

Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 1st - 7th July 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 1st week of July (1st-7th) of July 2023. This file is important for the upcoming MBA exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The government raised the interest rates on select saving schemes by up to what percentage for the July-September quarter _____ **0.3%**.

Note:

- The govt. has raised interest rates on select saving schemes by up to 0.3% for the July-September quarter in line with the high-interest rates in the banking system.
- The highest increase of 0.3% was for the five-year recurring deposit (RD)
- During the second quarter of the current fiscal, RD holders would get 6.5% against the existing 6.2%
- With the revision, a one-year term deposit with post offices will now earn 0.1% higher point at 6.9% and 7% for the two years tenor

2. How much amount of GST was collected by the government in June 2023 _____ **Rs 1.61 lakh crore.**

Note:

- The government collected over Rs 1.61 lakh crore of Goods and Services Tax in June 2023, which rose 12% from May 2023.
- The gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark for the fourth time since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime six years ago on July 1, 2017.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 is Rs 1,61,497 crore of which Central GST is Rs 31,013 crore, State GST is Rs 38,292 crore, and Integrated GST is Rs 80,292 crore.

3. The fiscal deficit of the government for April-May 2023 has been narrowed to what percent of annual estimates to ₹2.10 trillion _____ **11.8%**.

Note:

- Reason: Sharp jump in non-tax revenue and lower revenue spending, which combined to offset a robust increase in capital expenditure and decline in net tax revenue
- Total receipts during April-May 2023 stood at ₹4.16 trillion (15.3% of the annual estimates) of which tax receipts stood at ₹2.78 trillion.

4. Which bank has pledged a grant of ₹22.5 crore to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) _____ **SBI.**

Note:

- Reason: To establish a Banking Data and Analytics Hub at IIT-B
- The focus of the Hub will be to address the unique challenges faced by the Indian banking and financial services sector.
- The collaboration aims to leverage SBI's extensive experience in banking and IIT Bombay's research expertise.

5. India's external debt has increased marginally to how much amount annually in end-March 2023 _____ **\$624.7 billion.**

Note:

- Although the debt-GDP ratio declined.
- The external debt increased by \$5.6 billion from \$619.1 billion at end-March 2022.
- Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the US dollar compared to the Indian rupee and major currencies were placed at \$20.6 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$26.2 billion instead of \$5.6 billion in March 2023.

6. Which bank launched 34 Transaction Banking Hubs at 21 district centers across the country _____ **State Bank of India.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide quick and efficient Transaction Banking solutions to customers

- Dinesh Khara, the chairman of the SBI, inaugurated the hubs, on the occasion of the 68th foundation day of the bank.
 - The bank's goal is to meet all customers' needs and provide comprehensive solutions for their transaction, payment, and collection requirements under one roof.
7. Which bank has unveiled new services under its digital transformation initiative 'Project WAVE' _____ **Indian Bank.**
- Note:**
- The bank in collaboration with National E-Governance Services Ltd, has introduced an electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) service to ease traditional paper-based processes.
 - This move will also reduce the turnaround time of the bank guarantee issuance and delivery to the beneficiary from an industry average of 3-4 working days to a few minutes.
8. Which bank has launched a new RuPay Select Debit card, to provide luxury, convenience, and security, all in one card _____ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).**
- Note:**
- One is required to have a savings account or a certificate of deposit with IOB
 - Maintaining an average daily balance of ₹ 1 lakh
 - The cash withdrawal limit is set to ₹50,000.
 - The daily limit for usage in merchant establishments (PoS) is set at ₹ five lakh.
 - Daily usage limit in e-commerce platforms: up to ₹3,50,000
9. India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005. This report was published by which organization _____ **World Bank and WTO.**
- Note:**
- Report title: Trade in services for development
 - The report highlighted that China has also doubled its share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3% to 5.4%.
 - India, South Africa, and Türkiye, jobs directly linked to cross-border services exports account for more than 10% of total services sector jobs
10. What recommendations were given by the RBI's working group to the internationalization of the rupee _____ **SDR, recalibration of the FPI.**
- RBI's working group has recommended the inclusion of the rupee in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket and recalibration of the foreign portfolio investor (FPI) regime to accelerate the pace of internationalization of the rupee.
 - The recommendations by an Inter-Departmental Group (IDG), headed by RBI Executive Director Radha Shyam Ratho.
 - The group was constituted by RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar to review the position of the rupee as an international currency.
11. As per the Global Payments Report 2023, by FIS, the global e-commerce market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 9% during 2022-26 with transaction value rising to over \$8.5 trillion in which year _____ **2026.**
- Note:**
- During 2021-22, all regions except Europe saw double-digit growth with the highest growth of 21% in the Middle East and Africa
 - Of the 40 markets, 37 saw double-digit YoY growth from 2021 to 2022.
 - The report predicts a mid-teens CAGR in the regions through 2026.
12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking licenses of two cooperative banks in Maharashtra and which state _____ **Karnataka.**
- Note:**
- The licenses of Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Buldhana, and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Bengaluru have been canceled.
 - The two cooperative banks ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 5.
 - These banks did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
13. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023, FDI in developing countries in Asia remained flat at what amount during 2022 _____ **\$662 billion.**
- Note:**
- During 2022, FDI inflows to India rose by 10% on an annual basis to \$49 billion, while China registered a 5% yearly growth to \$189 billion.

