

Monthly GK Digest

May 2023



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of '**May-2023**'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. **Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) of Rs 1.87 lakh crore** was collected in April 2023.
Note: It is the **highest monthly mop-up** since the inception of the indirect tax regime in July 2017. The government has collected CGST of Rs 38,440 crore, SGST of Rs 47,412 crore, and IGST of Rs 89,158 crore (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 12,025 crore. The highest GST collection was recorded in April 2022 at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.
2. **Home Ministry** has canceled the **Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA) license** of the **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**.
Note: About FCRA: Enacted in: 1976; Validity: 5 years; It requires every person/NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be: Registered under the Act, To open a bank account for the receipt of foreign funds in SBI, Delhi, To utilize those funds only for the purpose they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
3. India and **Russia** have agreed to explore the possibility of **accepting each other's payment cards, RuPay (India) and Mir**.
Note: Reason: For hassle-free payments between the two countries, This decision was made during the meeting of the Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). This meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar and Russia's Deputy PM Denis Manturov.
4. **The World Bank** will **provide financial aid of 2.25 billion dollars** to **Bangladesh** for five infrastructure and development projects.
Note: Accelerating transport and trade connectivity in Eastern South Asia worth \$753.45 million. USD 500 million for Resilient **Infrastructure Building Project**: USD 500 million First Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development; USD 250 million Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation; USD 250 million Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation
5. **Airtel Payments Bank** has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India** to roll out Face Authentication for Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS).
Note: AePS allows customers to carry out financial and non-financial transactions at any banking point using their Aadhaar number/ virtual ID to access their Aadhaar-linked bank account. This facility will enable customers to validate the transaction by undertaking face authentication along with the Aadhaar number.
6. According to the **IMF report**, the growth of the **Asia-Pacific region** is expected to increase to **4.6%** in 2023 from 3.8% in 2022.
Note: The **two largest emerging market economies (India & China)** of the region are expected to contribute around half of global growth in 2023. 2023 will be challenging for the global economy, with global growth decelerating as the effects of monetary policy tightening and Russia's war in Ukraine continue to weigh on economic activity.
7. Merchant commerce platform, **Pine Labs** has partnered with **ICICI Bank** for the acceptance of the **digital Rupee on its PoS terminals**.
Note: The technology integration between the two entities will now support Digital Rupee acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Pine Labs' execution of the Digital Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR (quick response) built within its smart Android PoS terminals.
8. **Cashfree Payments** has partnered with **YES Bank** to offer '**Global Collections**', an international collection service for exporters.
Note: Under this partnership, the bank's account holders will be able to collect payments in over **30 foreign currencies** using the Global Collections service. The funds so received can then be converted into rupee and settled into their local bank account in India within one business day.
9. **RBI** has released a **report titled, 'Currency and Finance 2022-23'** with a theme of 'Towards A Greener Cleaner India'.
Note: This report covers four **major dimensions of climate change** to assess future challenges to

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

10. Capital markets regulator SEBI has introduced LEI system.

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

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

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

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

Note: The Banks and other financial institutions ensure cross-border as well as domestic wire transfers contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary. **Wire Transfer:** It is an electronic transfer of funds via a network administered by banks and transfer service agencies worldwide.

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

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

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

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

15. HDFC Bank has launched its retail banking program 'Vishesh' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies.

Note: The bank plans to add more branches and launch **tailor-made products and financial solutions** for this

market segment. They will look to add 675 branches in semi-urban and rural geographies in FY24. Presently, 52% of the bank's 7,821 branches are in rural and semi-urban locations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Aim: To provide a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. It was launched in the presence of Dilip

- Asbe (CEO, NPCI) and **Sanjay Agarwal (MD & CEO of AU SFB)**. It simplifies financial operations for businesses with benefits like up to 2% cashback, 48 days of interest-free credit, and instant loans.
22. **Max Life Insurance** has partnered with the **Indian Industries Association (IIA)** to provide life insurance plans to the MSME sector's workforce in Uttar Pradesh.
Note: Aim: To enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP. Max Life is the appointed lead insurer for UP, under IRDAI's State insurance plan. It offers life insurance access to more than 11 lakh MSME workforce affiliated with IIA and their families in the State.
 23. **Rukart** has tied up with **SBI** for providing easy loans to customers for buying the cold storage system '**Subjee Cooler**'.
Note: Rukart sells 'Subjee Cooler' to enhance the shelf life of fruits and vegetables by 4-6 days. It is a cold chain storage system that requires only 20 liters of water a day. The cost of the product is Rs 50,000 each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg. It is dedicated to minimizing the carbon footprint through innovative solutions.
 24. SEBI has allowed stock exchanges to **extend DMA to registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** with immediate effect.
Note: DMA refers to **Direct Market Access**. **Reason:** To promote institutional participation in Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs). DMA facilitates the clients of a broker to directly access the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to place orders without manual intervention by the broker.
 25. Yes Bank has launched **YES KIRAN** for offering financial assistance to **MSMEs manufacturers**.
Note: **Aim:** To support the adoption of sustainable energy practices by small and mid-sized enterprises. MSMEs will get various benefits such as reduced operational cost, a flexible loan tenure at competitive interest rates, and a broad range of tie-ups with leading solar panel manufacturers and installers to help MSMEs
 26. RBI has stated that fees and charges payable in India on **forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards** must be denominated and settled in **Local** currency.
Note: The use of such cards is limited to permissible current account transactions. It is subject to the prescribed limits **under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules**. The RBI had previously stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.
 27. RBI has imposed a **penalty of ₹2.92 crore on Canara Bank** for violation of various norms.
Note: It includes **linking interest rates to external benchmarks**, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities. A scrutiny of the bank was carried out by RBI in July 2020 based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank. After scrutiny, the RBI found that the bank failed to link interest on floating rate retail loans and loans to MSME to an external benchmark.
 28. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be participating in the **GFIN Greenwashing TechSprint**.
Note: GFIN refers to **Global Financial Innovation Network**. **Aim:** To address the concern over exaggerated, misleading, or unsubstantiated claims related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials. GFIN support financial innovation in the interest of consumers. The RBI has invited Indian firms to participate in the TechSprint to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.
 29. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **100 Days 100 Pays** for banks.
Note: **Reason:** To trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days. **Aim:** To reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. An unclaimed deposit is one that does not see any activity for 10 years or more and is deemed inactive.
 30. **PayNearby** has launched a new meta-commerce platform called **PayNearby Mall**.
Note: This platform is designed to enable easy access to goods and services and will be **integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform**. **Aim:** To upgrade every retailer in its million+ active network and help them meet the demand of their customers. **Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby: Anand Kumar Bajaj.**
 31. 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 **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.
 32. **RuPay** 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.
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.
 33. **IRDAI** has constituted a **five-member expert committee** to advise it on matters related to **mental health and insurance**.
Note: Headed by: **Pratima Murthy (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.
34. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed **SBI Funds Management (SBIFML) to acquire up to 9.99%** of the paid-up share capital or **voting rights of HDFC Bank**.
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.
 35. According to Morgan Stanley, **India** is expected to contribute **16%** of the **global gross domestic product (GDP)** growth over 2023-24.
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%.
 36. **HDFC AMC Ltd** has launched **India's first mutual fund** focussed on the **defence sector**.
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.
 37. **IRDAI** has formed a task force to facilitate **ease of doing KYC and allied matters using Aadhaar**.
Note: KYC refers to **Know Your Customers**. 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.
 38. **Aditya Birla Capital** has launched an **MSME-focused portal, Udyog Plus**.
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.
 39. As per a Finance Ministry notification, the spending in **foreign exchange through international credit cards (ICCs)** will be covered **under the RBI's LRS**.
Note: LRS refers to **Liberalized Remittance Scheme**. 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.
 40. RBI has decided to **withdraw Rs 2000** banknotes from circulation under the **Clean Note Policy**.
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**.
 41. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board has approved the transfer of **₹87,416 crore as surplus** to the government for FY23, surpassing the **budget estimate by 82%**.
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.
 42. 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 **Rs 7 lakh** in a financial year **from July 1, 2023**.
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.
 43. **Paytm Money** has launched the most advanced **bond platform for retail investors in India**.
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.
 44. **Google Pay** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** rolled out support for **RuPay credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
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.
 45. According to the RBI's March 2023 bulletin, the Reserve Bank of India bought **\$750 million** on a net basis in the **spot foreign exchange market in March 2023**.
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.

