintained by Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal recorded the arrival of over 3.26 lakh foreign tourists in the first 4 months of 2023
- President has announced that timely revisions would be made to tourism-related law.

7. During the visit to Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in which country on 20 May 2023 _____ **Hiroshima, Japan**.

Note:

- The Mahatma Gandhi bust has been gifted by the Government of India to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan.
- The 42 inches tall bronze bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar.
- The bust site, adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is close to the iconic A-Bomb Dome.

8. Who has made history as the first Arab woman astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the private Ax-2 mission _____ **Saudi Arabia's Rayyanah Barnawi**.

Note:

- She is a breast cancer researcher and was joined on the mission by fellow Saudi Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter pilot.
- The Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) crew took off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The team also includes Peggy Whitson and John Shoffner.

9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape released the Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in which language _____ **Tok Pisin**.

Note:

- Aim: To bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of this southwestern Pacific nation.
- Tok Pisin is the official language of Papua New Guinea.
- Thirukkural is a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love, is written by Poet Thiruvalluvar.

10. Which Indian organization has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud to launch its Generative AI _____ **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.

Note:

- It leverages Google Cloud's generative AI services.



- It is designed and deployed for custom-tailored business solutions that help clients harness the power of this new technology to accelerate their growth.
- It is powered by Google Cloud's Generative AI tools – Vertex AI, Generative AI Application Builder and Model Garden, and TCS' own solutions.

11. The Roads and Transport Authority of Dubai has set a target to achieve zero-emissions public transportation by which year _____ **2050.**

Note:

- Aim: To contribute to climate change mitigation and minimize its carbon footprint across three critical areas (public transportation, buildings and facilities, and waste management)
- This move aligns with the UAE COP28 preparations and UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative
- It outlined ten key initiatives, each assigned to various agencies and sectors

12. According to the Financial Times Ranking 2023, which Indian business school has been placed among the top 4 schools in India _____ **IIM Kozhikode.**

Note:

- It has been ranked among the top 75 schools worldwide for its Open Enrolment Executive Education Programme.
- IIM Kozhikode has been ranked 72 among the top 75 providers of open-enrolment executive programs globally.
- While IIM Ahmedabad ranked 45, IIM Bangalore at 47, and Indian School of Business at 65.
- Topped by: Iese Business School, Spain, followed by HEC Paris.

13. Which company is the only Indian company to feature in the Top 50 innovative companies 2023 list, released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) _____ **Tata Group.**

Note:

- Tata Group ranked 20 among the Top 50 innovative companies.
- Top 10: Apple, Tesla, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft, Moderna, Samsung, Huawei, BYD, and Siemens
- BCG's list parameters: Superior performance, higher resilience to shocks and disruptions, and the ability to exploit innovation faster for value-creating growth, among other things

14. According to the annual "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing" report, revenues from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) have reached a record high, about \$95 billion. This report was published by which organization _____ **World Bank.**

Note:

- This is despite the challenging context for governments facing high inflation, fiscal pressures, and energy crises.
- Several countries are using a price on carbon emissions to help meet their climate goals in the form of a tax and Emissions Trading System (ETS).

15. A new greenhouse gas monitoring initiative to support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increase, is approved at which congress _____ **World Meteorological Congress.**

Note:

- Aim: To fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated, operational framework
- The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modeling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof.
- It was supported by the WMO's 193 Members.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has received the best leading actor award for his role in 'This is Going to Hurt (BBC One)' at the BAFTA TV Awards 2023 _____ **Ben Whishaw.**

Note:

- While Kate Winslet won the leading actress award for her role in I Am Ruth (Channel 4).
- Drama series: Bad Sisters (Apple TV Plus)
- Mini-series: Mood (BBC Three)
- International: Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story (Netflix)
- Supporting actor: Adeel Akhtar – Sherwood (BBC One)



2. Which organization has conferred the National Technology Awards 2023 in five categories i.e. Main, MSME, Startup, Translational Research, and Technology Business Incubator _____ **Technology Development Board (TDB)**.

Note:

- T-Hub Foundation, Telangana has received the National Technology Awards 2023 in Technology Business Incubator.
- T-Hub (Technology Hub) is an innovation hub and ecosystem enabler.
- T-Hub leads India's pioneering innovation ecosystem and is the world's largest innovation campus.

3. Which documentary has been awarded the 'Best Long Documentary Award' at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023 _____ **Gauri**.