- Overall global FDI declined by 12% to \$1.3 trillion in 2022 after a strong rebound in 2021 following the steep drop induced by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.
14. Which bank has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme _____
Bank of India.
- Note:**
- The account will mature after two years from the date of opening.
 - Accounts under this scheme can be opened until March 31, 2025.
 - The scheme offers an interest rate of 7.5% per annum, compounded quarterly.
 - Individual girls or women can open an account under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme or a guardian can open an account on behalf of a minor girl
15. According to a report, published by Crif High Mark, which state has overtaken Tamil Nadu to become the state with the highest microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023 _____ **Bihar.**
- Note:**
- It highlighted Bihar's impressive growth with a 13.5% increase in the gross lending portfolio during the March quarter compared to the previous quarter.
 - NBFC holds the largest share in the market (37.3% of the overall MFI loans), while Banks at 33.1% and small finance banks at 16.6%
16. Which bank has launched its virtual branch, Metaverse _____ **Punjab National Bank (PNB).**
- Note:**
- It is a virtual branch of the bank, which will deliver a unique experience of banking to existing and new customers.
 - With the help of this, customers can explore the bank's products and services such as bank deposits, retail/MSME loans, digital products, women/senior citizens, 'Do It Yourself', and government flagship schemes.
 - The bank will offer an immersive 3D experience to the customers.
17. Which e-commerce site has joined hands with Axis Bank to offer loans for up to Rs 5 lakh to customers _____
Flipkart.
- Note:**
- The lending service is accessible through Flipkart's app and boasts a 30-second approval time while removing the need for document submission.
 - By introducing personal loans, Flipkart is expanding its range of financial services, which already includes a 'buy now, pay later' option, EMI payments, and a co-branded credit card.
 - It will empower consumers to make big-ticket purchases.

Obituaries

1. Bir Devinder Singh, who passed away was a _____ **Politician.**
- Note:**
- Former deputy speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha and two-time Congress MLA Bir Devinder Singh passed away at 73.
 - The senior politician was diagnosed with cancer in his food pipe (esophagus) around 10 to 15 days ago.
 - He was known to be a politician who called a spade a spade without caring about political repercussions.
 - During his political career, he was associated with the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), People's Party of Punjab, SAD (Taksali), and SAD (Sanyukt).
2. Alan Arkin, who passed away, was a veteran _____ **Actor.**
- Note:**
- Alan Arkin, the wry character actor who demonstrated his versatility in comedy and drama as he received four Academy Award nominations and won an Oscar in 2007 for "Little Miss Sunshine," has died.
 - In recent years he starred opposite Michael Douglas in the Netflix comedy series "The Kominsky Method," a role that earned him two Emmy nominations.
 - He also directed the film version of Jules Feiffer's 1971 dark comedy "Little Murders".
3. K M Vasudevan Namboothiri, who passed away at Kottakkal in Malappuram district, was a veteran _____ **Artist.**
- Note:**
- His iconic illustrations gave life to many mythical characters in Malayalam literature.
 - He inspired a golden era of painting and sculpture in Kerala through his unique three-dimensional sketches.
 - He had received many honors like Kerala Lalita Kala Akademi's Raja Ravi Varma Award and the State Institute of Children's Literature award.