46. The **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)** at the IIT Kanpur joined hands with **YES Bank** by signing an MoU that seeks to provide crucial **support to the startups incubated at SIIC**.
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.
47. **YES BANK** has **adopted Azure Red Hat OpenShift** to transform its next-generation mobile banking applications for an efficient mobile banking experience for its customers.
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.
48. **Axis Bank** has **launched 'Sarathi'** a digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.
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
49. The **Indian government** has signed a loan agreement of **USD 141.12 million** with **Asian Development Bank** for the development of infrastructure in three industrial clusters situated in **Andhra Pradesh**.
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
50. **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the **top performer** among public sector lenders in terms of **loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2022-23**.
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**.
51. **HDFC Bank** has **partnered with Manipal Global Academy** of BFSI to launch its **Future Banker 2.0 programme**.
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.
52. 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 **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
53. **PhonePe** has become the **first digital payments app** to successfully enable the linkage of **two lakh RuPay credit cards** to the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
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.
54. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has signed an agreement with **International Business Machines (IBM)** to design and build a digital banking platform.
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.
55. The RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 84.50 lakh on Central Bank of India** for non-compliance with norms related to **fraud classification and reporting**.
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.
56. RBI has approved the **voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank**, with effect from May 29, 2023.
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.
57. **Indian Bank** has entered into an agreement with **Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd. (ICCL)** as its Clearing and Settlement 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.

58. SEBI has formed an **Intermediary Advisory Committee** to advise the market regulator on **changes in the legal framework**, is headed by **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

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

62. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched its **2023-27 country partnership strategy for India**.

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

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

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

Note: She was **crowned world champion in 2017** and won three Olympic medals at the Rio Games in 2016. She won the Olympic Gold with the USA relay team at the Rio Olympics in 2016. She was born and raised in Mississippi.

3. **Samaresh Majumdar**, who passed away at 79, was a **renowned Bengali author**.

Note: He was best known for his political trilogy – Uttaradhikar, Kalbela, and Kalpurush. He has conferred the **Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Kalbela'**, which was set against the backdrop of the Naxalite movement. He was awarded 'Bangavibhushan' by the West Bengal government in 2018. Famous books are: Daur, Kalbela, Kalpurush, Garbhadharini, Uttaradhikar, Arjun Samagra, Satkahan etc

4. **AR Khaleel**, who passed away at the age of 9, was a former Vice President of **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**.

Note: He had also served as the **president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA)** for 28 years till 2018. He was a footballer, who ran Jawahar Union FC, one of Bengaluru's traditional clubs. He also donned managerial roles for the Indian National Teams in various age groups.

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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

12. **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. The states of **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra** commemorated their **63rd Foundation Day on 1st May 2023**.

Note: Gujarat celebrates its 63rd foundation day as Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Maharashtra are also celebrated as 'Maharashtra Din'. During the event, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects in Jamnagar worth Rs. 300 crore. Gujarat was carved out of the Bombay State on May 1, 1960, after the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960**.

2. **World Press Freedom Day** is observed annually on **May 3** to raise awareness about the importance of freedom of the press.

Note: This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day. **Theme 2023: Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights**. This day was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1991 in response to the increasing number of attacks on journalists around the world.

3. **World Athletics Day 2023** is observed every year on **May 7** to mark the importance of athletes and sportspersons globally.

Note: The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is '**Athletics for All - A New Beginning**'. This day was established by the late Primo Nebiolo, the then-president of the International Association of Athletics Federations

(IAAF). The first World Athletics Day was held on May 15, 1996.

4. **World Laughter Day** is celebrated on **First Sunday** of May.

Note: In 2023, World Laughter Day falls on 7th May 2023. The theme for this year's celebration is "**World Peace Through Laughter**." The day was first observed in 1998 by Dr Madan Kataria, who founded the Laughter Yoga movement.

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

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

6. **International Firefighters' Day** is observed every year on **May 4**.

Note: Aim: To remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. In 1999, this day was established to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices made by firefighters worldwide.

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

Note: World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day. The theme of World Red Cross Day 2023 is '**Everything we do comes #fromtheheart**'. This day

recognizes the significant contributions of the International Red Cross toward providing humanitarian services to individuals regardless of their race, religion, or political beliefs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Aim: To promote the conservation of migratory birds and raise awareness about their significance. In 2023, May 13 marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. 2023 theme: Water and its importance for Migratory Bird. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held on 13 May and 14 October. It is a worldwide initiative launched in 2006 by the AEWA and CMS Secretariats.

12. **7th edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week** is being observed from 15-21 May 2023.

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.

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

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.

14. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** is celebrated annually on **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.

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

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.

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

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).

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

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.

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

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.

19. The non-profit organization, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) celebrates **World Turtle Day** on **May 23** every year.
Note: Reason: To raise public awareness regarding the need to protect turtles, tortoises, and their rapidly diminishing habitat. **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.
20. **Commonwealth Day** is celebrated every year on March 13, across the world, while **India and some other countries observe it on 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
21. **Menstrual Hygiene Day** is observed annually on **May 28** to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene and break stigma around menstruation.
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.
22. **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** is celebrated every year across the globe on **May 29** to highlight the efforts of the UN peacekeepers work to establish and maintain peace in conflict areas.
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.
23. **World No Tobacco Day**, also known as Anti-Tobacco Day, has been observed every year on **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. **Santiago Peña (Colorado Party)** has won the **presidential election of Paraguay**, defeating Efraín Alegre, the candidate of the Concertación Nacional coalition.
Note: He got more than 42% votes, while his **opponent Efraín Alegre** received nearly 28%. The Colorado Party has dominated the political scene in Paraguay's landlocked South American nation for more than 70 years. Paraguay's economy is expected to grow by more than 4% this year.
2. **Vanessa Hudson** has been appointed as the new **chief executive officer** of Australia's flagship carrier, **Qantas**.
Note: She will **succeed Alan Joyce**, who will retire in November 2023. She has been market-facing as CFO since October 2019. She had held several senior roles there, including chief customer officer and senior vice president for the Americas and New Zealand.
3. The government of India has cleared the appointment of **Justice T. S. Sivagnana as the Chief Justice of Calcutta**.
Note: Presently, he is serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. On 25 October 2021, he took oath as a Judge of Calcutta High Court. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court and later he was appointed Permanent Judge on 29 March 2011.
4. **T. S. Sivagnana** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of **Coal India Limited**.
Note: He is currently **posted as CMD of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Ranchi**. In 2015, he joined NTPC as Executive Director (Coal Mining) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) in 2018 as Director of Technical (P&P). In 2019, he was also appointed as CMD of BCCL. The Union coal ministry has set a target for Coal India Limited to produce 1012 MT of coal by 2023-24
5. **Ajay Banga** has been appointed as the **new president of the World Bank**, effective June 2, 2023.
Note: He was **nominated by US President Joe Biden** in February 2023. Presently, he is serving as the vice chairman at US investment firm General Atlantic LP. Before that, he worked as president and CEO of Mastercard. In 2016, he was awarded the fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri.
6. **Charles III** has taken his oath and been **crowned King** in a ceremony in London witnessed by over two thousand guests and dignitaries in Westminster Abbey.
Note: The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the King's head during a ceremony at Westminster Abbey and after the King was crowned, his wife Camilla was crowned as the Queen. King had taken the solemn oath to govern the United Kingdom people with justice and mercy.
7. Accenture board has appointed **Ajay Vij** as the **MD of Accenture India, succeeded Rekha M. Menon**, who retired after 20 years.
Note: He will be responsible for expanding his current responsibilities as Corporate Services & Sustainability lead to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making. While Sandeep Dutta will lead the

