

# **Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 22nd - 30th June 2023**



## Weekly Current Affairs Magazine

### 22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### 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 4th week of June (22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) of June 2023. This file is important for the upcoming MBA exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank has launched its latest feature 'One-View', on Axis Mobile Application \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank.**

**Note:**

- It also becomes the first private sector Bank to introduce this new-age banking feature leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem.
- Aim: To create a seamless banking experience for its customers
- It helps in managing finances for customers, by providing them access to multiple bank accounts on a single platform
- It also enables them to track their balances and spending on a real-time basis.

2. Lloyds Banking Group would set up a technology center in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad.**

**Note:**

- The group, which has brands such as Lloyds Bank, Halifax, and Bank of Scotland under its belt, is planning to expand its digital capabilities through the tech center.
- It won't offer banking services in the country, rather it will focus on using technology and digital data, and analytics capabilities to drive innovation and end-to-end product delivery

3. Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) has partnered with which bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customized banking products \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To build a sustainable network of corporate business correspondents (CBCs).
- It will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas.
- MTL will work closely with Indian Bank to offer tailor-made banking products in rural locations.

4. The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on which bank for non-compliance with directions related to time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir Bank.**

**Note:**

- A penalty of Rs 1.45 crore was also imposed on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on Man in the Middle Attacks in ATMs'.
- The RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Axis Bank.

5. Which international bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan to enhance the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank.**

**Note:**

- This funding will support approximately 275 selected government-run technical institutions over the course of the next five years.
- The Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education Project will focus on improving student skills and employability through various measures.

6. Which insurance provider launched a new close-ended plan Dhan Vridhhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).**

**Note:**

- It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life plan, offering a combination of protection and savings.
- This plan provides financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.
- It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount on the date of maturity to the assured.

- Minimum assured sum: Rs 1,25,000
7. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State and provide them with vital financial support \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**.
- Note:**
- TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with IOB.
  - Aim: To streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the State
8. The Asian Development Bank has signed an agreement with which country to provide a 400 million US dollars loan for the construction of 102 km-long dual gauge railways between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar to promote trade, investment, and tourism \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To transport 2.9 million passengers annually between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar by 2024
  - Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway is part of the Trans-Asia Railway network, an initiative led by the UN.
9. Which life insurance provider launched 'Nishchit Pension Plan' \_\_\_\_\_ **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance**.
- Note:**
- It is a non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan that enables the policyholders to plan for their retirement.
  - Under this plan, the insurer provides accrued guaranteed additions during the policy term and loyalty addition at the end of the policy term.
  - The policyholders will be able to accumulate a 100% guaranteed corpus at desired retirement age.
10. Which insurance provider has launched three insurance products focusing on MSMEs — MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy, Property All Risk (PAR) Policy, and i-Select Liability \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Lombard**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To make MSMEs more risk aware and provide them with the benefit of comprehensive coverage to safeguard their businesses
  - MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy protects MSMEs against loss or damage to property due to defined insured perils.
  - PAR policy covers a range of properties against damage caused by accidents
11. S&P Global Ratings has retained India's GDP growth forecast at what percent for 2023-24 \_\_\_\_\_ **6%**.
- Note:**
- Reason: The fastest growing economy among Asia Pacific nations
  - In its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P Global Ratings forecasted the same growth for Vietnam and the Philippines alongside India.
  - In its latest report, S&P has kept the GDP growth forecast for India unchanged for the current and the next fiscal, FY25 partly on account of domestic resilience.
12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of which bank and allowed function only as a non-banking institution \_\_\_\_\_ **Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad**.
- Note:**
- The cancellation of the license is with effect from the close of business on June 27, 2023.
  - RBI has also been instructed to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.
13. According to the data released by the Reserve Bank, the CAD of India has been narrowed to 1.3 billion dollars or 0.2% of GDP in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal. What is the full form of CAD \_\_\_\_\_ **Current Account Deficit**.
- Note:**
- The decline was mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports.
  - RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.
14. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a total of \$391 million loan to which two Indian states \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam and Tripura**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities
  - Out of \$391 million, \$251 million was approved for the Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project.
  - While \$140 million was approved for the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project.