Important Days

1. India observed National Doctor's Day on which date to recognize the contributions of doctors and medical professionals toward society _____ **July 1.**
Note:
 - Aim: To create awareness about the importance of doctors, their selfless service, and their valuable role in improving health
 - 2023 theme: Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands
 - This day is observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
2. National Chartered Accountants Day is observed every year on which date to honor the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) _____ **July 1.**
Note:
 - 2023 theme: Empowering Financial Excellence
 - It recognizes the contributions of the ICAI, which serves as the regulatory authority for the accounting profession and financial auditing in the country.
 - ICAI is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament (Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949))
3. National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on which date to give tribute to the hardships of the postal workers of the postal service department _____ **July 1.**
Note:
 - It was first observed in 1997 by the postal carrier in the Seattle area to respect the efforts of his employees.
 - First post office in India was established by East India Company in 1727 and later in 1774 Calcutta GPO was established.
 - However, Warren Hastings (1773-1784) opened the posts to the public in March 1774.
4. International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastic bags on the environment _____ **July 3.**
Note:
 - The initiative was started by the Bag Free World campaign, a global movement.
 - Aim: To reduce the use of single-use plastic bags that inspired other parts of the world to participate in Plastic Bag Free Day
 - There is no specific theme for International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as Solicitor General of India for three years _____ **Tushar Mehta.**
Note:
 - He has been continuing as Solicitor General of India since October 2018.
 - In 2020, he was re-appointed as the SG for a term of three years with effect from July 1, 2020.
 - The center has also re-appointed Vikramjit Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, SV Raju, N Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati as the Additional Solicitors General (ASGs).
2. The State Bank of India board has appointed whom as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective from July 1, 2023 _____ **Kameshwar Kodavanti.**
Note:
 - He has replaced Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra, who has resigned from his post.
 - He has an extensive career in banking, with over 31 years of experience at SBI, starting from August 1, 1991.
 - He brings expertise in banking, forex, finance, and accounting to his new position.
 - Kodavanti holds the qualification of a Chartered Accountant.
3. Who assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Baroda _____ **Debadatta Chand.**
Note:
 - He has taken over charge from Sanjiv Chadha, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2023.
 - Before this role, Chand was serving as the Executive Director at the bank since March 2021.
 - He was overseeing corporate & institutional credit, corporate & institutional banking, treasury & global markets, mid-corporate business, and trade & foreign exchange.
4. Who has been appointed as chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee _____ **Ajit Agarkar.**

Note:

- The Selection Committee now consists of Ajit Agarkar, Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, and Sridharan Sharath.
 - Ajit Agarkar represented India in 26 Tests, 191 ODIs, and four T20Is, in addition to playing 110 first-class, 270 List A, and 62 T20 matches.
 - He also held the record for being the fastest to reach 50 ODI wickets for a decade.
5. Who has been re-elected as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for a second term _____ **QU Dongyu (China)**.

Note:

- In the ballot of FAO member countries, Qu received a total of 168 out of 182 votes deposited.
 - His new term will run from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027.
 - He was elected as FAO Director-General for the first time in 2019.
 - Under the leadership of QU, the World Food Forum (WFF) was created in 2021.
6. Who has been appointed as the Head of the National Cyber Coordination Centre, after replacing Lt Gen (ret.) Dr. Rajesh Pant _____ **Lt Gen MU Nair**.

Note:

- Additionally, he has served as the additional director general, head of signal intelligence, chief of staff of a corps, and command
 - Previously, Lt Gen Nair served as Army Headquarters' chief signal officer
 - He is a distinguished National Defence Academy alumni
 - Nair has extensive knowledge of both domestic and international communication
7. Who has been appointed as Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), till further order _____ **Justice Sheo Kumar Singh**.