company's Market Unit. He will serve as the company's India business lead and drive business and operations.

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

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

9. Neera Tanden has been appointed as **US President's Domestic Policy Advisor** to help him craft and implement his domestic policy agenda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Praveen Sood was appointed as the **new CBI director** for a period of two years.

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).

14. Linda Yaccarino has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter**.

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.

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

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.

16. Ravneet Kaur has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for five years**.

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.

17. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took over as the **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff**.

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).

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

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.

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

Note: 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.
20. **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has been appointed as the **new union law minister**.
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**.
 21. **Bhavesh Gupta** has been appointed as the **president and chief operating officer (COO) of Paytm**.
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.
 22. CJI DY Chandrachud has administered the oath of office to **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **Senior advocate Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan** as judges of the Supreme Court.
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.**
 23. **Siddaramaiah** took oath as the **24th Chief Minister of Karnataka** for the second time.
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.
 24. **Paytm Payments Bank** for the **re-appointment of Vijay Shekhar Sharma** as part-time **chairman** for a year, effective from May 23, 2023.
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
 25. The World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed **Renée Fleming** and **Pretty Yende** as the **Goodwill Ambassadors for Arts and Health**.
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.
 26. Co-founder, and CEO of Dream Sports, **Harsh Jain** has been elected the **chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25**.
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.
 27. **Karnataka Bank** has appointed **Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma** as the new **managing director and chief executive officer** of the bank for three years.
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.
 28. The Central government has notified the appointment of **Justice MS Ramachandra Rao** as the **Chief Justice (CJ) of Himachal Pradesh HC**.
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.
 29. The National Council of **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **R Dinesh** as the **president of CII for 2023-24**.
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.
 30. **Mukesh Ambani** 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**.
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.
 31. **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has won the **presidential election in Turkiye**, extending his rule to a third decade.
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. Turkiye capital: Ankara and Currency: Turkish lira

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

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.

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

Note: Aim: To spread awareness about oral health and hygiene. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM

Devendra Fadnavis 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.

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

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

Note: This was announced during a Special Meeting at Srinagar chaired by the Australian high commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell. The **project "Return to Roots"** aims to integrate traditional knowledge with the current school science curriculum in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP).

2. **India's exports to UAE** are expected to **reach \$50 billion by 2026-27** from \$31.3 billion at present on the back of the free trade agreement between the countries.

Note: Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal has informed that the trade between India and the UAE has grown significantly after the implementation of the trade agreement on May 1, 2022. The **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022.

3. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the **unemployment rate of India** has surged to a four-month high of **8.11% in April**, compared to 7.14% in March 2023.

Note: The rise in the unemployment rate came on the back of **higher labor participation**, which has risen to 41.9% from 39.7% in March. Rural India: 20.3 million people entered the workforce and 95% of them got jobs. Urban India: 5.2 million people entered the workforce, but only half of them got jobs

4. **India's domestic coal production** has increased by over **22%** during the last five years.

Note: The overall coal production has seen a quantum jump to 893.08 Million tonnes in 2022-23 from 728.72 Million tonnes in 2018-2019 with a growth of about 22.6%. The govt aims to enhance domestic coal production to reduce the dependence on substitutable coal imports. Several measures have been taken to ramp up domestic coal production to ensure adequate coal stocks at thermal Power Plants

5. **REC Limited** has exclusively listed its recently issued **Green bonds worth \$750 million** at GIFT IFSC Stock Exchanges, under its Global Medium Term Programme of \$7 billion.

Note: The Green bond issuance by REC Limited reinforces its status as one of the most accomplished and frequent issuers in the international capital markets. International Financial Services Centres Authority **Chairman Injeti Srinivas** attended the ceremony as chief guest.

6. **UGC Chairman, M Jagadesh Kumar** has launched the Central University Faculty recruitment **portal CU-Chayan**.

Note: It is a completely **user-friendly portal** and caters to the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process. Aim: To create an enabling environment for both, universities and the applicants with universities driving all the stages of the recruitment independently. It has been developed after consultations with all the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities.

7. According to a National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, conducted by the Department of Science and Technology and UNIDO, **Karnataka** has **topped the ranking** of the most **innovative state in manufacturing**.

Note: Followed by Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Haryana. The survey also highlighted that Karnataka has the highest number of companies in manufacturing that carry out innovations. **Bottom: Northeastern states (excluding Assam), followed by Bihar.**

8. **India** will launch its **own heat index in 2024** to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations.

