

Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 15th - 21st June 2023



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Dear MBA Aspirants,

BYJU'S Exam Prep experts have curated a Weekly Current Affairs Magazine which is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the 3rd week of June (15th – 21st) of June 2023. This file is important for the upcoming MBA exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which Russian lender has launched Indian rupee accounts for individuals _____ **Sberbank**.
Note:
 - Aim: To expand the range of foreign currencies available to reduce dependency on the U.S. dollar and euro
 - Sberbank has more than 100 million retail clients and already offers deposits in China's yuan and UAE dirhams.
 - Rupee accounts would also be available to clients.
 - Sberbank would also raise rates on dirham deposits by 100 basis points for a six-week period.
2. Which AMC will acquire up to 10% of the total paid-up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase _____ **SBI Mutual Fund**.
Note:
 - The approval of IRDAI is valid for one year from the date of the Ir dai approval letter.
 - This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015.
3. Microfinance loan portfolio increased by what percent to Rs 3.48 lakh crore during 2022-23 _____ **22%**.
Note:
 - Gross loan portfolio stood at Rs 2.85 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022.
 - Microfinance loan disbursements during FY 2022-23 improved by 23% to Rs 2,96,423 crores compared to Rs 2,39,433 crore in the previous financial year.
 - About 7.17 crore loans were disbursed during FY 22-23 as against 6.30 crore in the previous year.
4. According to RBI data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew by what percent at ₹96,847 crore in the year 2022-23 _____ **17%**.
Note:
 - In the previous year, education loans were recorded at ₹82,723 crore
 - For the first time in five years, growth in education loans not only turned positive but also registered a 17% surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023.
 - The NPA in education advances stood at 7.82% of a total outstanding portfolio of ₹80,000 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY23.
5. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of what amount on Manappuram Finance _____ **₹20 lakh**.
Note:
 - Reason: For non-compliance with certain provisions of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)
 - RBI imposed this penalty as it did not classify certain gold loan accounts with overdues of more than 90 days as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).
 - NBFC: It is a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, and acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/securities issued.
6. Which Fintech organization has introduced a UPI software development kit (SDK) _____ **Paytm**.
Note:
 - Reason: For customers to make payments to online merchants without any failure of the system
 - UPI SDK has also assured fail-proof transactions.
 - Paytm UPI SDK will let users pay directly from bank accounts through UPI PIN without having to jump between merchant and payment app.
 - Along with Paytm UPI Lite, the company is enhancing two-sided payments, for both merchants and customers.
7. The World Bank has approved a \$150 million loan to support the Resilient program of which Indian state _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- Reason: To continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks
 - Aim: To deepen the state's resilience in critical areas of coastal erosion and water resource management
 - This loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14 years, including a grace period of six years.
8. Which bank has launched its ActivMoney feature _____ **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- Note:**
- It is an auto sweep feature that is offered by other banks, including Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank.
 - Benefit: This feature gives customers the benefit of FD like interest up to 7% per annum, and the flexibility to access their funds at any time from the linked savings account
 - It allows a savings account holder to earn higher interest as offered in FDs while retaining the liquidity offered by a saving account.
9. Which regulatory body has restricted online bond platform providers from offering products other than listed debt securities on their platforms _____ **SEBI**.
- Note:**
- SEBI also allowed them to offer securities such as Government Securities, Treasury Bills, listed SBGs, listed municipal debt securities, and listed securitized debt instruments on their platforms.
 - Under the rules, Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) need to register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange.
10. SEBI has banned which organization from onboarding any new clients for two years _____ **India Infoline Ltd (IIFL) Securities**.
- Note:**
- Reason: Mixing clients' funds with proprietary funds by routing transactions through common control accounts; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of debit balance clients; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of proprietary trades
11. Which bank has launched the Union Unnati account scheme _____ **Union Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Recently, the Union Bank of India has launched four bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies.
 - The bank has launched Union Unnati specifically designed for women entrepreneurs and professionals.
 - This account offers free cancer care coverage and personal accident cover.
 - Union Samriddhi has targeted women.
 - The third product is Union Samman, a savings account aimed at pensioners.