15. Which general insurance provider has partnered with WhatsApp and PayU to make payments through Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI) for their consumers more efficient \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata AIA**.

**Note:**

- This feature provides an instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options.
- The company has enabled the renewal of premium collections via multiple Digital modes and enhanced its language capability to 5 Languages–English, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, and Bengali.

16. The World Bank has approved how much amount to accelerate the development of India's low-carbon energy sector \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1.5 billion**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To help India promote low-carbon energy by scaling up renewable energy, developing green hydrogen, and stimulating climate finance for low-carbon energy investments
- The program will support the successful implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission which aims to stimulate \$100 billion in private-sector investment by 2030.

17. According to Bloomberg, after the tie-up of HDFC Bank Ltd and Housing Development Finance Corp, the lender would rank at what place in equity market capitalization \_\_\_\_\_ **Fourth**.

**Note:**

- It's valued at about \$172 billion.
- With the merger likely effective July 1, the new HDFC Bank entity will have around 120 million customers, which is greater than the population of Germany.
- JPMorgan Chase & Co ranked first, followed by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd and Bank of America Corp.

18. ICICI Lombard General Insurance and which life insurance have jointly launched a combi product, 'iShield' \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Prudential**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide customers with both health and life insurance under the "use and file" procedure
- The "use and file" procedure allows an insurer to launch a product without prior approval of the regulator.
- A combi product offers the benefits of life insurance, along with that of general or other insurance covers.

### Obituaries

1. Sylvester daCunha, the man behind the iconic Amul Girl 'utterly butterfly' campaign, passed away, was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Advertiser**.

**Note:**

- He conceived the 'Utterly Butterfly' campaign for Amul, the brand owned by Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), in 1966.
- In 1969, daCunha solidified his legacy by establishing daCunha Communications.
- The 'Utterly Butterfly' campaign for Amul had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.

2. Co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries, John Bannister Goodenough passed away at 101, was honoured with the Nobel Prize in which year \_\_\_\_\_ **2019**.

**Note:**

- He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize with Stan Whittingham, a British-American scientist, for discovering that lithium may be held within sheets of titanium sulphide.
- He was also instrumental in the invention of computer RAM (Random Access Memory).
- He also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Oxford University.

### Important Days

1. International Widows Day is observed annually on which date to spread awareness about the plight of millions of widows facing poverty \_\_\_\_\_ **June 23**.

**Note:**

- 2023 theme: Innovation and technology for gender equality
- The first-ever International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation back on June 23rd, 2005.
- In 2010, the UNGA recognized the importance of this day and they officially adopted International Widows Day to share its importance on a global level.



2. International Women in Engineering Day is observed every year on which date for improving the participation of young girls in the field of engineering \_\_\_\_\_ **June 23.**

**Note:**

- The theme of the special day this year is 'Make Safety Seen'.
- In 2014, the United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field.
- In 2017, UNESCO celebrated this day for the first time, to mark the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.

3. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on which date to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse \_\_\_\_\_ **June 26.**

**Note:**

- Various campaigns, rallies, and awareness programs are held worldwide on this day.
- This is observed to honour Lin Zexu, who played a key role in the demolition of the opium trade in the Guangdong region of China.
- 2023 theme: People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention

4. World MSME Day is observed on which date every year to raise awareness about the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable development worldwide \_\_\_\_\_ **June 27.**

**Note:**

- The Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade is celebrating the day with "Building a Stronger Future Together" theme of this year.
- The theme of MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100."

5. India observed National Statistics Day on which date every year, to celebrate the birth anniversary of statistician P.C. Mahalanobis \_\_\_\_\_ **June 29.**

**Note:**

- This day was first celebrated in 2007 in India.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2023 is "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals".
- Statistics Day in India is celebrated by conducting seminars, conferences, and other interactive events.