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

9. **Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated National Conference on Agriculture for **Kharif Campaign 2023-24**.
Note: During the conference, he announced that the Ministry of Agriculture has set a target of a record 3,320 lakh tonnes (332 million tonnes) production of foodgrains for the year 2023-24. In 2022-23, 3,235 lakh tonnes were produced. The target for the production of Pulses is fixed at 292.5 lakh and for oilseeds at 440 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.
10. India has operationalized the **Sittwe Port in Myanmar** with the departure of the inaugural shipment, the MV-ITT LION (V-273), from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata**.
Note: It is a **part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project**. IT carried 20,000 bags containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement and is expected to reach Sittwe Port on 9 May. It was built under a grant of assistance from the Indian government. Aim: To boost trade and commerce between the two countries
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the **National SC-ST Hub Scheme**, which **crossed over one lakh beneficiary** registrations.
Note: About National SC-ST Hub Scheme: It is an initiative of the Union MSME Ministry. Aim: To empower and promote entrepreneurs among SC, ST Communities. It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a public-sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.
12. **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** will organize **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)** on 8th May in 200 districts across the country.
Note: PMNAM will witness the participation of many companies representing various sectors, providing relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth. Through this, participating organizations can connect with potential apprentices, while strengthening the livelihood opportunities of the youth.
13. **NMCG** and the National Institute of Urban Affairs jointly organized the **'River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities'** in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To provide a platform for officials of member cities and international stakeholders to discuss and learn good practices for managing urban rivers This seminar has witnessed the participation from Embassies/High Commissions of selected countries and their respective river cities.
14. **NTPC** has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** to develop nuclear power projects.
Note: The JV company shall develop two pressurized heavy-water reactors (PHWR) projects, **Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW** and Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW. Presently, NTPC has a total installed power generation capacity of 71.644 GW, of which 3.01 GW is renewable energy.
15. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and IHub-Data signed an MoU at **IIIT Hyderabad campus**.
Note: Aim: For cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IHub-Data to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities. IFSCA is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services. IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy.
16. Sri Lanka's mobile telecommunication firm, **Dialog Axiata**, and **India's Bharti Airtel** have signed a binding term sheet for the **merger of their Sri Lankan subsidiaries**.
Note: With this merger, Bharti Airtel will get access to a large customer base in Sri Lanka. Bharti Airtel started its operations in 2009 in Sri Lanka and has a customer base of 1 million in the country. Dialog Axiata is a subsidiary of Malaysian Axiata. Dialog accounts for 57% of the mobile market in Sri Lanka.
17. **India** and **Israel** have signed an MoU on **Industrial Research and Development Cooperation**.
Note: Aim: To collaborate in high technology areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, and semiconductors, synthetic biology, etc., The MoU was signed between CSIR and the DDR&D, Ministry of Defense of Israel. It enables cooperation in the industrial R&D programs in mutually agreeable industrial technology fields through the implementation of specific projects.
18. Union Minister Nityanand Rai has inaugurated the **Dawki Land Port in West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya**.
Note: **Aim:** To promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district. The Dawki Land port will facilitate the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border. It will also facilitate passenger movement across the border.
19. According to a report commissioned by the oil ministry, India should **ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers** in cities with **over 10 lakh population by 2027** and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles.
Note: The report of the **committee headed by former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor**. It has also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035. It help India to achieve the goal of cutting emissions to net zero by 2070
20. **Rajesh Bhushan**, Union Health Secretary has launched the **Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management (SAKSHAM)**.
Note: It is a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of MoHFW. Developed by: **National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)**, New Delhi. SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for

- providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.
21. India has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) with **50% of villages achieving ODF Plus status under phase II of the Mission.**
Note: Top performing states (percentage of ODF Plus villages): Big States: Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%); Small states: Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%); UTs: A&N Islands, Dadra Nagar Havelli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep (100%)
 22. Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the **Green Port Guidelines 2023**, under the name of '**Harit Sagar**'.
Note: Aim: To promote environment-friendly practices across all our Ports, It provides a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines and achieving SDG. It also aims to minimize waste through reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling to attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
 23. Union Ministry of WCD has launched **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi for strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).**
Note: This unique initiative is aimed at ensuring that India has a high-quality preschool network. ECCE is a significant component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 and is envisaged under the NEP. The work will be taken by Anganwadis across the country for providing nutrition as well as better education to children.
 24. The Union government has lowered the **threshold limit of e-invoicing from Rs 10 crore to Rs 5 crore.**
Note: It will be **mandatory for smaller businesses** to carry out business transactions via e-invoices from August 1, 2023. In the exercise of the powers of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, the government has made the amendment in the notification on the recommendations of the Council. The threshold was lowered to Rs 10 crore on October 1, 2022.
 25. India has extended a **\$ 1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka** by one year, a backup infusion of dollars for essential imports Post-negotiations, the credit line was **extended till March 2024 .**
Note: The credit line, part of about \$ 4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis early last year, which was scheduled to end in March. The situation has improved with Sri Lanka finalizing a nearly USD 3 billion bailout package from IMF.
 26. The **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) division** of the commerce ministry has recommended imposing anti-dumping duties on imports of a specific type of optical fibre from **China, Korea, and Indonesia.**
Note: Reason: To protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments. The DGTR has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fiber' from these countries.
 27. According to the Data Governance Quality Index for 2022-2023 Q3, conducted by DMEO, NITI Aayog, **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has secured the second position among 66 ministries.
Note: The Ministry has achieved an impressive score of 4.7 out of 5. **Aim of the survey:** To measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in the decision-making of various Ministries and Departments on the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).
 28. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** attended the 8th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** member countries through video conferencing.
Note: During the conference, he informed that India's exports of agricultural and allied products have crossed four lakh crore rupees. He has also highlighted India's performance in the agriculture sector and contribution to global food security with food grain production.
 29. **Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated a **PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra** at Warasiguda in Secunderabad.
Note: Aim: To provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth. It was launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at a low cost. **PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana:** Launched by: Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. **Initially launched in 2008**
 30. The **Ministry of Railways** and **MoHUA** jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail' (**Project-SMART**).
Note: Project-SMART envisages developing surrounding areas of **Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations.** This also aimed to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.
 31. India Post, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), and Tripta Technologies signed an MoU for **Bharat eMart portal.**
Note: This portal will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country. In the recent past, India Post has entered into similar agreements with GeM, Regional Centers of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).
 32. **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS)** has collaborated with **World Health Organization**