Note:

- This documentary was directed by Kavitha Lankesh.
- It is based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017.
- This film was commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam.
- The Free Press Unlimited mission stems from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

4. Which state has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tags for three more ODOP crafts Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- Uttar Pradesh has now 48 GI tags.
- Among the 48 GI goods of UP, 36 products belong to the handicraft category.
- Tamil Nadu has a maximum of 55 GI-tagged goods while UP and Karnataka have 48 and 46 GI products respectively.
- Tarkashi is a technique of inlaying brass, copper, or silver wires in wood.

5. Who was conferred with France's highest civilian honor, 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur', by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna _____ **N Chandrasekaran**.

Note:

- He was awarded for his role in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.
- N Chandrasekaran was appointed the chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 and later, was given a second term in the role for another five years.

6. Name the actor who was honored with the prestigious Palme D'Or award for lifetime achievement at the 76th Cannes Film Festival 2023 _____ **Harrison Ford**.

Note:

- He received the award before the premiere of his film 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny'.
- It is an annual film festival, held in Cannes France from 16 to 27 May 2023.
- The festival opened with Jeanne du Barry (directed by Maïwenn).
- The festival will close with Elemental directed by Peter Sohn.

7. WHO DG, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus presented two-lifetime achievement awards to Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum and _____ at the 76th World Health Assembly held in Geneva on May 21 _____ **Peter Piot**.

Note:

- Professor Muyembe-Tamfum from Congo is being recognized for his innovation and contributions to the management and treatment of diseases such as Ebola virus disease.
- Professor Piot from Belgium is being recognized for his leadership in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

8. Name the actor, who will be honored with the Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award at the 23rd IIFA Awards 2023, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE _____ **Veteran actor, Kamal Haasan**.

Note:

- He was awarded various awards including Padma Shri (1990), Padma Bhushan (2014), and Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2016.
- While Ritesh Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza will be honored with Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema.
- Manish Malhotra will also receive the Outstanding Achievement in Fashion in Cinema.



9. Which city has received the first rank in the best Urban Local Body category of the National Water Award 2022 _____ **Chandigarh.**

Note:

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation declared the 4th National Water Award in 2022.
- The Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Awards were launched in 2007.
- Aim: To encourage all stakeholders for adopting innovative practices of groundwater augmentation through rainwater harvesting.

10. PM Modi has been conferred with the highest honors by Fiji and which country _____ **Papua New Guinea.**

Note:

- He was conferred with the "The Companion of the Order of Fiji" by his Fijian PM, Sitiveni Rabuka for his global leadership.
- While Papua New Guinea conferred its highest civilian order, Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries.
- PM Modi is on a visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the third India-Pacific Islands Cooperation Summit.

11. Who has received the Best Actor Award at the Osaka Tamil International Film Festival held in Japan _____ **Thalapathy Vijay.**

Note:

- He was awarded for his performance in 'Master' (directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj), released in 2021
- While Kangana Ranaut has bagged the Best Actress Award for her performance in Thalaivii.
- Other winners: Best Tamil Film: Sarpatta Parambarai; Best Director: Pa. Ranjith (Sarpatta Parambarai); Best Supporting Actor: K. Manikandan; Best Supporting Actress: Lijomol Jose

12. Who has bagged the 2023 International Booker Prize for their book 'Time Shelter' _____ **Georgi Gospodinov.**

Note:

- Translated by: Angela Rodel
- It is the first book originally written in Bulgarian to be nominated for the award.
- The prize has recognized fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland in the year leading up to the award.
- Prize money: 50,000 pounds (about \$62,000) shared equally between the author and translator

13. How many Indians have been honored posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal _____ **Three.**

Note:

- India's Permanent Representative at UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj has received the medal in honor of three Indian peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2022
- BSF Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi have served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- While Shaber Taher Ali served in a civilian capacity with UNAMI

14. Who has bagged the Best Actor award at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi _____ **Hrithik Roshan.**

Note:

- He was awarded for his performance in Vikram Vedha.
- While Alia Bhatt also won the Best Actor (Female) award for Gangubai Kathiawadi.
- Best Film: Drishyam 2
- Best Director: R Madhavan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect)
- Supporting Role: Best Actor (Female): Mouni Roy (Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva); Best Actor(Male): Anil Kapoor (Jugg Jugg Jeeyo)

15. Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai has presented the 57th Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honor, to whom _____ **Goan writer Damodar Mauzo.**

Note:

- 25 books have been published in Konkani and one in English.
- Many of his books have also been translated into different languages.
- In 1983, he has conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Karmelin'.