6. International Asteroid Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the potential hazards posed by asteroid impacts \_\_\_\_\_ **30 June.**

**Note:**

- It also aims to educate people about the global crisis communication measures to be taken in the event of a credible near-Earth object threat.
- In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution (A/RES/71/90) establishing June 30th as International Asteroid Day.
- 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 chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City \_\_\_\_\_ **Hasmukh Adhia.**

**Note:**

- In addition to this role, he was also appointed as the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).
- He replaced Sudhir Mankad, to take the helm of GIFT City.
- He has also served as the Principal advisor to Narendra Modi when he was CM of Gujarat.

2. Who was appointed the chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), by the President of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Umesh Kumar.**

**Note:**

- President Droupadi Murmu has exercised the powers conferred by Section 45(b) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, read with sub-section 2 of Section 84 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- He served as the justice of Allahabad High Court till July 2022.

3. Finland's parliament elected whom as prime minister at the head of a four-party coalition \_\_\_\_\_ **Petteri Orpo.**

**Note:**

- Parliament voted in favor of Orpo, who won the April elections.
- He was formally appointed as prime minister by President Sauli Niinisto.

- He took over from Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats finished third behind Orpo's National Coalition Party and the Finns Party.
  - The new coalition is made up of the smaller Swedish People's Party and Christian Democrats.
4. Who will take over as the chief executive of the Alibaba Group \_\_\_\_\_ **Eddie Wu.**
- Note:**
- He is one of the co-founders of Alibaba, who first served it as a technology director back in 1999.
  - While Joe Tsai will take over as chairman on September 10th, 2023.
  - He was appointed as the company's CFO until 2013.
  - The present CEO and Chairman Daniel Zhang is planning to step down this year.
5. WHO has appointed whom as the first-ever WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr Vanessa Kerry.**
- Note:**
- She is a renowned global health expert and medical doctor and CEO of Seed Global Health.
  - She will play a pivotal role in amplifying WHO's climate and health messaging and undertake high-level advocacy.
  - Climate change is emerging as the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, impacting various aspects of human well-being.
6. DBS Bank India has appointed whom as managing director and head of institutional banking \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajat Verma.**
- Note:**
- He will succeed Niraj Mittal, who will be taking up a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia.
  - Rajat Verma was formerly with HSBC as the MD and country head of Commercial Banking in India.
  - He will lead the growth of the institutional banking franchise for DBS Bank in India given the significantly expanded footprint of the lender.
7. Who has been sworn in as the PM of Greece for a second term, after winning the Prime Minister election \_\_\_\_\_ **Kyriakos Mitsotakis.**
- Note:**
- He took the oath of office in the presidential palace at a ceremony.
  - In the election, he bagged 40.55% of the votes, more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84%.
  - He vowed to accelerate institutional and economic reforms.
  - He became the PM for the first time in 2019 when his party defeated Syriza in an election.
8. The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the Federal Bank for the appointment of whom as part-time chairman, with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_ **AP Hota.**
- Note:**
- In 2018, he was appointed as an Independent Director of Federal Bank Limited.
  - He has also worked at RBI as a nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and Andhra Bank.
  - He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009-2017.
9. Who has assumed charge as the Managing Director and CEO of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rohit Jawa.**
- Note:**
- He has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired after the company's annual general meeting.
  - Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, 2023.
  - Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London.
  - He started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988.
10. Who has been appointed as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effective until his superannuation on November 20, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ajay Bhatnagar.**
- Note:**
- At present, he is serving as Additional Director in the agency.
  - While Anurag and Manoj Sashidhar have been promoted to the position of Additional Director.
  - The government has also extended the tenure of Sharad Agarwal as Joint Director.
11. Audi has appointed whom as Chairman of the Board of Management, effective September 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Gernot Dollner.**
- Note:**
- He will take over Markus Duesmann.

- Gernot Dollner joined Volkswagen as a Ph.D. candidate in 1993 and subsequently served in a number of management roles at Porsche, including as head of Concept Development and head of the Panamera Series.

### Important News - India

1. Which international organization has joined hands with India's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) \_\_\_\_\_ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

**Note:**

- Reason: To empower women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship
- The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expand their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as the care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging, and more

2. The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission unanimously elected which country as chair of the Standing Committee on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the biennium 2023-24 \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**

**Note:**

- The APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for the management of fruit flies on mango has been scheduled from 19-23 June 2023 in Navi Mumbai.
- The Minister of State for Agriculture, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the workshop.

