

Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 8th - 14th 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 2nd week of July (8th-14th) of July 2023. This file is important for the upcoming MBA exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- In July 2023, which organization released regulations for the introduction of general information and important information document concepts _____ **SEBI**.
Note:
 - Aim: To prevent debt securities issuers from filing numerous copies of the same document
 - At the time of the initial offering, a General Information Document (GID) including the details and disclosures listed in the common schedule will be lodged with the stock exchanges.
- Which organization has constituted a five-member working group for implementing the recommendations of the RBI committee on the "working of the Asset Reconstruction Companies" _____ **Indian Banks' Association**.
Note:
 - Primary focus: To review assignment agreements and trust deed templates related to the acquisition of distressed assets by ARCs from lenders
 - Aim: To update these templates to align with the evolving changes and expectations within the ARC sector.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) has operationalized the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) with an initial corpus of what amount _____ **Rs 10,000 crore**.
Note:
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2023-24 Budget speech announced the setting up of the UIDF through the use of priority sector lending shortfall for the creation of urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
 - The interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at Bank Rate minus 1.5%, i.e., 5.25% (at present).
- Which organization has filed its Draft Red Herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for an IPO _____ **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)**.
Note:
 - The IPO will see IDBI Bank, NSE, SBI, HDFC Bank, and Union Bank of India paring stakes.
 - IDBI Bank and National Stock Exchange (NSE) hold 26% and 24% stakes in the company, respectively.
 - SBI (5%), Union Bank of India (2.8%), and Canara Bank (2.3%) are other key stakeholders.
- According to the RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.853 billion to what amount in the week ended on June 30, 2023, _____ **\$595.051 billion**.
Note:
 - The overall reserve had dropped by \$2.901 billion to \$593.198 billion in the previous reporting week.
 - In October 2021, the country's forex reserve had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion.
 - The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.
- According to the Investment Bank Goldman Sachs, India is poised to become the world's second-largest economy by which year _____ **2075**.
Note:
 - As per the report, India would cross Japan, Germany, and the US with a population of 1.4 billion people.
 - India's GDP is estimated to expand remarkably, reaching 52.5 trillion dollars surpassing the US GDP projection.
 - The labour force participation set to make India the second-largest economy in the world by 2075.
- According to a study by Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management, India has overtaken which country to become the most attractive emerging market for investing in sovereign wealth funds in 2023 _____ **China**.
Note:
 - Reason: This is due to its solid demographics, political stability, and proactive regulation

- Positives for the nation also include the rapidly expanding demography, strong regulatory actions, and a welcoming climate for sovereign investors.
8. In July 2023, which edition of the GST Council meeting, headed by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, has been concluded in New Delhi _____ **50th**.
- Note:**
- 28% GST rate has been levied on the full value of gaming, horse racing, and casino
 - Exempted GST on pharma products like cancer drug Dinutuximab, and Food for Special Medical Purposes
 - Reduced GST on Uncooked, unfried & extruded snack palettes to 5%
 - Reduced GST on Fish soluble paste to 5%
 - Imitation zari thread brought down from 12% to 5%
9. In July 2023, the RBI canceled the license of two cooperative banks Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank and which bank _____ **Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank**.
- Note:**
- Reason: As the lenders do not have adequate capital and earning prospects
 - About 99.96% of the depositors of Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank and 97.82% of the depositors of Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.
10. India and which country launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees to reduce the dependence on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade _____ **Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- This is the first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.
 - The transaction costs during trade with India would reduce with the introduction of the Taka-Rupee dual currency card which would be launched in September 2023.
11. Who launched a month-long campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund _____ **Manoj Ahuja (Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture)**.
- Note:**
- Title of the campaign: BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)
 - Target: Rs 7,200 Crore
 - Aim: To promote Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for the creation of necessary infrastructure in the farm sector.
 - The AIF is a financing facility launched on July 8, 2020.
12. India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has raised for the first time in five months to what percentage in June 2023 _____ **4.81%**.
- Note:**
- The rise in inflation is higher than the street's expectations of 4.58%, but it is still below RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%.
 - Reason: Due to a less supportive base and the onset of a surge in vegetable prices.
 - Consumer food price inflation surged to 4.49% in June 2023.
 - Retail inflation in the food and beverages basket also rose sharply to 4.63%.
13. According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased by what percent in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2023 _____ **5.2%**.
- Note:**
- In May 2022, the factory output was at all-time high-growth of 19.6%.
 - India's industrial production growth (IIP) declined to its lowest level in five months at 1.1% in March 2023.
 - The lowest growth rate was observed in October 2022 when it contracted by 4.1%.
14. Which fintech unicorn has launched its first international payment gateway for the Malaysian market with Curlec _____ **Razorpay**.
- Note:**
- In February 2022, Razorpay acquired a majority stake in the Malaysia-based startup which is now known as Curlec by Razorpay
 - Aim: To widen its reach in the international markets and make its capabilities available in emerging markets
 - As per the report, digital trade in Malaysia contributes 22.6% to the country's GDP and is expected to rise to 25.5% by 2025