- (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control.
- Note:** A core committee for **Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS** is being constituted for the implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives. For this initiative, AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with Duke-NUS.
33. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Canada have co-chaired the discussions for the **sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI)** in Ottawa.
- Note:** MDTI is a bilateral mechanism that provides an institutional mechanism to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment-related issues and cooperation areas. The Ministers have also reviewed India-Canada CEPA negotiations.
34. The **42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** started in **Indonesia** on May 8, 2023.
- Note:** **2023 theme: ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth.** Aim: To demonstrate the bloc's hopes and efforts to become the center and driving force behind global development. ASEAN is an organization formed by the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore in 1967. Aim: To promote economic growth in the Southeast Asian region
35. **Sixth** edition of the two-day **International Indian Ocean Conference** has been started in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** on May 12, 2023.
- Note:** Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the conference. The conference is being organized by the India Foundation in association with the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **2023 theme for this conference is 'Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership for a Resilient Future'**. The event is being attended by about 150 delegates.
36. The **fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival** (Gaf 2023) will be held in which **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** from December 1 to 5.
- Note:** The **theme of the event is 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda'**. Aim: To bring together Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders from around the world to showcase Ayurveda's potential in addressing health challenges. The event will also feature over 750 research papers and 750 poster presentations on the sidelines.
37. **Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** has launched a **mobile application** named **Meri LiFE (My life)** in New Delhi.
- 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
38. **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation fell below zero** in **April 2023** for the first time since July 2020.
- 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.
39. **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has set up the C-PACE.**
- Note:** C-PACE refers to **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**. 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.**
40. **PM Modi** has inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 18 May 2023.
- 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.
41. **University Grants Commission** has launched a newly redesigned website and portals named **'UTSAH' and 'Professor of Practice'**.
- 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.
42. According to a **UN report** titled, 'World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023', **India's economy** is expected to grow by **5.8% in 2023**.
- 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.
43. Minister of Communications, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the **Sanchar Saathi** portal.
- 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.
44. Union MoS for Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the **8th All India Pension Adalat** in 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.
 45. MoS for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan has launched the **ORAN testbed project**.
Note: ORAN refers to Open Radio Access Network. 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.
 46. The **Ministry of Cooperation** has informed that government will form **1,100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the Cooperative Sector**.
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.
 47. **PM Narendra Modi** embarked on tour to **Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia** on May 19, 2023.
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.
 48. Minister of Ayush, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has inaugurated the **National Ayush Mission Conclave** in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health).
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.**
 49. India launched '**Operation Karuna**' to provide humanitarian assistance for **people in Myanmar**, which is affected by **Mocha Cyclone**.
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.
 50. **Ministry of Education** and **World Bank** has organized one of its kind workshops on **School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program** in Mumbai.
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.
 51. **AirAsia India** has successfully operated **India's first commercial flight on the Pune-Mumbai sectors** using an indigenously produced **sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) blend**.
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
 52. The Union Health Ministry has launched the **"75/25" initiative to screen 75 million people for hypertension and diabetes** on Standard Care by **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.
 53. School students from all 25 districts across **Sri Lanka** have received the prestigious **Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships**.
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.
 54. The **50 start-ups exchange program** was launched between **India and 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
 55. The Union Government has approved the signing of the Project Collaboration Agreement between the **Department of Health Research (DHR) and WHO on Assistive Technology**.
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).
56. The first ministerial-level meeting of the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council** held **Brussels, Belgium** on May 16, 2023.
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.
57. The **annual ASEAN Tourism Forum will be hosted by Laos in January 2024**.
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.
58. **G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference** on Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for sustainable blue economy held in **Diu** on 18 May 2023.
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.
59. **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 **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.
60. **Union Minister of Environment, Bhupendra Yadav** has formally inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM)** at **ICFRE, Dehradun**.
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).
61. **Union Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal** has informed that the government will provide **financial support of 30%** for the **promotion of Green Shipping**.
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.
62. **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** launched **GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023** in **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**.
63. 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 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). **AME India Scheme** is a part of the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan**.
64. The **Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh** has launched **SAMARTH'on promote Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats' in Lucknow**.
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.
65. 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 ₹25 lakh**, effective from 1 April 2023.
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**.
66. India will unveil its **18 new petaflop supercomputer for weather forecasting** institutes by the end of 2023.
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**
67. **PM Modi** inaugurated the new **New Delhi Parliament House** on **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
- 68. King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni** has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.
Note: The King will have s. 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.
- 69. Ministry of Education and USA's Department of State** launched the **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development.**
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.
- 70. PM Modi** was accorded a Ceremonial Guard of **Honour at the Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia.**
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.
- 71. Molbio Diagnostics** and **ShsanMukha Innovations** have collaborated to design, develop and commercialize point-of-care **diagnostic devices, SickleCert.**
Note: Aim: To diagnose hemoglobin-related diseases. ShanMukha Innovations is an IISc spin-off that specializes in creating mobile diagnostic solutions. SickleCert 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.
- 72. Nepal** has decided to allow **India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited** to develop a second hydropower project in the country.
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.
- 73. 32nd Arab League Summit** has been concluded in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** with the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration.
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
- 74. Eighth NITI Aayog Governing Council** was concluded in New Delhi, **presided over by PM Modi** as the Chairman of NITI Aayog.
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.
- 75. Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** has inaugurated 8th International Conference on Pharma and Medical Device Sector.
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
- 76. 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. Manipur** launched the **Facial Recognition System (FRS) for Inner Line Permit (ILP) system** and flagged off two camera-mounted mobile FRS vehicles.
Note: It will help in the **effective checking of ILP holders** whose validity has expired and in better management of the system. The system has been implemented on a trial basis. In addition, two mobile

- vehicles will be stationed at different locations in Imphal East and West districts to identify ILP defaulters
2. **Haryana** will be introducing a new feature on the 'eSamiksha portal'.
Note: Aim: To enable Administrative Secretaries and Head of Departments to monitor the follow-up action taken on decisions made during their meetings and presentations. It will **provide updates on file number**, meeting date, chairperson, meeting description, and other documents such as the minutes of the meeting (MOM), which can be accessed by officers of the concerned departments.
 3. The Central Government has recently **promulgated Article 355 in Manipur** to take charge of the **security of the state**.
Note: Article 355 of the Indian Constitution is a part of emergency provisions contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India, from Article 352 to 360. It encourages the centre to take all necessary steps to protect the state against internal disturbances and external aggression. It empowers the Centre to take necessary steps to protect a state.
 4. The **Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship** was inaugurated at the **KITS Warangal campus in Telangana**.
Note: It was inaugurated by Telangana's IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao. The govt has promoted innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers. Aim: To face the latest Engineering, technological, and entrepreneurship challenges in the 21st Century.
 5. The Uttar Pradesh's Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched **School Health Program**.
Note: This program has been started by **Lucknow Smart City** in three schools in Lucknow. A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project. The benefit of **health insurance worth Rs 25,000** is also being given to these children.
 6. Union minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the **trailer of the "first ever" movie in Tagin language** of his home state Arunachal Pradesh.
Note: The film "Love in 90s" will be tax-free and will ask the state government to promote it through other means as well. The film looks at displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world. **Tagin or Ghasi Miri tribe is an indigenous community of the Tawang** and West Kameng districts, Arunachal Pradesh.
 7. **Telangana** has introduced a **Robotics Framework**, for providing a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State.
Note: This is the **first-of-its-kind policy** in the country. The Government will set up a Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC) to implement the framework, which will focus on the key pillars of infrastructure access, business enablement, fostering research and innovation, development of a skilled workforce, and responsible deployment.
 8. PM Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various **development projects worth over 5,500 crore rupees in Nathdwara, Rajasthan**.
Note: He has also laid the foundation stone for the gauge conversion project and for **setting up a new line from Nathdwara to Nathdwara town in Rajsamand**. He dedicated three NH projects, including a six-lane Udaipur to Shamlaji section of NH-48 and the widening and strengthening work of the Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur Section of NH-25.
 9. **Punjab** has become the **first state in India** to implement the '**right to walk**' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansions of roads and construction.
Note: Reason: Every month more than 10 pedestrians/bicycle riders are killed in road accidents due to encroachment on pedestrian footpaths. Road-owning agencies include NHAI, the public works department, local bodies, and urban development departments.
 10. **Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport** has become the **first in India** to have a **reading lounge**.
Note: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi has inaugurated the lounge. Apart from books on Kashi, the lounge's library has a collection of literature and books in many international languages besides books of youth authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana. The lounge has been established with the assistance of National Book Trust (NBT).
 11. **Himachal Pradesh** has launched '**Him Data Portal**'.
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.
 12. **Kerala** becomes the **first state in India** to launch a **welfare fund for MGNREGS workers**.
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.
 13. **Andhra Pradesh** has introduced an **electronic service delivery system, e-Chits'** to regulate and usher in transparency in the sector.
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
14. **Himachal Pradesh** will set up an ethanol plant in its **Una district by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** with an outlay of **Rs 500 crore**.
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**
 15. **Uttar Pradesh** has launched an **online rural education program 'Pahal'**.
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.
 16. **UP** will launch a **5G technology training program** under the Skill Development Mission for the youth.
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.
 17. **Madhya Pradesh** has approved a new scheme named **'Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana (Learn and Earn scheme)** for unemployed youths.
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.
 18. **Union WCD Minister, Smriti Irani** has inaugurated the women laborers convention organized by the **Kerala unit of BMS in Thiruvananthapuram**.
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.
 19. **Himachal Pradesh** has **formulated the 'Green Hydrogen' policy** to promote the **use of green hydrogen** and establish the state as a leading hub for its production.
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.
 20. **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the **Niramaya Health Insurance scheme**.
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
 21. **Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state in the country** to conduct **pilgrimage by air** on government expenditure, under the **Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana**.
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.
 22. **Maharashtra** 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**.
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.
 23. **Tripura** has appointed former BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly** as the **brand ambassador of state tourism**.
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**
 24. The officials of the **Government of Goa** and **Government of Uttarakhand** have signed an MoU for enhancing the tourism landscape of both states.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Rohan Khaunte (Minister for Tourism, Goa) and Pushkar Singh Dhami (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**.
 25. **PM Modi** has flagged off **Assam's first Vande Bharat Express** train through video conferencing on May 29, 2023.
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
 26. **Odisha** has launched **'Artificial Intelligence for Youth' initiatives**.
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

27. **Odisha** has launched a '**Mo Ghara**' (**My House**) scheme.