3. Name the Agriculture Minister, who has unveiled a new feature on the PM-Kisan mobile app \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Singh Tomar.**

**Note:**

- Farmers can be registered by scanning their faces without a one-time password or fingerprint, by using the "face authentication" feature on the mobile application.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.

4. Which organization has started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India to the US \_\_\_\_\_ **IFFCO.**

**Note:**

- An agreement to export Nano urea was signed between IFFCO and Kapoor Enterprises Inc of California.
- The nano urea is a revolution in the agriculture sector as it has the potential to reduce storage space and money.
- A 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid has the capacity to replace at least one bag of conventional Urea.

5. The first hydrogen-powered trains in India are expected to start from the Jind district of which state by the end of this year, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Haryana.**

**Note:**

- The officials informed that the plant development has entered the final phase and hydrogen will be produced from water.
- The Hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environment-friendly.
- Presently, trains are being run on diesel and electricity.
- The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.

6. Which organization has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) \_\_\_\_\_ **REC Limited.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For establishment and development of Metro Lines under the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro
- The Phase-II project of Namma Metro will enhance connectivity and ease traffic in the densely populated city of Bengaluru.
- REC is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power.

7. The Finance Ministry has approved an investment of worth Rs 56,415 crore in which states as part of the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **16.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To boost capital spending by states
- The Departments of Expenditure has approved investment projects in several sectors including health, education, roads, and railways among others.
- It has also included the state share of two projects - Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

8. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala today launched NANDI. What is the full form of NANDI \_\_\_\_\_ **NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System.**

**Note:**

- This portal has been developed to pave the way to a resilient Animal Health Sector in India by streamlining and digitizing the regulatory approval process.
- Aim: To speed up the process to assess and examine the safety, efficacy, and essentiality of veterinary product proposals received in the Department

9. Which Indian airport has created a personalised digital travel buddy named BLR Pulse to cater to the needs of flyers \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangalore International Airport Limited.**

**Note:**

- It is an omnichannel platform, developed in collaboration with GrayMatter Software Services.
- It will allow passengers to navigate within the terminal buildings and provide essential information about the airport in real-time.
- The interactive chatbot feature in the app will enable a self-sufficient mode of finding answers.

10. Name the Union Minister for Fisheries, who has launched the Report Fish Disease App \_\_\_\_\_ **Parshottam Rupala.**

**Note:**

- The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD).
- It is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- This app will help the farmers to report the incidences of diseases in finfish and shrimps on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts.

11. Which edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan has been started \_\_\_\_\_ **8th.**

**Note:**

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023.
- Swachh Survekshan 2023 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, Divyang-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management, and cleaning backlanes.

12. The Centre government has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to \_\_\_\_\_ in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **30 September 2023.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange, and cut air pollution
- The decision has been taken under the 'scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity'.

13. The CCEA has approved the fair and remunerative price of \_\_\_\_\_ per quintal for sugarcane farmers for the season 2023-24 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 315 per quintal.**

**Note:**

- It will be applicable for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers by sugar mills from Oct 1, 2023
- It will be applicable for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%
- A premium of Rs.3.07 per quintal will be provided for every 0.1% increase in recovery above 10.25%
- Conversely, the FRP will be reduced by Rs 3.07 per quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

14. The Centre has provided financial incentives of 66,000 crore rupees to how many states to accelerate power sector reforms \_\_\_\_\_ **12.**

**Note:**

- These states include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur and Andhra Pradesh.
- The primary objectives of granting financial incentives for undertaking power sector reforms are to improve operational and economic efficiency within the sector and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption.

15. The Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the NRF Bill, 2023, in parliament. What is the full form of NRF \_\_\_\_\_ **National Research Foundation.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF.



16. Which airline has become India's leading airline to cross ₹1 trillion in market capitalization \_\_\_\_\_ **InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo)**.

**Note:**

- The stock hit a 52-week high of ₹2,634.25 on the BSE, with a market value of ₹1.01 trillion.
- Shares of IndiGo settled 3.55% higher at ₹2,619.85 apiece on the BSE, compared to the previous close of ₹2,529.95.
- IndiGo placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft in the largest order in the history of commercial aviation.