Obituaries

1. Dr. M. A. Kuttappan, who passed away, was associated with which field _____ **Politics**.
- Note:**
- He began his career as a doctor at Alappuzha Medical College and Cochin Port Trust Hospital.
 - Later he become a four-time MLA in the Kerala assembly and was a member of the AK Antony ministry in 2001 as minister for the welfare of backward classes and SC/ST.
 - He was elected to the state assembly from Wandoor, Chelakkara, and twice from Njarakkal constituencies.
 - Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men

Important Days

1. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about the abuse experienced by older adults _____ **June 15**.
- Note:**
- 2023 theme: Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses
 - In 2006, this day was started by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).
 - In 2011, the United Nations adopted it as a designated day for the prevention of abuse of older people.
2. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promote efforts to combat these challenges _____ **June 17th**.
- Note:**

- 2023 theme: Her land. Her rights
 - The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was established in 1994 following a convention held at the United Nations General Assembly.
 - The inaugural observance took place in 1995.
3. The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is observed on which date, every year to address the pressing global problem of hate speech _____ **June 18.**
- Note:**
- This day holds great importance as it calls for collective action to counter the spread of divisive rhetoric and promote understanding, respect, and inclusivity.
 - The Day marked by UNGA recognized the devastating consequences of hate speech and reaffirms the commitment to human rights and equality.
4. World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on which each year to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) _____ **June 19th.**
- Note:**
- 2023 theme: Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening, and knowing your sickle cell disease status
 - It is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that take on a crescent or sickle shape.
 - These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels.
5. World Refugee Day is commemorated every year on which date to serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence _____ **20th June.**
- Note:**
- 2023 theme: Hope Away from Home
 - This year's theme highlighted the resilience and challenges faced by refugees, who lost everything.
 - On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established this day through Resolution 55/76.
6. The International Day of Yoga is observed every year on which date since 2015 _____ **June 21.**
- Note:**
- This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".
 - This year's theme highlighted beautifully encapsulates collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future."
 - On 11 December 2014, the UN proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.
 - The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India.
7. World Music Day is an annual event that is observed on which date every year to celebrate the global language of music _____ **June 21.**
- Note:**
- The theme for World Music Day 2023 is "Music on the Intersections".
 - Aim: To promote peace and bring together people of different nationalities, cultures, races and ethnicity together through the power of music
 - World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as Australia's next High Commissioner to India _____ **Philip Green.**
- Note:**
- He would succeed incumbent Barry O'Farrell, who served as Australian high commissioner to India since 2020.
 - Presently, he is serving as Australia's ambassador to Germany.
 - Previously, he has also served as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, South Africa, and Kenya.
 - Hilary McGeachy has been appointed as Australia's first Consul-General in Bengaluru
2. Who has assumed charge as the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) _____ **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal.**
- Note:**
- He has replaced Sanjay Kumar, who has taken over as Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India) Ltd.
 - Prior to this role, he was working as an executive director and head of zonal marketing of GAIL in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 - IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) with the Delhi government holding 5% stake.

3. Who has been appointed as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan _____ **Jane Marriott.**

Note:

- She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019.
- She also becomes the first female British envoy to Islamabad.
- Prior to this role, she was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019.
- She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

4. Who has been appointed as MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank _____ **P Vasudevan.**

Note:

- He has been reappointed for a period of 3 years, from July 23, 2023, to July 23, 2026.
- Headquarters of Equitas SFB: Chennai
- After receiving license from RBI on 30 June 2016, Equitas Small Finance bank began banking on 5 September 2016 and with effect from 4 February 2017, Equitas became a scheduled bank.