➤ He is the second Goan to receive the Jnanpith Award, after Ravindra Kelekar, who received the award in 2008.

16. Name the drama, which was conferred with the Palme d'Or, the highest prize at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival _____ **'Anatomy of a Fall' (directed by Justine Triet).**

Note:

- She is the third woman director to win Cannes' top honour.
- Other awardees: Honorary Palme d'Or: Michael Douglas; Best Actress: Merve Dizdar (for About Dry Grasses); Best Actor: Kōji Yakusho (For Perfect Days); Best Director: Tran Anh Hung (For The Pot-Au-Feu); Short Film Palme d'Or: 27 (directed by Flóra Anna Buda)

17. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has conferred the award in the 'Smart Mobility' category to which state transport _____ **Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (BEST).**

Note:

- Reason: Pioneering efforts in adopting green and sustainable practices
- The BEST has been working on its transformation for 2 years, such as 10,000 Electric Buses, Digital Tickets on NCMC and BEST Chalo App, First And Last Mile Services, and Mobility-As-A-Service (MaaS).

18. Which Indian organization has conferred the prestigious "GreenTech Safety Award 2023" under Safety Excellence Category at the 21st Annual Greentech awards function _____ **RINL.**

Note:

- Reason: For its outstanding contribution to improving workplace safety in 2022-23
- The 21st Annual Greentech Awards was organized by the Greentech Foundation to recognize the organizations that are taking responsibility for defining a commercial future by adding value through excellence in fire, safety, and security management.

Sports News

1. Who has become the 82nd Grandmaster of India _____ **Prraneeth Vuppala.**

Note:

- He achieved the required 2,500 FIDE rating points during the Baku Open tournament.
- He had already achieved three GM norms earlier and needed to cross 2,500 rating points.
- He got the required points after defeating GM Hans Niemann of the USA in the penultimate round of the Baku Open.
- Prraneeth is now the sixth Grandmaster from the State of Telangana.

2. Name the Indian archer, who has defeated the world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands to win a maiden World Cup gold medal in the men's individual compound section _____ **Prathamesh Jawkar.**

Note:

- In the non-Olympic compound section, India bagged 2 gold with the mixed team duo of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam beating the top-seeded Korean team 156-155.
- Mixed team duo of Sheetal & Rakesh also bagged gold.

3. Who has clinched his maiden Italian Open 2023 title, after beating Holger Rune _____ **Daniil Medvedev (from Russia).**

Note:

- It is Medvedev's fifth title of 2023 and victory lifts him above Novak Djokovic to second in the world rankings.
- Other winners: Women's Single Title: Elena Andrejevna Rybakina (Kazakhstani) after defeating Anhelina Kalinina; Men's Double: Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński; Women's Double: Storm Sanders and Elise

4. Which Indian athlete clinched a bronze medal at the Golden Grand Prix 2023 athletics meet in the women's long jump in Japan _____ **Shaili Singh.**

Note:

- She has attempted a jump of 6.65 meter, which provided her third place on the podium.
- Germany's Maryse Luzolo won the gold medal with an effort of 6.79 meter while Australia's Brooke Buschkuehl bagged the silver medal with a 6.77 meter leap.
- During the Indian Grand Prix 4 athletics meet in Bengaluru, she has registered a jump of 6.76 meter.



5. As per the latest rankings released by World Athletics, who has become the new world number one in the men's javelin throw with 1455 points _____ **Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra.**

Note:

- Anderson Peters from Grenadian ranked second, followed by Jakub Vadlejch, and Julian Weber.
- Neeraj Chopra also became the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track and field event at the Tokyo Olympics.
- In 2023, he won the Diamond League in Doha with a world-leading effort of 88.67m.

6. Which sports brand would become the new kit sponsor of the Indian national cricket team _____ **Adidas.**

Note:

- In 2020, the BCCI signed a three-year deal with the Mobile Premier League's sports merchandise brand MPL Sports to replace American sportswear manufacturer Nike.
- Clothing brand Killer Jeans became an interim sponsor after that deal ended prematurely and their contract will expire on May 31, 2023.