17. Who has unveiled India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi**.

**Note:**

- The report identifies 30 critical minerals essential for sectors including defense, agriculture, and telecom.
- This list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in mineral resources, aligning with the vision of achieving 'Net Zero' targets.
- Aim: To guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and investment decisions in this sector

18. Which organization declared a fresh Mixed Reality program in India that has an award of \$250,000 for homegrown new companies and developers to construct applications and experiences \_\_\_\_\_ **Meta**.

**Note:**

- They can assemble applications utilizing the expansive scope of machine perception, and AI capabilities for the Meta Quest Platform and Metaverse
- Aim: To foster innovation and establish a national XR technology ecosystem
- A selected group of 5 Indian developers and new companies will get a monetary grant

19. PM Modi will inaugurate which edition of the Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on July 1st, 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **17th**.

**Note:**

- The two days Indian Cooperative Congress would be organized by the National Cooperative Union of India.
- Theme 2023: Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India
- Chaired by: HM Amit Shah
- Aim: To discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, to showcase the best practices being adopted by the successful cooperatives

20. Which Indian organizations has signed an MoU with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Railways**.

**Note:**

- It was signed in the presence of the Chairman of the Railway Board, Anil Kumar Lahoti.
- As Indian Railways is proactively working towards the achievement of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- As part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways is taking several initiatives.

21. India and which country formally inked an agreement on the sidelines of the 141st/142nd sessions of the World Customs Organization's Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels \_\_\_\_\_ **UAE**.

**Note:**

- Both countries have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators.
- Aim: To promote greater trade facilitation and ease of doing business
- The agreement establishes a framework that enables the recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both countries.

22. Which country has signed the Artemis Accords with the USA with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- Artemis Accord is a US-led effort to send humans to the moon again by 2025.
- Aim: To build a permanent presence in lunar orbit and on the surface after the Apollo missions ended
- It will boost the cooperation between the two nations and explore the domain beyond the boundaries of Earth.
- India has become the 27th signatory of the Artemis Accords.

23. Which organization has bagged a \$454-million deal for the digital transformation of Denmark's Danske Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Infosys**.

**Note:**

- The deal is for a period of five years, which could be ramped up to \$900 million and also renewed for up to another three years.

- The collaboration with Infosys would help achieve its strategic priorities regarding customer experience and operational excellence.
- Infosys was selected to help with the bank's technology transformation, optimize access to talent and capabilities.

24. Which ministry has signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited to develop various geospatial solutions on a pro bono basis for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem, with the help of Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ministry of Agriculture.**

**Note:**

- This project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites.
  - It will develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.
25. The Ministry of Culture and which bank signed an MoU for the disbursement of financial assistance to veteran artists under the "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists" \_\_\_\_\_ **Canara Bank.**

**Note:**

- Ministry of Culture has administered a Scheme under which financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above 60 years
  - Eligibility: Contributed in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing
26. The Central government has allocated what amount for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland \_\_\_\_\_  
**₹145 crore.**

**Note:**

- Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings
- The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls.
- The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has decided to give cash instead of rice till rice is procured \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka.**

**Note:**

- It was one of the guarantees of the Siddaramaiah govt was to provide 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household.
  - The government has decided to pay beneficiaries cash at the rate of ₹34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of the foodgrain promised under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme.
  - The disbursement of money will start on July 1.
2. Which city of Gujarat has set a Guinness World Record with over 1.53 lakh people participating in a yoga event at one place on the International Day of Yoga (IDY), organized on 21st June \_\_\_\_\_ **Surat.**

**Note:**

- Guinness officials handed over the certificate to chief minister Bhupendra Patel at the venue.
  - Two 4km-long stretches of roads, each around 300 meters wide, connecting the Y junction were covered with carpet for participants
  - The participants were divided into groups of 1,000 each
3. Which state government will collaborate with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to set up a state-of-the-art milk processing plant at Dagwar in Kangra district \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The dairy development board's assistance would be taken for its operation and marketing.
  - The Dagwar plant's capacity would range from 1 lakh to 3 lakh liters, in which high-quality milk products would also be prepared.
4. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of Balidaan Stambh' at Pratap Park, near the Lal Chowk city centre the commercial hub of which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Srinagar city.**