5. Axis Bank has appointed whom as the non-executive chairman for three years _____ **NS Vishwanathan.**

Note:

- His appointment will be effective from October 27, 2023, or the date of approval of his appointment by the RBI.
- NS Vishwanathan was a seasoned banker, who handled critical areas like regulation.
- He has also served as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 2016 and 2020.

6. Who has been appointed as the new head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) for a tenure of two years _____ **Ravi Sinha.**

Note:

- He would succeed Samant Goel, who completes his four-year tenure on June 30, 2023.
- Ravi Sinha is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- At present, he is serving as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.
- Earlier, Sinha served in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and foreign countries.

7. Who has been appointed as the deputy governor of Reserve Bank India for three years _____ **Swaminathan Janakiraman.**

Note:

- He would succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was serving as a deputy governor since 2018, is set to retire.
- Prior to this role, he held various assignments across Corporate and International Banking, Retail and Digital Banking, Finance, and Assurance functions with SBI.
- He also served as a Nominee Director of SBI on the Boards of Yes Bank and Jio Payments Bank.

Important News – India

1. What was the Wholesale Price Index (Provisional) for the month of May 2023 _____ **(-) 3.48%.**

Note:

- In April 2023, it was recorded (-) 0.92%.
- Reason: Fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, and chemical & chemical products
- The food index has declined to 1.59%, while fuel and power fell to 9.17%
- Manufactured product prices fell 2.97% in May 2023.

2. Who has flagged off the first Agri- SEZ project of Gabon from New Delhi _____ **Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan.**

Note:

- This project will be implemented by the AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner.
- In the first phase 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agri and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, Odisha will be traveling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

3. Vivek Johri has released the National Time Release Study 2023 report. He is a Chairman of which government agency _____ **CBIC.**

Note:

- Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool.
- Aim: To present quantitative measure of the cargo release time
- Import Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the period between 'arrival of Goods' and the Customs'granting of 'Out of Charge'

- Export Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the time between cargo's arrival at the port and its physical departure from the port/Customs station.
4. Google has joined hands with which organization to drive citizen awareness 'G20-Stay Safe Online' campaign on online cyber safety in the country _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

Note:

- Aim: To foster citizen awareness about online safety and security
 - Google will raise awareness on the fundamentals of online safety through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme.
 - Both are working to enhance user awareness on cyber fraud and helping people identify common types of online scams.
5. Which ministry has released National Working Plan Code-2023 for scientific management of forests _____ **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.**

Note:

- It has evolved new approaches during the 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023.
 - It will act as a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions.
6. Which department has set up a panel to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act _____ **Department of Legal Affairs.**

Note:

- The committee would be led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan.
 - Aim: To reduce the burden on courts
 - Other members: Rajiv Mani (Law Ministry additional secretary), some senior advocates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, NHAI, railways, and CPWD
7. PM Narendra Modi has collaborated with which Indian singer to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger _____ **Falguni Shah.**

Note:

- Title of the song track: Abundance in Millets
 - Falu was awarded the Grammy Award in 2022.
 - The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's FAO Governing Bodies.
8. Who has launched the "Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App" in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand _____ **Union minister of heavy industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey.**

Note:

- This mobile application was developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a CPSE Mini Ratna under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
 - Aim: To bring about a significant transformation in the Indian dairy industry by addressing key challenges in the milk collection process.
9. Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (till now) have registered a growth of what percent to 4,19,338 crore rupees _____ **12.73%.**

Note:

- In the preceding financial year, the government recorded a growth of 3,71,982 crores rupees.
 - Net collections are at three lakh 79 thousand 760 crores, showing a growth of 11.18%.
 - The Gross collections include Corporation Tax at 1,87, 311 crore and Personal Income Tax at two lakh 31 thousand 391 crore.
10. Which pharmaceutical organization's mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India _____ **Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.**

Note:

- The vaccine, 'GEMCOVAC-OM' is approved against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.
 - GEMCOVAC-OM has demonstrated robust immune responses in phase 3 clinical trials conducted at 20 centers across 13 cities in India.
 - Presently approved vaccines are used as precautionary/ booster doses.
11. Who has donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay _____ **Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani.**