Obituaries

1. Milan Kundera, who passed away at 94, was a veteran _____ **Author.**

Note:

- He won accolades for his style depicting themes and characters that floated between the mundane reality of everyday life and the lofty world of ideas.
- Other works: The Joke, The Book of Laughter and Forgetting
- Awards: Jerusalem Prize (1985), Austrian State Prize for European Literature (1987), Vilenica International Literary Festival (1992), Herder Prize (2000)

Important Days

1. India observed the National Fish Farmer's Day on which date annually to commemorate the contribution of eminent fisheries scientist professor Hiralal Chaudhary and his colleague Alikunhi _____ **July 10.**

Note:

- On July 10, 1957, they successfully achieved the induced breeding of Indian Major Carps in the country, at Angul in Odisha.
- This is celebrated to highlight and encourage the dedicated supremacy of fish farmers.
- Aim: To excel in delivering employment chances in this sector.

2. World Population Day is observed every year on which date in order to raise awareness about global population issues, including population control _____ **July 11.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities
- It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, after the day the world approximately reached a population of five billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

3. World Paper Bag Day is observed on which date annually to recognize and celebrate the use of this more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags _____ **July 12.**

Note:

- The primary objective of this day is to enhance public awareness regarding the detrimental effects that plastic bags can have on the environment.
- The history of Paper Bags can be traced back to the 19th century when the first paper bag machine was invented by Francis Wolle in 1852.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the next Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for three years, or till attaining the age of 65 years _____ **K Rajaraman.**

Note:

- He succeeded the first IFSCA Chairperson Injeti Srinivas, who led the authority since 2020.
- IFSCA was set up in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

2. Who has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) _____ **Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait).**

Note:

- He replaced his older brother Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the OCA for 30 years until 2021.
- The OCA was founded in 1982 by his father Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who led it until 1990.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) is a governing body of sports in Asia, currently with 45 member National Olympic Committees.

3. Who has been named director-in-charge of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Zanzibar campus in Tanzania _____ **Preeti Aghalayam.**

Note:

- She is an IIT Madras alumna and professor in the Department of chemical engineering.
- Recently, India and Tanzania inked an MoU, which facilitated IIT Madras to launch its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania'.
- The institute would offer two full-time academic programs and the applications for admission are already open.

4. Along with Justices Ujjal Bhuyan, who has been appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court _____ **SV Bhatti.**

Note:

- Justice Ujjal Bhuyan: He is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana HC.
 - His parent High Court is the Gauhati HC.
 - Justice SV Bhatti: Presently, he is working as the Chief Justice of the Kerala HC.
 - Prior, he was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and later transferred to the Kerala High Court in March 2019.
5. Who has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court _____ **Justice Alexander Thomas**.
- Note:**
- He has replaced Chief Justice SV Bhatti, who was transferred to the Supreme Court.
 - He was appointed additional judge of the Kerala High Court on January 23, 2014, and was made a permanent judge on March 10, 2016.
 - He served as a government pleader (1996-1998) and senior government pleader (1998-2001) in the High Court of Kerala.