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. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will be the guest of honour at **France's traditional military parade**, which will be held during Bastille Day on 14th July.
Note: PM's visit coincides with the **25th anniversary of the strategic partnership** between France and India. Bastille Day is named after the fall of a fortress that symbolized the French revolution of 1789. PM Modi will be 2nd Indian PM to be the guest of honour after Manmohan Singh in 2009.
2. **United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)** has approved the **world's first Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine** for older adults.
Note: However, this vaccine still needs approval from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, before its launch in Public. The vaccine was **approved for people aged 60 and older**. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. It can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.
3. According to a report **Born Too Soon: Decade of Action on Pre-term Birth**, released by the UN, an estimated 13.4 million babies were born pre-term in 2020, with 45% of them being born in just five countries, **including India, Pakistan, Nigeria, China, and Ethiopia**.
Note: It is jointly produced by the **WHO, UNICEF, and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)**. The global pre-term birth rate increased to 9.9% in 2020, compared to 9.8% in 2010.
4. WHO has declared **mpox outbreak** is no longer a global health emergency.
Note: In July 2022, WHO declared mpox, previously **known as monkeypox**, a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). This move indicates that the crisis due to mpox has come under control. Mpox spreads through direct contact with body fluids and causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled skin lesions. The WHO recently also declared an end of public health emergency status for COVID-19.
5. According to the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)'s annual report**, the number of internally displaced people around the world reached **71 million** as of the end of 2022.
Note: The number of movements in which people fled in search of safety and shelter was also unprecedented in 2022 with a figure of 60.9 million. The conflict in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements and monsoon floods in Pakistan triggered 8.2 million.
6. **China** will launch pilot projects in more than 20 cities to create a "**new-era**" **marriage and childbearing** culture to foster a friendly childbearing environment.
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.
7. **Pasang Dawa Sherpa** has scaled Mount Everest on May 14, 2023, and become the **world's second person to scale Everest 26 times**.
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 of climb of the peak in 1998, Dawa has made the trip almost every year.
8. European Union regulators have approved **Microsoft proposed acquisition of gaming firm Activision Blizzard** for \$69 billion.
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.
9. **76th Cannes Film Festival** has been started in **France** on May 16, 2023.
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'.
10. 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.
Note: This **report was published by UNEP**. 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.

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

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.

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

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.

13. **Saudi Arabia's Rayyanah Barnawi** 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.

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.

14. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** along with his **Papua New Guinea** counterpart James Marape released the **Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in 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.

15. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has expanded its partnership with **Google Cloud to launch its Generative AI.**

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.

16. **The Roads and Transport Authority of Dubai** has set a target to **achieve zero-emissions public transportation by 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

17. According to the **Financial Times Ranking 2023, IIM Kozhikode** has been placed among the **top 4 schools in India.**

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.**

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

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

19. 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.

Note: This report **was published by World Bank.** 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).

20. A new greenhouse gas monitoring initiative to support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increase, is approved at **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. **Meera Syal** has been conferred a **BAFTA Fellowship**, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
Note: Recognition: For an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film/television. She was honored with an MBE and then a CBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to drama and literature. She is **best known for television shows** such as 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42'.
2. The **Cannes Film Festival** will honor **Michael Douglas** with an **honorary Palme d'Or**.
Note: Reason: For his outstanding career and **contributions to cinema**. He will be honored during the festival's opening ceremony on May 16. Douglas has worked in various films like The China Syndrome, Basic Instinct, Falling Down, and Behind the Candelabra.
3. **Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan** was awarded the title of "**Shatabdi Purush**" (**Man of the Century**) in New Delhi.
Note: Reason: For his **contributions as a socialist leader**. The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye (renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian). Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush".
4. **UNESCO** has awarded its annual **World Press Freedom Prize** to **three imprisoned Iranian female journalists**.
Note: The winners, **Niloufar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi**. They were recognized for their work in reporting on human rights abuses in Iran and their commitment to truth and accountability.
5. With **Hernan Diaz (Argentina Writer)**, Barbara Kingsolver (American Novelist) has shared the **Pulitzer Prize 2023** in the fiction category.
Note: Barbara Kingsolver was awarded for her **novel 'Demon Copperhead'** and Hernan Diaz won for his novel '**Trust**'. Drama: English, by Sanaz Toossi; Biography: G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century, by Beverly Gage (Viking); Memoir or Autobiography: Stay True, by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
6. ICC has named **Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman** as ICC Men's Player of the **Month for April 2023**.
Note: While Thailand's skipper **Naruemol Chaiwai** as **ICC Women's Player of the Month**. Fakhar Zaman: He becomes the first Pakistani player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen in November 2022. Naruemol Chaiwai: She chipped in with 55 runs across the T20I series that followed, her 29 in the second T20I helping her side edge out Zimbabwe in a five-wicket win.
7. **Argentina footballer, Lionel Messi** has been named the **Sportsman of the Year at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards**.
Note: He was awarded for his remarkable achievements on the pitch in the past year, which included leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup.
8. **Sportswoman of the Year: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica) Athletics, Team of the Year: Argentina Men's Football Team**, Breakthrough: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Tennis, Comeback: Christian Eriksen (Denmark) Football
Note: The 37 Gallantry awards include **eight Kirti Chakras** (including five posthumous) and **29 Shaurya Chakras** (including five posthumous). The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty
8. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred **37 Gallantry awards** to the personnel of the **Armed Forces, CAPF, and State or Union Territory Police** during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) in New Delhi.
Note: He was also a **founder director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** in Pune. The ASI instituted the award in 2022 to recognize eminent Indian astronomers for their contributions to the field of astronomy and astrophysics. Prof Narlikar is known for his study of the Universe.
9. **Prof Jayant V. Narlikar**, who was awarded the **first-ever Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).
Note: He was also a **founder director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** in Pune. The ASI instituted the award in 2022 to recognize eminent Indian astronomers for their contributions to the field of astronomy and astrophysics. Prof Narlikar is known for his study of the Universe.
10. Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General **Anil Chauhan** has conferred **CDS Unit Citations award** to the Strategic Forces Command, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad and **2 PARA (Special Forces)**.
Note: Reason: For their **exemplary performance for the Year 2021-22**. The CDS unit citations award was constituted after the establishment of the Office of Chief of Defence Staff in 2019. Aim: To boost jointness and integration in the Armed Forces
11. **Musharraf Ali Farooqi** has won the inaugural edition of the **Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature** in Translation.
Note: He **translated Siddique Alam's 'The Kettledrum and Other Stories' from Urdu to English**. The book will be published by Open Letter Books in 2024. The Armory Square Prize for translation was instituted by the American venture capitalist firm Armory Square. Aim: To recognize literature from underrepresented traditions
12. **Saantinketan** has been recommended for **inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List**, is the home of **Rabindra Nath Tagore**.
Note: The quaint town in West Bengal's Birbhum district is also home to the Visva-Bharti University built by Tagore. Santiniketan, over 160 km from Kolkata, was originally an ashram built by Tagore's father Debendranath Tagore. India has a total of 40 sites that enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage tag.
13. **Writer Arinze Ifeakandu** has won **Swansea University's Dylan Thomas Prize 2023** for a "kaleidoscopic reflection of queer life and love in Nigeria".
Note: Dylan Thomas Prize is a recognition of literary works by authors aged 39 or under and is one of the most prestigious awards for young writers. His **debut**