**Note:**

- Home Minister has laid the foundation stone in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

5. Who signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park to create a startup ecosystem for the youth \_\_\_\_\_ **Paytm Payment Services Limited.**

**Note:**

- Under an MoU, Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage startups at a discounted price.
- It also offers free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid youths' business ventures in their early growth stage.
- This will nurture the startup ecosystem in the state and motivate young entrepreneurs

6. Which state Police Department launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The initiative will expedite the prosecution of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, cow slaughter, religious conversion, and murder.
- It ensures the immediate arrest of criminals, the collection of strong evidence against them, quality investigation, and effective representation of cases in courts.

7. How many products of Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ **Seven.**

**Note:**

- Seven products are: Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, and Kalpi Handmade Paper
- The Amroha Dholak is a musical instrument made of natural wood.
- Mango, jackfruit, and teakwood are preferred for making the dholak.

8. Which state government signed an MoU with the US-based computer storage chip maker Micron for setting up a \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- It will be the first semiconductor manufacturing facility in India and will be manufactured within 18 months.
- Micron will receive 50% fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian government and incentives representing 20% of the total project cost from the Gujarat government.

### Important News – World

1. According to a Gender Gap Index 2023, released by World Economic Forum, what is the rank of India \_\_\_\_\_ **127.**

**Note:**

- The report reflects an improvement of 1.4% points.
- India's neighboring countries rank: Bangladesh (59), Bhutan (103), China (107), and Pakistan (142)
- For the 14th year running, Iceland (91.2%) takes the top position.
- While Norway ranked 2nd, followed by Finland, and Sweden.

2. According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), which city has topped the ranking of the most liveable cities \_\_\_\_\_ **Vienna in Austria.**

**Note:**

- While Copenhagen in Denmark placed second on the list, followed by Melbourne and Sydney.
- Damascus in Syria and Tripoli in Libya remained at the bottom of the liveability index.
- From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.

3. Forbes has ranked whom as among the top ten most influential Chief Marketing Officers (CMO) for the second consecutive year \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Group's brand custodian Harish Bhat.**

**Note:**

- Last year, he was in the ninth position.
- William White, CMO of Walmart has topped the Forbes list of most influential CMOs 2023.
- While Ashimita Dubey, chief digital and marketing officer at L'Oreal, is ranked 21 and Infosys chief marketing officer Sumit Virmani is at 41.

4. According to the Global competitiveness index 2023, published by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), what is the rank of India \_\_\_\_\_ **40.**

**Note:**

- Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland took the top three places.
- Switzerland ranked fourth, followed by the Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sweden, the USA, and UAE.
- The report uses a combination of surveys, statistical data, and trends to benchmark competitiveness around the world.

5. According to the 20th QS World University Rankings 2023, which Indian institute has climbed 23 positions to secure the 149th rank globally \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.**

**Note:**

- While in the overall ranking, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States topped the rankings for the twelfth consecutive year.
- UK's Cambridge University ranked second followed by Oxford University.
- India is the seventh most represented country globally, with 45 universities ranked.

6. India bagged which position globally in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index \_\_\_\_\_ **67th.**

**Note:**

- WEF informed that India is the only major economy whose energy transition accelerated across all dimensions.
- Top 5: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland
- The global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.

7. INDUS X was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21st June 2023, what does INDUS stand for \_\_\_\_\_

**India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem.**

**Note:**

- The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the Ministry of Defence, and the US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion), MoD, Anurag Bajpai led the Indian delegation in the two-day INDUS-X event.

8. Which Indian minister met with Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC \_\_\_\_\_ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

**Note:**

- After the meeting, it was informed that Google is investing 10 billion dollars in India's digitization fund and will open Google's global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- While Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy has already invested 11 billion dollars and with an intention to invest another 15 billion dollars.