Important News – India

1. Which ministry has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs _____ **Ministry of Education**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To assess the performance of the school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis
 - The PGI - States/UTs was first released for the year 2017-18 and so far, has been released up to the year 2020-21.
 - The new PGI structure covers 73 indicators and focuses on qualitative assessment including digital initiatives and teacher education.
2. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with which organization launched a unique industry visit initiative under Atal Tinkering labs in Vapi, Gujarat _____ **Bayer**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To introduce students to the latest manufacturing techniques and technologies used in industry
 - Bayer has partnered with Niti Aayog since 2021 to support various initiatives of the AIM.
 - Bayer has adopted a total of 125 ATL schools in seven states to nurture and strengthen science-based learning.
3. The Union Cabinet has approved the draft Data Protection Bill 2022 which is expected to be tabled in the Monsoon session of Parliament for consideration and passage to _____ **safeguard the personal data**.
- Note:**
- If it is passed, the law will become India's core data governance framework.
 - Key provisions include requiring companies collecting data to cease retaining personal information or remove any means by which personal data can be linked to specific data principles.
4. The Central Government issued a notification to bring the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the purview of the PMLA. What is the full form of PMLA _____ **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**.
- Note:**
- Information stored on GSTN can be now shared under PMLA Act.
 - Due to this, it will be possible to take strict action against those involved in tax evasion and manipulation of documents.
 - Due to this, crimes under GST like fake input tax credits, fake invoices, etc. will be included in the PMLA Act.
5. The GST Network (GSTN) has made the geocoding functionality live for all states and UTs, which converts an address or description of a location into which type of coordinate _____ **Geographic coordinates**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records and streamline the address location and verification process
 - The functionality is available for normal, composition, SEZ units, SEZ developers, input service distributors, and casual taxpayers who are active, canceled, and suspended.
6. AB-HWCs programme of India has grown to more than 1.60 lakh centres and registered a footfall of over 178.87 crore (as of June end). What is the full form of AB-HWCs _____ **Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres**.
- Note:**
- The government will add more services including screening, prevention, control, etc. by August-end.
 - The essential list of medicines and diagnostics has been expanded to make available 171 medicines at Primary HWCs and 105 at Secondary Health Care-HWC and 63 diagnostics at PHC-HWC.

7. The Department of School Education and Literacy released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 and which year _____ **2021-22**.

Note:

- This report assesses the performance of the school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- Highest grade: Daksh (scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall)
- Lowest grade: Akanshi-3 (Scores upto 10% of the total points)

8. Which ministry organized a review-cum-workshop to evaluate and accelerate the planning and implementation of the SBM-Urban 2.0 _____ **Housing Ministry**.

Note:

- PM Modi launched the 2.0 versions of SBM-U and AMRUT on October 1, 2021.
- SBM-U 2.0: Achieving 100% waste segregation in all households and premises and 100% door-to-door collection of segregated waste from each
- AMRUT 2.0: To provide complete coverage of water supply to all households and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities

9. Which institution launched Eklavya, a 'Research Affiliate' program, for those who do not have a traditional law degree _____ **National Law University (NLU), Delhi**.

Note:

- Aim: To emphasize its commitment to actively seek partnerships outside the varsity and draw from their experiences and perspectives to develop quality legal scholarship
- It is open to those who have at least three years of demonstrable experience working on issues that have a significant interface with the law.

10. Who inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'SAGAR SAMPAK' _____ **Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal**.

Note:

- It would provide more accurate information to the ships for safe navigation.
- **About DGNSS:**
 - It is a terrestrial-based enhancement system.
 - It corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).
 - It will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, and accidents

11. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd which will be based at which airport _____ **Salem Airport, Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- This will be the first flying training organization (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.
- India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.
- This will provide aspiring pilots of Tamil Nadu training opportunities as per DGCA standards and contribute to the growth of the aviation industry in the country.

12. PM Modi has embarked on his two-nation tour of France and which country _____ **The United Arab Emirates**.

Note:

- During his visit to France, he will be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent would be participating.
- This year (2023) also marks the 25th anniversary of the India - France Strategic Partnership.
- During his visit to UAE, he will hold talks with the UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

13. Which Indian railway tunnel will adopt the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) for undertaking the tunneling works _____ **Vizhinjam railway tunnel**.

Note:

- This tunnel connects the under-construction Vizhinjam International Seaport.
- It is being developed by the Adani Port with the railway mainline at Balaramapuram near Thiruvananthapuram.
- India's largest 12.75 km long railway tunnel (T-49) is built as part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL).

14. The Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit was inaugurated by Bhupendrabhai Patel (Chief Minister of Gujarat) and Kaushal Kishore (Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs) in which city _____ **Gandhinagar**.

Note:

- Gujarat CM highlighted forward-looking urban initiatives being implemented in the State.

- While Kaushal Kishore highlighted the policies and programs initiated by the Government to promote green development, including the LIFE mission, promotion of renewable energy, etc.
15. The inaugural session of the third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting was organized in which city _____ **Hampi, Karnataka.**

Note:

- Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi addressed the session.
- Four priority areas:
- Protection and restitution of cultural property
 - Harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future
 - Promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy
 - Leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture
16. Which country would host the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023 _____

India.