Note:

- He has replaced Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired on July 6, 2023.
 - He was appointed as Judicial Member of the NGT on March 11, 2020.
 - He worked as a district judge in various districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP), as Registrar (Judicial) at the Supreme Court of India, and as Registrar General, Allahabad High Court.
8. The Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) of India has appointed whom as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 August 2023 _____ **Krishan Mishra**.

Note:

- He will lead the strategy and operations of FPSB India and champion the advancement of the financial planning profession in India.
- FPSB is the global standards-setting body for the financial planning profession and owner of the international Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification program.

Important News - India

1. PM Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in the Shahdol district of which Indian state _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- Aim: To eradicate anemia by 2047
- He also distributed sickle cell genetic status cards to the beneficiaries at the event.
- The mission would be implemented in 278 districts of 17 states in India (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, MP, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, WB, Odisha, TN, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, UP, Kerala, Bihar, and UK).

2. The Union Government has revised the Crop Residue Management guidelines enabling efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in Punjab, Haryana, UP and which state/UT _____ **Delhi**.

Note:

- As per the revised guidelines, techno-commercial pilot projects for Paddy Straw Supply Chain will be established under bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary or Aggregator (Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of FPOs and Panchayats) and Industries utilizing the paddy straw.

3. Which department has successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi _____ **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

Note:

- IPRS was launched by DPIIT in 2018 with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 - It is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) platform which features more than 4,500 industrial parks.
4. Union Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched a campaign to transform how many historic Lighthouses into Tourism Spots in India _____ **75**.

Note:

- Under this campaign, the historic lighthouses were renovated with adequate facilities to act as tourist spots.
 - It is in line with the visionary approach of PM Modi to transform India's distinctive lighthouses into captivating tourism sites.
 - Aim: To showcase the rich culture, significance, and allure of these magnificent structures
5. Which ministry has organized a one-day Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety, and Child Welfare in New Delhi _____ **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

Note:

- The event was participated by the states and UTs i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh, J&K, and Ladakh.
 - It started with a series of regional symposiums to be held across the country to raise awareness and outreach about child protection, safety, and welfare issues.
6. Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a three-day celebration program of the 108th Zoological Survey of India Day in which Indian city _____ **Kolkata**.

Note:

- The Special Focus of this day is 'Mission Life'.
 - ZSI has completed its 108 glorious years dedicated to the service of faunal diversity.
 - Minister has also appreciated the efforts of ZSI in establishing globally well-known protected areas.
7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the release of Rs 6,194.40 crore to how many state under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) _____ **19 states**.

Note:

- The amount includes Rs 1,209.60 crore as a central share of the SDRF to four states (Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh) for 2022-23.
 - Rs 4,984.80 crore will also be given to 15 states (Andhra Pradesh, AP Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, HP, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, TN, and Tripura)
8. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched a which mobile App _____ **eSARAS**.

Note:

- It will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.
 - Aim: To strengthen the marketing support for products made by women of SHGs
 - The eSARAS fulfillment center will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust).
9. According to the Exports data, released by the government for FY23, which state has emerged as the top exporter of electronics in India _____ **Tamil Nadu (\$5.37 billion)**.

Note:

- As per the data, TN overtook UP and Karnataka to emerge as India's top electronics exporter in March 2023.
 - Reason: The global giants Foxconn and Pegatron accelerated iPhone exports last year
 - In FY23, UP placed second in electronics exports, exporting \$4.90 billion, and Karnataka third with \$4.52 billion.
10. Which department has launched Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology _____ **Department of Telecommunications**.

Note:

- Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.
 - The website for Bharat6G Alliance has been also launched.
 - Bharat 6G Alliance will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances.
11. Who has inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi in Satya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh via video conferencing _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- The inauguration witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world.