Note:

- Reason: Fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay

- An MoU was signed between Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay.
 - His contribution will catalyze philanthropic contributions toward advancing research and development at universities in India.
12. The Indian cabinet has granted approval for which US chipmaker to proceed with its \$2.7 billion plan for a semiconductor testing and packaging unit _____ **Micron Technology**.
- Note:**
- It has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees for the plant in Gujarat.
 - The necessary approval stems from the significant size of the incentive package.
 - Micron Technology's venture coincides with the White House's efforts to encourage U.S. chip companies to invest in India.
13. India will host the 2025 International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference in which Indian state _____ **Kochi, Kerala**.
- Note:**
- Theme: Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile
 - The hosting decision has been conveyed to the IIAS's Council of Administration via video conference.
 - IIAS was established in 1930; HQ: Brussels
 - Aim: To elaborate the public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day
14. The two-day conference of Science-20 under G-20 is being organized in which Indian city _____ **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The theme of the conference is "Connecting Science to Society and Culture".
 - The conference will be chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
 - The conference will be attended by representatives of G-20 countries, invited states and international organisations.
15. The concluding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting along with the Tourism Ministerial Meeting started in which Indian state _____ **Goa**.
- Note:**
- Union Minister For Culture, G Kishan Reddy has addressed the first session of "Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel".
 - The minister highlighted that India is one of the potential cruise tourism destinations with many of its best tourist destinations yet to be disclosed to the world.
16. Which Indian steel organization and Germany's SMS group have signed an MoU to collaborate on the decarbonization of steel making process _____ **Tata Steel Limited**.
- Note:**
- Under this MoU, the companies shall undertake further technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt technology (developed by SMS group).
 - The demonstration will be executed at 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO2 emission.
17. Which Indian organization and the United Nations, India has signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (GoI-UNSDC) Framework 2023-2027 _____ **NITI Aayog**.
- Note:**
- This framework represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.
18. Which semiconductor organization has signed an agreement with the German government for investing more than 30 billion euros in a chip manufacturing site in Magdeburg, Germany _____ **Intel**.
- Note:**
- An agreement was signed between German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger.
 - Intel has acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November 2022 and is expected to start production in four or five years.

Important News – State

1. Which state government launched a monthly pension of ₹ 10,000 for the Padma awardees from the state _____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- Besides the monthly pension, a free travel facility in the 'Volvo bus' service of the state government for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardees from Haryana.
 - The state government is also giving the benefit of health insurance up to ₹ 5 lakh to families with an annual income of up to ₹ 1.80 lakh.
2. Which state will get its seventh tiger reserve with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined protected area _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary: It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and acts as a corridor for Panna Tiger Reserve and Satpura Tiger Reserve
 - Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary: It is located in the Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh and hosts 18 species of mammals.
3. Which state launched a web portal for cattle transportation _____ **Assam.**

Note:

- Aim: To prevent the illegal transportation of cattle
 - From now, Livestock farmers and cattle traders can obtain permits required for inter-state transportation of cattle through the website ahvd-cattletrans.assam.gov.in.
 - This system is prepared under the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021.
4. Which state would release the Kharif installment of financial assistance to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme from June 26, 2023 _____ **Telangana.**

Note:

- He directed State's FM Harish Rao to take steps to deposit the Rythu Bandhu funds to the farmers in their respective bank accounts.
 - The Podu land farmers will also be considered for the Rythu Bandhu assistance.
 - In Rabi season 2022-23, over 70 lakh farmers received Rythu Bandhu assistance.
5. Which state government has launched a free power scheme named 'Gruha Jyothi scheme' for providing free electricity up to 200 units a month _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah also stated that the scheme also extends to tenants living on rent if their electricity consumption matches the scheme's criteria.
 - The beneficiaries will get a 'zero bill' starting August 1 if usage is within their entitlement.
 - The Gruha Jyothi scheme is part of the Congress government's five poll promises.
6. Which state government launched the panchayat-level drugs shop scheme to make essential medicines available in remote areas _____ **Jharkhand.**

Note:

- The scheme was inaugurated in Chatra district by handing over licenses to three persons for operating the medicine shops in panchayats.
- A total of 15 people have been selected for licenses in the district so far.
- The programs like 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' will be restarted to establish a "real connection with people".