Note:

- The conference would be conducted by the Ministry of Ayush, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Mission to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Aim: To strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN Countries to share their best practices and draw a roadmap for future cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines
- ASEAN founded: 8 August 1967, HQ: Jakarta
17. The Election Commission of India and which country's Election Tribunal signed an MoU to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration _____ **Panama.**

Note:

- ECI has already signed MoUs with Mexico, Brazil, and Chile to expand its links and cooperation with foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) through its 'International Cooperation Programme'.
- This is the fourth MoU signed by ECI in the Latin Americas region
18. Which organization will acquire online marketplace OLX India's auto sales business for Rs 537 crore _____ **CarTrade Tech Ltd.**

Note:

- CarTrade will acquire a 100% stake in Sobek Auto India Pvt Ltd, the entity that houses OLX India's automotive business, in an all-cash deal.
- The acquisition will likely to be completed in 21-30 days.
- Sobek is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, of 2013.
- It is engaged in the business of running an automotive digital platform.
19. Which Indian organization has signed a teaming agreement with Spanish-based Navantia for the submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's prestigious P75 (India) submarine program _____ **L&T.**

Note:

- P75 (India) Submarine Project is expected to be valued at €4.8 billion.
- Navantia would carry out the design of P75(I) submarines based on its S80 class of submarines.
- The first S80 class submarine was launched in 2021 and is undergoing sea trials prior to its delivery to Spanish Navy.
20. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and which organization have signed an MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation _____ **Climate Policy Initiative.**

Note:

- Aim: To increase mobilization of global sustainable capital flows into India
- Sustainable development is a key priority of G20 working groups.
- Mobilization of sustainable finance is critical to achieving the transition to green and resilient economies.
- IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the IFSC Authority Act, 2019
21. International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and which incubator signed an MoU at the IIM Lucknow EIC, Uttar Pradesh _____ **IIML-EIC.**

Note:

- Aim: To collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities
- IFSCA: It is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services.
- IIML -EIC: It is promoted by IIM Lucknow and supported by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Department of Science and Technology.
22. The Ministry of Defense and which organization signed an MoU to promote the use of millet & healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces and ensure safe & nutritious food _____ **FSSAI.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajnath Singh (Defense Minister) and Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health).
- During the event, both ministers also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence'.
- FSSAI CEO: G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Important News – State

1. CM Siddaramaiah has unveiled the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 and has introduced a notable provision. He is a CM of which Indian state _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The budget now includes a provision for life and accident insurance, offering coverage of 4 lakhs to e-commerce delivery personnel.
- The government recognized the need to establish a social security net to support these workers.
- The government will provide additional financial aid of ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 a month to each household.

2. Which state government launched 'Ama Pokhari' Yojana to rejuvenate around 2,000 large water bodies in all 115 urban local bodies of the state _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- The state government would invest 120 crore rupees in the implementation of the initiative.
- The project will be implemented using natural and organic methodology to improve the climate of surrounding areas.
- The water bodies will also be developed for recreation of citizens and their surroundings will get an aesthetic facelift.

3. Which state government has signed six MoUs with private industries for the mangrove plantation under the MISHTI scheme _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- In Gujarat, the mangroves will be planted over 3000 hectares area of land to conserve coastal ecosystems.
- The MoUs were signed in the presence of the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- The initiative will aid the restoration and conservation of mangroves and achieve India's carbon sink targets.

4. Which state government launched the Antyodaya Shram Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme from Kheda _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- All those registered under the e-Shram portal from Nadiad will benefit from the scheme.
- It is being implemented through the Indian Postal Department, the IPPB, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Under this scheme, insurance with a premium of Rs. 289 and Rs. 499 per year will be a big support to workers in the event of death or partial disability.

5. Which state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- Aim: Help in the preservation, promotion, and propagation of the language and culture
- Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- It is primarily spoken in the state of Odisha.
- Kui is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

6. Which UT government has launched a path-breaking Mobile-Dost-App in sync with the vision of Apka -Mobile-Hamara-Daftar _____ **J&K.**

Note:

- It is a pioneering initiative for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services in the UT.
- Aim: To enhance accessibility and convenience ensuring that every individual of J&K will get benefited from government services at their fingertips
- It will provide access to all the Government Services directly.

Important News- World

1. Which country has launched its first homegrown open-source operating system named OpenKylin for computers _____ **China**.