- The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has constructed a new facility at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi.
 - Prasanthi Nilayam is the main ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
 - The Convention Centre was donated by philanthropist Ryuko Hira
12. Indian Coast Guard and which Indian armed force signed an MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for the planning, development, construction, and commissioning of a gallery _____ **Indian Navy**.
- Note:**
- Theme of the gallery "Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard".
 - The Government of India is building the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
13. Which Indian agency has signed an MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sports _____ **National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India)**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed between Ritu Sain (DG & CEO, NADA India) and Mohamed Mahid Shareef (DG, SARADO), in the presence of Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur.
 - SARADO members include anti-doping organizations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
14. Which e-commerce website has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Vision & AI Lab of the Indian Institute of Science for one year _____ **Meesho**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To collaborate in the area of generative artificial intelligence
 - The goal of this partnership is to foster innovation in generative artificial intelligence and multimodal large language models in the e-commerce industry, thus enhancing user experience.
15. Which organization and the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) have signed an MoU to promote mutual growth and development in the food and agriculture sectors of the UAE and India _____ **Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)**.
- Note:**
- The agreement strengthens the strategic collaboration between the two countries.
 - The partnership aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, trade promotion, investment, and research and development collaboration.
16. Which Indian agency has signed an MoU with the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility _____ **DGCA**.
- Note:**
- It will focus on collaboration on unmanned aircraft and innovative air mobility between the two civil aviation authorities.
 - It would include cooperation in the areas of development of certification standards and environmental standards and related requirements for the certification.
17. The Ministry of External Affairs signed an MoU with which IIT and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar (Tanzania) to set up the first-ever IIT campus outside India _____ **IIT Madras**.
- Note:**
- It was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Zanzibar's President Hussein Ali Mwinyi.
 - The National Education Policy 2020 recommends that high-performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries.
18. Which ministry has launched a Scheme for the Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States with a total outlay of Rs.5,000 Crore _____ **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Note:**
- Objective: To expand and modernize Fire Services within National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)
 - Out of the total outlay, Rs. 500 crore has been kept for incentivizing the States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.
 - This scheme was announced by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.
19. Who hosted the 23rd edition of the SCO Summit virtually on July 4, 2023 _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.
- Note:**
- Theme 2023: Towards a SECURE SCO
 - SECURE stands for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
 - The summit was attended by SCO Members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- Observer States: Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia
 - Guest of the Chair: Turkmenistan
20. The G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting started in which Indian city on July 4, 2023 _____ **Mumbai.**
- Note:**
- In 2023, a total of 5 RIIG meetings were hosted by India under the theme "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society".
 - More than 100 foreign delegates including Research Ministers from 29 G-20 members, invited guest countries and international organizations to participate in the meeting.
21. Which edition of the Space Economy Leaders Meeting has started in Bengaluru on July 6 _____ **4th.**
- Note:**
- It dwell upon the sharing of the space mission economy, the responsibilities of space agencies, and alliances in space missions.
 - The goal will be to improve the space economy share in the global economy in a responsible and sustainable manner
 - Cultural Programmes representing India's culture and tradition are also organized for foreign dignitaries.
22. Who has inaugurated the International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2023, which is being organized in New Delhi from 5-7 July 2023 _____ **Union Power Minister R. K. Singh.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain
 - It is being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, CSIR, and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India in collaboration with CII.

Important News – State

1. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on which riverfront _____ **Sabarmati.**
- Note:**
- This cruise was developed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited.
 - It is the first passenger catamaran built in the country under Make in India at a cost of Rs 15 crore with twin engines where 165 passengers can travel safely for one-and-a-half hours
 - Impact: It will boost Gujarat's tourism
2. Which state government has doubled the insurance coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, effective from July 11, 2023 _____ **Gujarat.**
- Note:**
- The State Health Minister Rushikesh Patel informed that the decision will benefit nearly 1.78 crore Ayushman Bharat cardholders in the state.
 - The beneficiaries will get free of cost medical treatment from over two thousand government hospitals and 795 private hospitals in the state under PMAY.
3. India's first Vedic-themed park has been opened to the public in which Indian city _____ **Noida.**
- Note:**
- It was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.
 - This park is also known as Ved Van Park.
 - It will also highlight excerpts from the four Vedic literature pieces- Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Yajur Veda, and Sama Veda- via laser shows, wall paintings, and sculptures.
 - The place is home to over 50,000 plants, such as banyan, kalpavriksha, and coconut, which have been mentioned in Vedic literature.
4. Which state government has launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' to saturate recognition of rights pertaining to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and speed up the post-rights recognition activities within the prescribed time frame _____ **Odisha.**
- Note:**
- Under the scheme, designed by the ST & SC Development department, it has been decided to constitute forest rights cells at the tehsil and district level with human resources to ensure and assist in the effective implementation of FRA, 2006.