9. Which country's Parliament has approved a new immigration law designed to attract skilled workers to the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Germany.**

**Note:**

- Reason: The nation is suffering from an unprecedented labour shortage
- The law was initiated by the governing center-left coalition of the Social Democrats, the liberal Free Democrats, and the Greens.
- The law includes a points-based system that lowers entry hurdles for work visa applicants according to their professional qualifications, age, and language skills.

10. A US\$5 billion 'smart' city named Arkadag was inaugurated in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Turkmenistan.**

**Note:**

- Turkmenistan President, Serdar Berdymukhamedov has unveiled the city around 30km southwest of the capital, Ashgabat.
- The new city is built in the foothills of the picturesque Kopet-Dag mountains and named after Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov.
- He ruled the country between 2006 and 2022 and now carries the title Hero Arkadag (Protector).

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named the prestigious (Kendra) Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Priya A S.**

**Note:**

- She was awarded for children's literature in Malayalam for her 2018 novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal.
- She won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel in 2020.
- The book was featured in the Sammanapothi series by Poorna Books.
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar consists of a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.

2. Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has conferred the 'Order of the Nile' to which Indian minister \_\_\_\_\_ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

**Note:**

- The 'Order of the Nile' was instituted in 1915, which is conferred upon heads of state, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.



- Over the last 9 years, PM Modi has received many international awards and this is the 13th highest state honour conferred upon PM Modi.
3. Who was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University (BCU) in London, England \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shankar Mahadevan.**
- Note:**
- Reason: To celebrate his contribution to music and the arts
  - He was honoured by the BCU Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Plowden at the ceremony.
  - He was accompanied by fellow musicians Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin at the ceremony.
4. Who has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day on July 1 \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. K. Venugopal.**
- Note:**
- He was selected under the category of community service.
  - He will receive the award at a function to be held at IMA headquarters in New Delhi on July 1.
  - Indian Medical Association was formed in 1928 & is headquartered in New Delhi.
5. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak honored whom with a Points of Light award on June 28th, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rajindar Singh Dhatt.**
- Note:**
- He was recognized for his service and work running the 'Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association'.
  - The Points of Light award recognize outstanding people whose service is making a difference in their communities and whose stories can inspire others towards innovative solutions to social challenges in their own communities and beyond.

### Sports News

1. Which country's U-23 women's team won the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup T20 title after defeating Bangladesh in the final held at the Mission Round Ground in Hong Kong \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**
- Note:**
- India has scored 127 for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.
  - India's Kanika Ahuja was named the Player of the Match, who stayed not out on 30 off 23 with four fours in the final.
  - While India's Shreyanka Patil was named the Player of the Series, as she was the highest-wicket taker.
2. Who has unveiled the first ticket for the first race of MotoGP 2023, to be hosted by Uttar Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath.**
- Note:**
- For the first time, the motorbike race is being held in India.
  - The event is scheduled to be held at the Buddha International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, 2023.
  - The event would firmly establish 'Brand Uttar Pradesh' at the global level.
  - This is the first time the event is being held outside Europe.
3. Who has received the Guinness World Record Award certificate to become the first men's player to make 200 international appearances \_\_\_\_\_ **Cristiano Ronaldo.**
- Note:**
- He celebrated the milestone by scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute as Portugal beat Iceland in European Championship qualifying.
  - He received a Guinness World Records certificate before the game.
  - The closest to Ronaldo's tally is Bader Al-Mutawa, who was capped by Kuwait on 196 occasions.
4. Who has secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Diksha Dagar.**
- Note:**
- In the final, she defeated Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand.
  - She hails from Jhajjar in Haryana.
  - In 2019, she won her first LET title at the South African Women's Open, held in Cape Town.
  - After Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar is the only other Indian woman golfer to have won two or more LET titles.
5. Wanindu Hasaranga has achieved a remarkable feat in cricket by becoming the first spinner and second overall player in history to take three consecutive 5-wicket hauls in the One Day Internationals (ODIs). He belongs to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka.**
- Note:**

- It was achieved, when Sri Lanka bundled out Ireland at 192 to secure the Super Six spot in ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifiers match.
  - He has placed himself equal to the legendary Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis.
6. Which Indian women's doubles pair won the 2023 World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender tournament in Tunis \_\_\_\_\_ **Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee.**