Important News - World

1. Which country has drafted resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers _____ **India.**

Note:

- The UNGA has adopted a draft resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers.
 - Ruchira Kamboj (India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador) has introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers.'
 - The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda, and the US.
2. Which country's embassy in association with the United Nations (UN) Habitat Office in Kuwait, has organized a Beach Cleaning Event _____ **Embassy of India in Kuwait.**

Note:

- Aim: To promote environmental awareness and community participation.

- This part was organized as part of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) initiative of the Government of India, that aims to bring individual behaviors to the forefront of global climate action by promoting a circular economy and mindful utilization.
3. According to a new report, Glaciers in Asia's Hindu Kush Himalaya could lose up to what percent of their volume by the end of the century _____ **75%**.

Note:

- Reason: Global warming, is causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for the 240 million people who live in the mountainous region.
 - The international scientist team found that ice loss on the peaks of Everest and K2 is speeding up.
 - In 2010, the glaciers shed as much as 65% of ice, which was faster than they had in the preceding decade.
4. Which organization has adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life on the high seas, approved by delegates from the 193 member nations _____ **UN**.

Note:

- The treaty will create a new body to manage the conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas on the high seas.
 - It also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.
 - The new treaty is under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, came into force in 1994.
5. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, the number of refugees globally stood at _____ by the end of 2022 _____ **35.3 million**.

Note:

- It also shows an increase in the number of more than 8 million from the year before.
 - Around 52% of all refugees came from Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.
 - According to international law, refugees are people who are forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution or a serious threat to their life or freedom.
6. According to the 2023 Forbes' -The Global 2000, India's largest power generation company, which Indian organization has climbed 52 positions to secure the 433rd rank in the list _____ **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)**.

Note:

- In the 2022 ranking, the company was on 485th rank.
 - The climb of 52 positions has demonstrated the NTPC's emergence as a strong force in the global market.
 - 'The Global 2000' List recognizes the world's largest companies based on sales, profits, assets, and market value.
7. According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the growth in demand for oil in India will overtake that in China by which year _____ **2027**.

Note:

- 'Oil 2023', the multilateral agency's outlook highlighted that China's demand will fall consistently from 2024 after a massive rise this year.
 - The United States, China, and India are the world's three largest oil consumers in that order.
 - IEA also raised its forecast for world oil growth demand to 2.4 million barrels per day in 2023.
8. Which organization released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023, which covered 85% of the global population _____ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Note:

- The index has revealed that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women.
 - Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one bias against women.
 - This index has tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions i.e. political, educational, economic and physical integrity.
9. As per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, which organization is the most valuable private company in India, with a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore _____ **Reliance Industries Ltd**.

Note:

- TCS with Rs 11.8 lakh crore ranked second in India, followed by HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore.
- The value of Reliance decreased by 5.1% in the last six months, while the total value of TCS increased marginally by 0.7% and HDFC Bank increased by 12.9%.
- Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany

Honor & Awards

1. Who was honored with the title of 'Governor of the Year 2023' by Central Banking in London _____ **RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.**
Note:
 - Reason: For his role in managing inflation and handling India's banking system during crises like the COVID pandemic and global turmoils
 - He is the second RBI governor after Raghuram Rajan, who was honored with this title in 2015.
 - While the National Bank of Ukraine was presented with the 2023 Central Bank of the Year.
2. Which organization has unveiled its version of the metaverse called Bharatmeta at the prestigious VivaTech event held in Paris 2023 _____ **Kiya.ai.**
Note:
 - The demonstration took place at the India Pavilion during the event 'VivaTech'.
 - VivaTech is recognized as Europe's largest annual technology and startup gathering.
 - Bharatmeta offers practical use cases for banking, commerce, culture, and collaboration within the metaverse.
3. Who has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi' _____ **Arundhati Roy.**
Note:
 - The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in the leading French publishing group, Gallimard.
 - The award ceremony will take place on September 12 at the Lausanne Palace.
 - At the award ceremony, Arundhati Roy will discuss the environment and globalization, caste and language.
4. Which organization has been selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 in recognition of its outstanding contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods _____ **Gita Press, Gorakhpur.**
Note:
 - The award given by the Ministry of Culture, the Gandhi Peace Prize carries an amount of one crore rupees, a citation, and a plaque.
 - Gita Press was established in 1923, having published over 41 crore books in 14 languages.
5. Who has been selected for the prestigious German Peace Prize 2023 for his literary work and his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger _____ **British-American author, Salman Rushdie.**
Note:
 - He would receive the award in Frankfurt on October 22, 2023.
 - Cash prize: €25,000 (\$27,300)
 - This prize was established in 1950 to recognize a personality committed to serving international understanding between nations and cultures through their work.
6. Who has been selected for the first-ever Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award, instituted by Bharat Jagruthi _____ **Acharya N. Gopi.**
Note:
 - The award would be presented to Acharya Gopi at an event to be organized at Telangana Saraswatha Parishath in Abids on June 21.
 - The award has been instituted for honoring the litterateurs every year.
 - Acharya Gopi has penned 56 books including 26 compilations of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books.
7. Which Indian airline has won a top award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia at the prestigious 2023 Skytrax World Airline Awards _____ **IndiGo.**
Note:
 - It is the thirteenth time that IndiGo has won this award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia.
 - Recently, IndiGo has placed a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft, which will provide IndiGo with a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035.

Sports News

1. The Asia Cup 2023 will take place in Pakistan and which country between August 31 and September 17, 2023 _____ **Sri Lanka.**
Note:
 - Earlier, the tournament was originally meant to be held entirely in Pakistan.

- Recently, the Asian Cricket Council has approved the hybrid model, in which four of the 13 matches will be played in Pakistan and the remaining nine in Sri Lanka.
 - In Pakistan, matches will be held in Lahore while the games to be played in Sri Lanka will be held in Kandy and Pallekele.
2. Which country has retained the World Squash Championship, after beating Malaysia by 2-1 in the final _____ **Egypt**.
- Note:**
- Malaysia won the silver, and third place (bronze) was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan.
 - India was defeated by Malaysia 3-0 in the semi-final.
 - The championship was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu with eight countries as participants and was held from June 13 to 17.
 - Egypt won the World Cup when it was last held here in 2011.
3. The inaugural edition of India's first-ever Women's Kabaddi League (WKL) has been commenced in which city _____ **Dubai**.
- Note:**
- It marks the first time that women kabaddi players from across India have been given the opportunity to exhibit their skills and prowess on a global stage.
 - This league consists of eight teams, featuring a total of 96 players, each representing Indian states.
 - The victorious team will be awarded a prize of approximately half a million dirhams (1 crore INR).
4. Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant has launched the mascot named 'Moga' for the upcoming which edition of the National Games at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao _____ **37th**.
- Note:**
- The event was organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Authority of Goa.
 - The ceremony was attended by the Sports Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude, President of the Indian Olympic Association, Dr. P.T Usha, and Olympic medalist MC Mary Kom.
5. Which country's men's senior football team has clinched the Intercontinental Cup 2023 after defeating Lebanon in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha _____ **Indian**.
- Note:**
- This is India's second title in the tournament, following their win in the inaugural edition in 2018.
 - The first half was goalless while in the second half, the hosts made it 1-0 in the 46th minute with Indian captain Sunil Chhetri's goal.
 - Lallianzuala Chhangte netted the second goal in the 65th -minute, making it 2-0.
6. Who has secured the bronze medal at Asian Fencing Championships 2023 held in China _____ **C.A. Bhavani Devi**.
- Note:**
- In the quarterfinal, she created history by defeating reigning World Champion Misaki Emura and secured India its first-ever medal at the event.
 - She stunned the world number one 15-10 to enter the women's sabre semifinal.
 - However, Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in the semifinals by 15-14, securing a bronze medal.