5. India's first Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) chatbot was launched in which Indian UT _____ **Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note:

- The service was launched by J&K LG Manoj Sinha.
- This chatbot will start an instant conversation with people in distress.
- Tele-MANAS is a two-tier system - Tier 1 comprises State Tele MANAS cells and Tier 2 comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme /Medical College resources for physical consultation.

Important News- World

1. Which country is developing a scheme to attract digital nomads to the country _____ **Canada**.

Note:

- This plan aims to make Canada a go-to destination for digital nomads.
- Under current Canadian immigration rules, digital nomads can stay in Canada for up to six months under a visitor status while still working for foreign companies.
- They are also planning to collaborate with public and private partners to access if more policies were needed to attract global remote workers.

2. Which country has become the new permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping _____ **Iran**.

Note:

- With the addition of Iran as a new member, the total membership of the SCO reaches nine.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan became permanent members of SCO in 2017.
- SCO headquarters: Beijing, China

3. Which organization has recently joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) community _____ **Nord Security**.

Note:

- UNGC: Launched: 2000
- It is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world
- It is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with 10 Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.
- It promotes activities that contribute to sustainable development goals to create a better world.

4. Which organization is planning to launch a microblogging app 'Threads', Instagram's text-based conversation app _____ **Meta Platforms**.

Note:

- It is expected to be released soon and will allow users to follow the accounts they follow on the photo-sharing platform and keep the same username.
- The launch comes after Twitter announced a slate of restrictions on the app, including the need to be verified in order to use TweetDeck.

5. Unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under the age of five in 2019. This report is published by which organization _____ **WHO**.

Note:

- Report title: Burden of Disease Attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and Hygiene: 2019 Update
- Out of these, 273,000 deaths are attributed to diarrhea, while 112,000 deaths are from acute respiratory infections.
- Half of the world's population still does not have adequate access to WASH.

6. According to the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI), released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, what is the rank of India _____ **126**.

Note:

- With an overall score of 2.31, India falls below the global average of 2.314.
- Iceland has remained the most peaceful country in the world since the study was first released in 2008.
- It measures the state of peace across three domains: Societal safety and security, Ongoing domestic and international conflict, and Militarisation

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2023 _____ **Michael Rosen.**

Note:

- This prestigious award is given to a writer from the UK, Ireland, and the Commonwealth whose work is committed to a fearless exposition of truth about contemporary life.
- This prize was named after English writer Harold Pinter.
- It was established in 2009.
- Previous winners: Hanif Kureishi (2010), Salman Rushdie (2014), and Lemn Sissay (2019).

2. Who has been named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23 _____ **Lallianzuala Chhangte.**

Note:

- He beat Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh of East Bengal to win the award.
- While Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.
- AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Akash Mishra
- AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Shilji Shaji
- AIFF President: Kalyan Chaubey

Sports News

1. Which country won the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship title for the eighth time by defeating Iran in a final match, organized in Busan, South Korea _____ **India.**

Note:

- In the initial stages of the final, Iran surged ahead, putting pressure on the Indian team.
- However, the Indian defenders countered effectively, notching up crucial tackle points.
- After winning this Championship, India sets its sights on the Asian Games 2023, which will be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8.

2. Who has clinched the 2023 Lausanne Diamond League title with the best throw of 87.66 meters _____ **Neeraj Chopra.**

Note:

- While Julian Webber from Germany secured second place with a best throw of 87.03 meters and Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got third place with an 86.13-meter throw.
- He won his first Diamond League Trophy when he won the Lausanne leg in August 2022 and went on to win the Diamond League Trophy in the final later that year.