7. Who has successfully defended his title in the men's long jump event at the 13th International Jumping Meeting 2023 in Kallithea, Greece _____ **Murali Sreeshankar.**

Note:

- He registered his season-best jump of 8.18m to beat his compatriot.
- This was Murali Sreeshankar's third competition of the year and also the third gold medal.
- While Jeswin Aldrin has claimed silver with an effort of 7.85m.
- Jalen Rucker of Australia won bronze for a 7.80m effort in the 12-man field.

8. PM Modi will inaugurate which edition of Khelo India University Games 2022 via video conferencing on May 25, 2023 _____ **Third.**

Note:

- The event will be attended by Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and UP CM Yogi Adityanath.
- The events related to the university games have already started on May 23 in the Gautam Budh Nagar district.
- Event locations: Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, and Gautam Buddha Nagar
- Mascot: Jitu, which represents Swamp Deer (Barasingha) - the state animal of UP

9. Who has won the Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland 2023, held at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland _____ **GM Magnus Carlsen.**

Note:

- He finished with a score of 24/36 and won the cash prize of \$40,000.
- Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Polish), who placed second ended with 23/36.
- While the USA's Wesley So and France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave finished in a tie for third.
- The 2023 Grand Chess Tour continues with the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz in Zagreb Croatia.

10. Who has clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title 2023, held at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament _____ **H.S. Prannoy.**

Note:

- In finals, he beat Weng Hong Yang of China 21-19, 13-21, 21-18.
- He had previously clinched the title at the 2017 US Open.
- Women's singles: Akane Yamaguchi
- Men's Double: Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung-jae
- Women's doubles: Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee
- Mixed doubles: Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai

11. Which team has defeated defending champions Gujarat Titans by 5 wickets to win its 5th IPL title _____ **Chennai Super Kings (CSK).**

Note:

- The final match of IPL 2023 was held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on May 29, 2023.
- IPL 2023 awards:
- Orange Cap (Highest Run-Scorer): Shubman Gill (GT) 890 runs
- Purple Cap (Leading Wicket-taker): Mohammed Shami (GT) 28 wickets
- Most Valuable Player: Shubman Gill
- Emerging Players: Yashasvi Jaiswal



- Fairplay Award: Gujarat Titans

12. Which state hockey team defeated the Hockey Association of Odisha to win the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023, held at the iconic Birsu Munda Hockey Stadium, Odisha _____ **Uttar Pradesh Hockey.**

Note:

- Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh to finish third in the competition.
- Ujjwal Pal converted three penalty corners, while Rahul Yadav, Ketan Kushwaha, Rahul Rajhbar, and Ajeet Yadav (Team Captain) each scored a goal to secure their victory.

13. Which country has won the title of the NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup held in Kathmandu, Nepal _____ **India.**

Note:

- India won the title by defeating Kazakhstan in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu.
- The event was organized by the Nepal Volleyball Association and is supported by the NSC, eight nations participated in it.
- In the competition, Kazakhstan became the runner-up, followed by Nepal, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, and Kyrgyzstan.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of a book titled "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life" _____ **Ruskin Bond.**

Note:

- The Golden Years book is published by HarperCollins India.
- This book was released on 19 May 2023, Bond's 89th birthday. "
- The Golden Years" focuses on Bond's experiences during the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

2. Who has released his semi-autobiographical book titled "Guts Amidst Bloodbath" at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) _____ **Anshuman Gaekwad.**

Note:

- The occasion was graced by six former India cricket captains - Sachin Tendulkar, Gundapa Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, and Kapil Dev.
- These legendary cricketers shared anecdotes and praised Gaekwad for his contributions to the sport.

3. The book titled 'Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration' was written by whom _____ **Dr. Manoj Kumar.**

Note:

- It is a compendium of three volumes with Judgments spanning from the year 1988 till 2022 covering Arbitration Act 1940 and 1996.
- The book was fore worded by R. Venkataramani.
- There has been substantial jurisprudence laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Country on Commercial Arbitration spanning over multiple statutory frameworks.

4. Who has released a book titled 'Partitioned Freedom' at an event in Guwahati _____ **Assam Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria.**

Note:

- This book was written by Ram Madhav and published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.
- This book offers great insights into the events that unfolded during 1905 and the pre-independence era.
- Ram Madhav is an Indian Politician, Author, and thinker.