Books and Authors

1. Who has penned a book titled 'A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service' _____ Satish Chandra.
- Note:**
- It chronicles his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005.
 - The book was published by the Rupa Publications.
 - The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework.

Science and Defence

1. Which IIT's researchers have recently developed a low-cost mobile air pollution monitoring framework _____ **IIT Madras**.
- Note:**
- The pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution.

- Traditionally, ambient air quality is measured in monitoring stations and reported by the Air Quality Index (AQI).
 - Since these stations are at fixed locations, they only measure the air quality of a small geographic area.
2. Which IIT's researchers have devised a mathematical model on contract farming to predict farmers' delivery of commodities using a decision-theoretic framework based on the 'Prospect Theory' _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.
- Note:**
- Prospect Theory is a psychology theory that describes how people make decisions when presented with alternatives that involve risk, probability, and uncertainty.
 - It was introduced by two psychologists, Daniel Kahneman, and Amos Tversky.
3. Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked a contract with which organization for the procurement of 1,035 numbers of 5/7.5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers _____ **ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad**.
- Note:**
- The value of the contract under Buy (Indian) Category is nearly Rs 500 crore.
 - The delivery of the containers is scheduled to commence from the current Financial Year 2023-24.
 - Aim: To boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and incentivize the private sector
4. The Defence Ministry has approved the deal for acquiring the Predator (MQ-9 Reaper) drones from which country _____ **America**.
- Note:**
- The final decision would be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
 - The deal for the Predator drones was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council meeting.
 - The DAC is the highest body in the Defence Ministry to take decisions on acquisitions.
 - All high value acquisitions are given final approval by the CCS.
5. Which INS has embarked on an operational visit to Colombo from 19-22 June 2023 to commemorate the 9th edition of the International Day of Yoga and aligns with the theme of 'Global Ocean Ring' _____ **INS 'Vagir'**.
- Note:**
- During the visit, the Commanding Officer of the Indian Naval submarine would meet Rear Admiral Suresh De Silva, the Commander of the Western Naval Area.
 - INS 'Vagir' will also be visited by the visitors and school children to explore the submarine firsthand.
6. India will gift Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to which country as a friendly gesture and to expand military ties between the nations _____ **Vietnam**.
- Note:**
- INS Kirpan is a Khukri-class warship commissioned in 1991.
 - The announcement was made during a meeting between Rajnath Singh (India's defence minister) and General Phan Van Gang (Vietnamese defence minister).
 - The Vietnamese defence minister is on a visit to enhance the military ties, with maritime security and defence industrial cooperation.
7. The Indian Army Contingent has participated in the multinational peacekeeping Joint Exercise Ex Khaan Quest 2023, organized in which country _____ **Mongolia**.
- Note:**
- This exercise was participated by Military contingents and observers from over 20 countries.
 - A contingent from the Garhwal Rifles represented the Indian Army.
 - Aim: To enhance the interoperability of the participating nations, sharing experience, and training uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.
8. Which organization has started delivering Armado to the Indian armed forces _____ **Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS)**.
- Note:**
- It is an Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle, which is designed by and developed by Mahindra.
 - It has been designed keeping in mind a variety of roles the armed forces may use it for.
 - It gets ballistic protection up to B7, Stanag Level II.
 - It can be utilised in counter-terrorist operations by facilitating patrolling in conflict-hit areas.

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