3. Who has clinched the Austrian Grand Prix 2023, held at the Red Bull Ring, Spielberg in Austria _____ **Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- Ferrari driver, Charles Leclerc has ranked second, while Red Bull's Sergio Pérez placed third in the Austrian Grand Prix 2023.
- Previous GP 2023 winners:
- Canadian GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
- Spanish GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
- Monaco GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
- Miami GP: M. Verstappen
- Azerbaijan GP: S. Pérez (Red Bull)

4. Which country has won the 2023 Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou _____ **India.**

Note:

- India's squash players, Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, showcased their excellence by clinching the gold medal at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou.
- India's campaign at the championship saw another shining moment as Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh partnered together to claim a bronze medal.
- They faced a tough semifinal battle against Malaysia's Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold.

5. Which country defeated Kuwait 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out to lift the SAFF Championships trophy 2023 held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka _____ **India.**

Note:

- India recorded its win for the ninth time in the SAFF Championships trophy.
- Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh turned out as the hero for the Indian side, saving the final kick from the Kuwaiti captain.
- In the semi-final, India defeated Lebanon while Kuwait defeated Bangladesh 1-0 in the other last-four clash.

6. Which country has won the final of the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland _____ **India.**

Note:

- Indian pair Priyansh and Avneet Kaur won gold in the junior mixed-team compound event in the final of the World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland.
- In the final, the Indian pair defeated Israel 146-144.
- While India's Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma also won a bronze medal after defeating Mexico in the cadet mixed compound event.
- The World Archery Youth Championships event is taking place at the University of Limerick, Ireland from July 3 to 9.

7. Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket, is associated with which country _____

Bangladesh.

Note:

- He played 70 Test matches for Bangladesh scoring 5134 runs at an average of 38.89 with 10 tons to his name.
- As far as the ODIs is concerned, he played 241 matches amassing 8313 runs at an average of 36.62 with 14 centuries and 56 half-centuries.
- He last played in the format in April against Ireland.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the writer of the novel "Dudiya: In your Burning Land" _____ **Vishwas Patil.**

Note:

- The fast-paced novel "Dudiya: In your Burning Land", written by Sahitya Akademi award-winning Marathi novelist Vishwas Patil, has been translated into English by Nadeem Khan.
- The book originally written in Marathi, is a story of a spirited young Adivasi girl who challenges conventional norms both within her impoverished tribe and inside a Naxal camp by simply trying to live a life of dignity and independence.
- The book was published by Niyogi Books.

Science and Defence

1. Indian Naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in which location _____ **Bay of Bengal.**

Note:

- INS Rana is a guided missile destroyer and INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel were from the Indian Navy side.
- This Exercise included tactical manoeuvres, replenishment at sea approaches, air defence against fighter aircraft and cross deck helicopter operations.

2. Indian Navy is being hosted the seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023, 'JIMEX 23' at which location _____ **Visakhapatnam.**

Note:

- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- Indian Navy participated with the INS Delhi (India's first indigenously built Guided Missile Destroyer) INS Kamorta (an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette), fleet tanker INS Shakti, etc.

3. Which edition of the Indian Navy and US Navy Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun – 06 Jul 23 at Kochi _____ **Seventh.**

Note:

- Both the navies have participated with their ships – INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor in addition to Specialist Diving and EOD teams.
- Aim: To enhance the skill sets of the Diving teams in a number of diverse disciplines such as mine detection and neutralization, wreck location, and salvage.

4. Which organization launched the European Space Agency's Euclid observatory toward its ultimate destination 1.5 million km away _____ **SpaceX.**

Note:

- This telescope has been named after the ancient Greek mathematician, Euclid.
- It will take a month to get there and another two months before it starts its ambitious six-year survey this autumn.

- Euclid will measure dark energy and dark matter with unprecedented precision.
- It is four meters tall and almost as wide.

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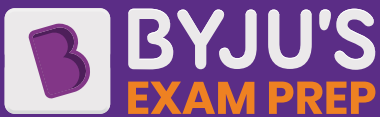
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Sector 125, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201303



Contact: **+91 9513138506**

Email id: catdoubts@byjus.com

Website: www.byjusexamprep.com