5. A book titled, "RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond" will be released by whom _____ **Dr Shashi Tharoor.**

Note:

- This book was written by Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group and former MP Dr Vijay Darda.
- It is a captivating compilation of Darda's weekly articles, which were published in the Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other prominent national and regional dailies of the country between 2011 and 2016



6. Five books published under the scheme for new writers, were released by Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai in a function at Raj Bhavan. What is the name of this scheme _____ **Nayi Pahal.**

Note:

- The five books released were authored by Sanjay Ramesh Salelkar (Konkani), Pallavi Polekar (Marathi), Manohar Adpaikar (Marathi), and Pachu Menon (two books in English).
- The five titles are the first of 100 odd books that the Raj Bhavan plans on publishing in 22 different languages through its innovative scheme.

Science and Defence

1. Which space agency has selected Blue Origin to make its lunar lander for Artemis V, a mission slated to put astronauts near the moon's south pole in 2029 _____ **NASA.**

Note:

- The Blue Origin contract will provide NASA with a second ride to the moon.
- Blue Origin will work with several industry partners like Lockheed Martin, Draper, Boeing, Astrobotic, and Honeybee Robotics.
- Blue Origin plans to use its New Glenn rocket, which has never flown before, to launch both its lander and this refueling shuttle.

2. Which corp of the Indian Army has organized a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, Assam _____ **Gajraj Corps.**

Note:

- Aim: To validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns
- The exercise was joined by Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force, DDMA, and police representatives.
- It includes coordination and rehearsals for a rescue mission of people from inundated areas.

3. Which edition of the Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise titled 'Samudra Shakti-23' concluded in the South China Sea _____ **4th.**

Note:

- The sea phase of the exercise was held from 17th to 19th May 2023 witnessed the participation of ASW corvette INS Kavaratti with integral Chetak helicopter and a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- Sea phase was preceded by a harbour phase which saw professional interactions.
- Samudra Shakti exercise was first held in 2018.

4. Which IIT has launched 15 Centres of Excellence (CoE) as part of the 'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) Scheme on 24th May 2023 _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).**

Note:

- Aim: To develop next-generation technologies and create a significant impact
- The IoE Scheme was launched by the Government of India to empower Higher Educational Institutions to become world-class teaching and research institutions.
- IIT Madras, one of the pre-eminent institutions in India, was chosen in 2019.

5. Which India's AI supercomputer has secured the 75th position in the prestigious Top 500 Global Supercomputing List _____ **AIRAWAT.**

Note:

- The announcement was made during the 61st edition of the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) held in Germany.
- Airawat PSAI, stands as India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak)
- Other Indian supercomputers: PARAM Siddhi-AI (131), Pratyush (169), and Mihir (316)

6. ISRO has successfully launched a second generation NVS-01, by using a GSLV rocket with a cryogenic upper stage. What is the type of this satellite _____ **Navigation Satellite.**

Note:

- NVS-01 would augment the India's regional navigation system, providing accurate and real-time navigation
- The GSLV-F12/NVS-01 mission was launched from the 2nd launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- The signals will be more secure, civilian frequency band has been introduced
- This was one of five such satellites.



7. India's defense production has increased by more than 12% from last fiscal year and crossed _____ threshold for the first time _____ **1 trillion rupees.**

Note:

- Reason: India is reducing its reliance on imports from countries such as Russia
- The value of India's local defence production jumped to 1.07 trillion rupees, as on March 31, 2023, and was expected to rise further once data from some private defence companies came in.

8. Which submarine has been returned to Mumbai (India) after undergoing a major refit at Naval Dockyard in Russia, after sailing for 97 days _____ **INS Sindhuratna.**

Note:

- The ship returned passage through the Norwegian Sea, English Channel, and the Mediterranean Sea.
- It had gone for an upgrade in Severodvinsk after a major accident in February 2014.
- INS Sindhuratna is a Russian Type 877EKM diesel-electric submarine.
- It is popularly called a NATO-defined Kilo-class sub.

9. Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) concluded the sea phase of the second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23', which was held in which location _____ **Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia.**

Note:

- Indian Navy participated with the INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra, and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA).
- The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo, and UAV.
- The exercise culminated with debrief at sea followed by a traditional steam past.

10. The Joint Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise 'Tiger Shark 40' has started at BNS Nirvik in which location _____ **Chattogram.**

Note:

- Aim: To increase the strategic capabilities of both countries and to acquire mutual technical and procedural knowledge
- It is being undertaken to improve the existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries.
- Bangladesh Army and Navy and US Special Forces participated in this training exercise held under the management of Commodore Swords Command.

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