- book is God's Children Are Little Broken Things'**, which is a collection of nine short stories on the themes of queer life, love, and humanity.
14. **Ben Whishaw** has received the **best leading actor award** for his role in **'This is Going to Hurt (BBC One) at the BAFTA TV Awards 2023**.
Note: **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)
 15. **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has conferred the **National Technology Awards 2023** in five categories i.e. Main, MSME, Startup, Translational Research, and Technology Business Incubator.
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.
 16. **Gauri** has been awarded the **'Best Long Documentary Award'** at the **South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023**.
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.
 17. **Uttar Pradesh** has received the **Geographical Indications (GI) tags** for three more ODOP crafts **Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft**.
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.
 18. **N Chandrasekaran** was conferred with **France's highest civilian honor, 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur'**, by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna.
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.
 19. **Harrison Ford** was honored with the **prestigious Palme D'Or award for lifetime achievement** at the **76th Cannes Film Festival 2023**.
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
 20. **Two-lifetime achievement awards to Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum and Peter Piot** at the 76th World Health Assembly held in Geneva on May 21.
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.
 21. **Veteran actor, Kamal Haasan** honored with the **Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award** at the 23rd IIFA Awards 2023, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
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.
 22. **Chandigarh** has received the **first rank in the best Urban Local Body category** of the **National Water Award 2022**.
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.
 23. **PM Modi** has been conferred with the **highest honors by Fiji and 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.
 24. **Thalapathy Vijay** has received the **Best Actor Award at the Osaka Tamil International Film Festival** held in Japan.
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
 25. **Georgi Gospodinov** has bagged the **2023 International Booker Prize for their book 'Time Shelter'**.
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

26. **Three Indians** have been honored posthumously with the **Dag Hammarskjold Medal**.

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

27. **Prithvik Roshan** has bagged the **Best Actor award** at the **International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023** held in Abu Dhabi.

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)

28. Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai has presented the **57th Jnanpith Award**, the country's highest literary honor, to **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.

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

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)

30. The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has conferred the award in the **'Smart Mobility' category to 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).

31. **RINL** has conferred the prestigious **"GreenTech Safety Award 2023"** under Safety Excellence Category at the 21st Annual Greentech awards function.

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

Note: They defeated eighth-seeded Malaysian pair Teo Ee Yi and Ong Yew Sin in the final. They become the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the Badminton Asia Championships title. With this win, they also clinched India's second-ever Badminton Asia Championships title after Dinesh Khanna in 1965.

2. **Ding Liren** has become **China's first male world chess champion**, after **defeating his Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi** in the fourth rapid game of the first tie-breaker at Astana, Kazakhstan.

Note: He succeeded as the winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen. His victory makes him the **17th winner of the world chess tournament**. In 2009, he became China's youngest chess champion at national level.

3. **Red Bull's driver, Sergio Perez** won the **Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023** World Championship, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Note: He **defeated his teammate Max Verstappen** to victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third and Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place. Previous Grand Prix: Australian GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull); Saudi Arabia GP: Sergio Pérez (Red Bull); Baharin GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)

4. **Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon**, mixed Indian shooters pair won **India's first gold medal** in the ongoing **ISSF World Cup Shotgun 2023**, held in Cairo, Egypt.

Note: The Indian mixed doubles pair **defeated Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez** 6-0 in the final of the Skeet Mixed Team. While the duo of Simona Scocchetti and Gabrielle Rossetti from Italy secured their bronze medal in the tournament.

5. **Indian Men's team** has surpassed **Australia** to become the **number one Test team** in the latest rankings released by ICC on May 2, 2023.
Note: Currently, India has topped the **ranking with 121 points**, while Australia ranked second with 116 points. Earlier this year, India posted a 2-1 series win against Australia to retain the Border-Gavaskar trophy for the fourth consecutive time. England, South Africa, and New Zealand placed third, fourth, and fifth spots respectively.
6. **Dubai (UAE)** will host the **inaugural edition of the Global Chess League (GCL)** from June 21 to July 2, 2023.
Note: The chess league will be held in association with Dubai Sports Council, the hosting partner of the league. It will feature six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team. The six teams will compete in a round-robin format where each team will play 10 matches. GCL is a joint venture of FIDE and Tech Mahindra
7. **Bindyarani Devi** has won the **silver in the women's 55kg** category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023, held in South Korea.
Note: She had lifted a total weight of 194kg (snatch 83kg and 111kg in clean & jerk) in the non-Olympic 55kg category. **Chen Guan Ling (China)** won the **gold** medal with a combined lift of 204kg (snatch 90kg + clean & jerk 114kg) and Vo Thi Quynh Nhu (Vietnam) won the bronze with a lift of 192kg.
8. **Carlos Alcaraz** has successfully defended his title at **Madrid Open 2023** and won his **fourth ATP Tour trophy** of the year and his tenth overall.
Note: In the final, he **defeated Jan-Lennard Struff** (German) 6-4 3-6 6-3. While **Aryna Sabalenka from Belarus** has clinched the **Women's singles** title at Madrid Open 2023. Other winners: Men's doubles: Karen Khachanov / Andrey Rublev, Women's doubles: Victoria Azarenka / Beatriz Haddad Maia
9. **Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)** has launched a **Talent Scout Program** for women to unearth new talents.
Note: The Talent Scout Wing which will comprise former men and women first-class cricketers and coaches, will help in identifying the talent across the state. The TNCA has formed four groups of four members each who will cover all 37 districts in Tamil Nadu. Any player who is above 13 years of age can attend the trials.
10. **Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra** have bagged **silver medals** in the **men's and women's 10-meter air rifle** events at **ISSF World Cup 2023** in Baku, Azerbaijan.
Note: In the **10m air pistol mixed team**, **Sarabjot Singh and Divya TS** won **gold**. Rhythm Sangwan secured a bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event. In the overall medals tally, India finished its campaign second behind China. The Baku meet is the penultimate stage of the ISSF World Cup 2023.
11. **Prraneeth Vuppala** has become the **82nd Grandmaster of India**.
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.
12. **Prathamesh Jawkar** 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, Archery World Cup 2023**.
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.
13. **Daniil Medvedev (from Russia)** has clinched his **maiden Italian Open 2023 title**, after beating Holger Rune.
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 Andreyevna Rybakina (Kazakhstan) after defeating Anhelina Kalinina; Men's Double: Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński; Women's Double: Storm Sanders and Elise
14. **Shaili Singh** clinched a bronze medal at the **Golden Grand Prix 2023** athletics meet in the women's long jump in Japan.
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.
15. **Neeraj Chopra** has become the **new world number one in the men's javelin throw with 1455 points**.
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.
16. **Adidas** would become the **new kit sponsor of the Indian national cricket team**.
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.
17. **Murali Sreeshankar** successfully defended his title in the men's long jump event at the **13th International Jumping Meeting 2023** in Kallithea, Greece.
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.