**Note:**

- The Indian pair won the title after beating the Japanese pair of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto.
  - The pair also became the first Indians to win a Contender title this year.
  - Meanwhile, the Indian mixed doubles pair as well as the men's doubles duo had lost their respective semifinal matches.
7. The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has confirmed that the 2023 U-17 World Cup will be hosted by which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Indonesia.**

**Note:s**

- Initially, the host of the youngest World Cup event was Peru.
  - This announcement was made after the FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, Switzerland.
  - FIFA also announced Colombia as the host of the 2024 U-20 Women's World Cup and Dominica as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup.
  - FIFA President: Gianni Infantino
8. Name the Indian woman cricketer, who has joined England women's team captain Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan to become a member of the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Jhulan Goswami.**

**Note:**

- This committee is an independent body that consists of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from various countries.
  - Jhulan Goswami retired from international cricket in 2022.
  - She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April 2023.
9. Which country has finished its Special Olympics World Games 2023 campaign by winning 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver, and 51 bronze) \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**

**Note:**

- Indian athletes notched six medals from the track events (2 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze).
- Aanchal Goyal (400m, Level B Female) and Ravimathi Arumugam (400m, Level C Female) blew away their competition to take the top of the podium.
- Saket Kundu, who grabbed a silver medal in the mini javelin Level B, also won a bronze in the Level B 400m.

### Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of the book 'Non-Cooperation in India: Non-Violent Strategy and Protest' \_\_\_\_\_ **David Hardiman.**

**Note:**

- It is published by Westland Books.
- The non-cooperation movement by the Indian National Congress (INC) was the first mass movement organized nationwide during India's struggle for freedom, which was organized and led by Gandhi Ji.
- The book is comprising seven chapters and is a detailed account of India's first mass movement.

2. A book titled 'The New New-Delhi Book Club', authored by whom \_\_\_\_\_ **Radhika Swarup.**

**Note:**

- The book will be published by Westland Books publishing house.
- The book is an interconnected collection of short stories, showing both the hopes and fears of life during the pandemic.
- Her debut novel, "Where the River Parts", was longlisted by the Author & Club for the best first novel award.
- Her last novel 'Civil Lines' was out in 2021.

### Science and Defence

1. Which Indian institute has successfully conducted a test flight for cloud seeding \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur.**

**Note:**

- The project was initiated at IIT Kanpur a few years ago and is headed by Prof. Manindra Agrawal from the Computer Science and Engineering Department.

- The experiment was conducted with due approval from the DGCA.
  - Cloud seeding involves the utilization of various chemical agents such as silver iodide, dry ice, common salt, and other elements with the aim of enhancing the probability of precipitation.
2. US-based GE Aerospace has signed a memorandum of understanding with which Indian organization to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.**

**Note:**

- Aerospace's F414 engines will be co-produced in India to power the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk2.
  - The development comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US.
  - It is part of an effort to improve defense- and technology-sharing between the India and US.
3. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) 'Dhruv' in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Kochi, Kerala.**

**Note:**

- The ISC 'Dhruv' hosts modern state-of-the-art indigenously-built simulators which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy.
  - These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience in navigation, fleet operations, and Naval tactics.
  - These simulators will also be utilized for training of personnel from friendly countries.
4. The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out which exercise in UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility from June 16-23 \_\_\_\_\_ **Exercise Ranvijay.**

**Note:**

- The focus was on Integrated operations while optimally exploiting the electronic warfare capabilities
  - The exercise was carried out from different air bases of the command headquartered in Prayagraj.
  - Different IAF commands have been carrying out wargames and aerial drills to enhance jointness with the other two services
5. India and which country decided to collaborate in the defense sector, with a particular focus on the maritime domain at Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation \_\_\_\_\_ **Philippines.**

**Note:**

- Both will develop their ties through different initiatives including official-level interactions, the resident Defense Attaché office in Manila, and the consideration of a concessional Line of Credit.
- The bilateral ties will strengthen the partnership between the two countries in various fields.

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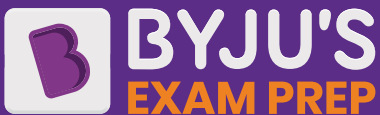
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