18. PM Modi will inaugurate Third Khelo India University Games 2022 via video conferencing on May 25, 2023.

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**

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

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.

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

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

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

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

22. **Uttar Pradesh Hockey team** defeated the **Hockey Association of Odisha** to win the **13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023**, held at the iconic Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Odisha.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: This book was **co-authored** by state director general of Police (DGP) **Ashok Kumar** and former DRDO scientist **OP Manocha**. This book will help the readers in

becoming aware of various cyber crimes as it has mentioned actually related cases. It will serve to inspire people to protect themselves from cybercrime.

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

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

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

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.

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

- 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.
- The book titled '**Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration**' was written by **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 foreworded 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.
 - Assam Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria** has released a book titled '**Partitioned Freedom**' at an event in Guwahati.
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. His other books: *Uneasy Neighbours: India and China After 50 Years of the War and Asahaj Pados*

- A book titled, "**RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond**" will be released by **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
- Five books published under the Nayi Pahal** scheme for new writers, were released by **Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai** in a function at Raj Bhavan.
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

- Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** researchers has developed a machine learning-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumors in the brain and spinal cord.
Note: The web server known as '**GBM Driver (Glioblastoma Mutiforme Drivers)**' is now publicly available online. The GBM Driver was developed specifically to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations (passenger mutations are neutral mutations) in Glioblastoma.
- A new low-cost star sensor, named '**StarBerrySense**', developed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** from off-the-shelf components, has started functioning properly in its first test launch.
Note: It was put into space by Isro's PSLV C-55 on April 22, 2023. Function: Quickly and accurately calculate where a satellite is pointing in space as for any space mission. The star sensor can find its pointing direction in space by identifying the stars in its field of view.
- DRDO** and **Indian Navy** conducted the successful maiden test trial of '**ADC-150**' from **IL 38SD aircraft, Goa**.
Note: It is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with a 150 kg payload capacity. The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick responses to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships. It reduces the requirement for ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.
- India has participated in the **inaugural edition** of the **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise** with its two frontline warships- **INS Satpura** and **INS Delhi**.
Note: The harbor phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at the **Changi Naval Base (Singapore)** from May 2-4, while the sea phase will be conducted from May 7-8 in the South China Sea. **INS Delhi** is India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer, while **INS Satpura** is an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate.
- BULAND BHARAT**, an integrated surveillance and firepower training Exercise that was conducted at the **Highest Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre**.
Note: It involves the synergized application of surveillance and firepower capabilities of the Artillery and the Infantry in close coordination with Special Forces, Aviation, and CAPF deployed in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Uninterrupted communication on multiple media was also tested at long distances.
- INS Magar** has been **decommissioned after 36 years** of exceptional service to the nation.
Note: The ship's decommissioning ceremony was held at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**. It was indigenously built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd**, Kolkata and was launched on 16th November 1984 and commissioned into the Indian Navy on 18 July 1987 by Admiral R H Tahiliani.
- INS Tarini** will be **returned to India after a six-month-long transoceanic intercontinental expedition**.

- Note:** It commenced from Goa on November 17, 2022, and is scheduled to be completed at the same venue on May 24, 2023. During the expedition, Tarini sailed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Cape Town, South Africa, participating in Cape to Rio Race 2023.
8. **Rocket Lab** has launched **NASA's two satellites** to study **tropical storms and hurricanes**.
Note: The two CubeSats, the founding members of the agency's TROPICS network, launched atop a Rocket Lab Electron rocket, which was **lifted off from New Zealand**.
Aim: To improve forecasting and provide new insights into how tropical storms evolve and intensify. The TROPICS constellation will consist of four CubeSats in low Earth orbit.
9. **IIT Madras** and **DRDO** have developed cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications.
Note: The Indigenous technology will enable the fabrication of devices at a relatively lower cost. **'Piezoelectric MEMS technology'** is required to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo thin film' into state-of-the-art futuristic naval sensors and devices for underwater applications. The **Piezo Thin Films** are one of the vital components of piezo MEMS devices.
10. **International Business Machines (IBM)** has collaborated with the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** to launch a new geospatial foundation model.
Note: It is designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future. It is expected to be available for preview in the second half of 2023. This model would be part of IBM's watsonx.ai, a next-gen enterprise studio.
11. **PM Modi** laid the foundation stone of scientific projects worth more than **Rs 5800 crore** on May 11.
Note: One of the most significant projects is the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)**. The LIGO-India will be **developed in Hingoli, Maharashtra**. It is an extremely sensitive interferometer of 4 km arm length and act as 'antennae' to detect gravitational waves. It will work in synchronization with two observatories operating in the US.
12. **ISRO** has successfully **commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines**, that would power future launch vehicles.
Note: The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the **2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine** was carried out at the newly-commissioned Semicryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The test is a step towards developing a 2000 kN thrust engine, which works on Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene propellant combination.
13. **Space start up, Vast** is aiming to launch a school bus-sized space station to orbit by late **2025 in association with Elon Musk's rocket firm, SpaceX**.
Note: The **cylindrical spacecraft dubbed Haven-1** is the latest platform planned as a replacement for the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is expected to retire in 2030. In 2021, NASA awarded \$415 million in development funds to four companies including Northrop Grumman and Blue Origin.
14. **US space agency, NASA** has launched a second football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB), under its **Scientific Balloon Program**, from Wānaka Airport, New Zealand.
Note: The first scientific balloon was launched on April 16, following five failed attempts last year. Airways (New Zealand's air navigation services provider) works with Nasa to launch the balloons, which inflate fully in flight to 532,000 cubic meters and carry a scientific payload.
15. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **India's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh**.
Note: It will highlight the IAF's role in various wars. It also houses the first IAF-made patent aircraft Air Force 'Kanpur-1 Vintage Prototype Aircraft', a single-engine indigenous flying machine designed and built by the late Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in 1958. In June 2022, an MoU on the heritage centre was signed between the Chandigarh administration and IAF.
16. **35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was concluded in the **Andaman Sea** on May 10, 2023.
Note: Aim: To reinforce maritime linkages between the two countries and ensure the safety and security of the international trade route in the Indian Ocean. **INS Kesari**, an indigenously built LST (L), and HTMS Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate participated in the exercise.
17. **4th edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23** is being organized in **Batam, Indonesia** from 14-19 May 2023.
Note: Aim: To enhance interoperability, jointness, and mutual cooperation between both navies. India Navy has participated with **INS Kavaratti**, Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, and Chetak helicopter. While the Indonesian Navy participated with KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and AS565 Panther Helicopter.
18. **NASA** 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.
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.
19. **Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army** has organized a **Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge** on Manas River, Assam.
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.

20. 4th Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise titled 'Samudra Shakti-23' concluded in the South China Sea.

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.

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

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.

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

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)

23. ISRO has successfully launched a **second generation NVS-01**, by using a GSLV rocket with a cryogenic upper stage.

Note: Type: **Navigation Satellite.** 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.

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

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.

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

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.

26. Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) concluded the sea phase of the **second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23'** in 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.

27. The Joint Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise 'Tiger Shark 40' has started at BNS Nirvik in **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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