Note:

- Aim: To reduce its foreign dependence at a time of increased rivalry with the United States
 - The system has been designed as a rival to the ubiquitous Windows and MacOS systems.
 - Previous versions of the software had already been deployed on the computers of some government departments.
 - It is based on the popular open-source Linux operating system.
2. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar informed that India and which country have started trade settlements in local currencies _____ **Tanzania**.

Note:

- This new initiative will help in promoting commerce between the two countries.
 - India-Tanzania bilateral trade has seen very strong growth and stood at USD 6.4 billion in 2022-23.
 - Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Canara Bank have operations in Tanzania.
 - About 18 countries have already opened special vostro accounts with Indian banks
3. Which country would join Britain in supplying long-range SCALP missiles to Ukraine _____ **France**.

Note:

- This announcement was made at a summit of the NATO alliance in Lithuania.
 - Reason: To boost military aid to Ukraine to help its counteroffensive
 - SCALP missile is equipped with inertial, GPS, and terrain-referencing navigation, and its pre-set target systems make it highly resistant.
 - About NATO: Founded: 4 April 1949; HQ: Brussels, Belgium
4. What is the name of Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup _____ **xAI**.

Note:

- Musk registered a firm named X.AI Corp, incorporated in Nevada.
 - The startup will be led by Musk, who is already the CEO of electric car maker Tesla, CEO of SpaceX, and owner of Twitter.
 - He co-founded OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, in 2015, but stepped down from the company's board in 2018.
 - He is also an investor in Microsoft's OpenAI.
5. Which country's parliament has approved a bill that limits some Supreme Court power _____ **Israel**.

Note:

- The new bill seeks a curb on the Supreme Court's power to void decisions made by the government, ministers, and elected officials by ruling them unreasonable.
 - It now returns to the committee for discussion and could be altered before being brought for the final votes.
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu
6. According to the latest Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), by UNDP, how many people exited poverty within a span of just 15 years between 2005 and 2021 in India _____ **Around 415 million people**.

Note:

- India is also one of the 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- It is based on trends from 2000 to 2022 covering 81 countries.
- It monitors both poverty reduction and how people experience poverty in different aspects of their daily lives

Honor & Awards

1. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) awarded the highest honor, ' Philippe Chatrier Award 2023', to whom _____ **Belgian tennis player Justine Henin**.

Note:

- She has won seven Grand Slam singles titles and an Olympic gold medal and won the Fed Cup (Billie Jean King Cup) in 2001.
 - The award was named after the former ITF president and was introduced in 1996.
 - This award recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court.
2. Which Navratna company bagged the GeM award in the category "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" for the year 2023 _____ **NLC India Limited**.

Note:

- Reason: For its outstanding contribution to improving the reliability of e-market practices in line with the vision of GeM
 - NLCIL registered and on-boarded in GeM portal in the year 2017.
 - GeM is a dedicated e-Market service platform for marketing different goods and services.
3. The Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust (Hind Swaraj Sangh) would confer the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 to whom _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- Reason: This award recognizes PM Modi's supreme leadership under which India has climbed the ladder of progress
 - It is presented annually on the occasion of Lokmanya Tilak's death anniversary.
 - Other awardees: Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sharad Pawar, Cyrus Poonawalla, and Manmohan Singh
4. Which bank has been felicitated for the Best Performance in CASA-India (1st Runner up in Small Bank Category) at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2022 _____ **Jammu & Kashmir Bank.**

Note:

- The event was participated by banks from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Myanmar.
 - The function was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Goa.
 - Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in Calcutta.
5. Which life insurance organization has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at the 8th World Digital Insurance Awards, hosted by TDI - The Digital Insurer _____ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.**

Note:

- Recognition: Bajaj Allianz Life's ground-breaking WhatsApp Conversational Platform - empowering customers to digitally services their policies seamlessly
 - The award entries were shortlisted by industry experts and the winner was selected by the community through pre-voting and live event voting.
6. Which country topped the medals tally at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023 held in Al Ain, UAE from 3 July to 11 July 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- This is the first time that India won all gold medals at IBO and also the first time that India has topped the medals tally at the Olympiad.
 - The students this year were:
 - Dhruv Advani from Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Ishan Pednekar from Kota, Rajasthan
 - Megh Chhabda from Jalna, Maharashtra
 - Rohit Panda from Risali, Chattisgarh
7. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Wanindu Hasaranga as the recipients of the 'Men's Player of the Month' award for June 2023 _____ **Sri Lanka.**

Note:

- Ashleigh Gardner (Australian women's team all-rounder) named Women's Player of the Month' award for June 2023.
 - He was honored for his outstanding achievements during the World Cup Qualifier matches in Zimbabwe, where he set new records.
 - Ashleigh Gardner became the first player to win the Player-of-the-Month accolade three times.
8. Which Indian personlaity was honoured with France's highest civilian and military honour, 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', by French President Emmanuel Macron _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

- With this honour, he also becomes the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this honour.
 - He also joined the French National Day (July 14) celebrations as the Guest of Honour.
 - Other awardees: Nelson Mandela, King Charles, Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali
9. Which state/UT Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award 2023 under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in the Gold category _____ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

Note:

- Reason: For its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory

- The SKOCH award marks a significant milestone for JKRLM, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.
- It represents a remarkable accomplishment for the organization

Sports News

1. Who has clinched F1 2023 British Grand Prix title, held at the Silverstone Circuit, England _____ **Max Verstappen**.

Note:

- Lando Norris for McLaren placed second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton placed third on the podium.
- Previous F1 GP winners (2023):
- Canadian Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Spanish Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Monaco Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Bahrain Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Saudi Arabia Grand Prix: Sergio Pérez

2. Who has clinched Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament in Calgary, Canada _____ **Lakshya Sen**.

Note:

- In the final, he defeated Li Shi Feng of China 21-18, 22-20.
- In the second set he was down four game points but saved all and ended up winning the game in straight sets.
- This is the first BWF World Tour title of Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen after almost a year.

3. Who became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships 2023 _____ **Parth Salunkhe**.

Note:

- He defeated a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final, in Limerick, Ireland.
- He hailed from Satara in Maharashtra.
- With this medal, India finished with their highest-ever tally of 11 medals including six gold, one silver, and four bronze.
- Of the 11 medals India won, six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.

4. Who has clinched a silver medal in the ongoing Para Athletics World Championships 2023 in Paris _____ **Nishad Kumar**.

Note:

- He bagged this medal in the High Jump T47 Event.
- With this win, he also becomes the second athlete to grab a medal in this event.
- The top-four ranked athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games, also to be held in Paris.

5. India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being organized in which city _____ **Pune**.

Note:

- It is being organized under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India, after a gap of four years.
- The event is joined by India's table tennis player Sharath Kamal.
- He will be leading the Indian team to the 26th Asian Championships to be held from 3-10 September 2023 in South Korea.

6. Who has won India's first gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, held at the Supachalasai Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand _____ **Jyothi Yarraji**.

Note:

- She won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles race.
- She clocked 13.09 seconds to win the final race ahead of two Japanese runners Terada Asuka (13.13s) and Aoki Masumi (13.26s).
- She holds a national record of 12.82 seconds.
- While Abhishek Pal had opened India's medal account with a bronze in the men's 10,000m race.

Books and Authors

1. Name the book which has been released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow**.

Note:

- The book was authored by Vinod Mankara (National award-winning filmmaker-writer).
- It was released by S Somanath (ISRO Chairman) and handed over to S Unnikrishnan Nair (VSSC Director).
- It is a collection of science articles, which is published by Kozhikode-based Lipi Books.

Science and Defence

1. Which organization has signed an MoU with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to foster collaboration in spacecraft launch and deployment opportunities on board NSIL's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) _____ **Voyager Space**.

Note:

- NSIL is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- The two organizations will also study the use of space-qualified components from NSIL in support of spacecraft manufacturing, deployment, etc.

2. Which country has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit _____ **China**.

Note:

- The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.
- The rocket successfully delivered a test payload into sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), the first in the world to make such an achievement.
- Methane-powered engines, with their high performance and low operational costs, are particularly suited for the developing trend of reusable rockets.

3. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with which organization for the procurement of two Dornier Aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) along with an associated Engineering Support package at an overall cost of Rs 458.87 crore _____ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

Note:

- The aircraft will be procured under the Buy (Indian) Category.
- The Dornier aircraft are being indigenously manufactured at HAL, Kanpur, and will significantly contribute to achieving Aatmanirbharta in defense.

4. India and which country jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System _____ **The USA**.

Note:

- It targeted shipments of illicit, potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors shipped through International Mail Facilities.
- The operation resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.

5. Which organization has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement with the US Navy to strengthen the partnership between the two countries in the defense sector _____ **Larsen & Toubro**.

Note:

- L&T' Kattupalli Shipyard, near Chennai, a major node in the Southern Defence Corridor, has been undertaking voyage repairs of the Military Sealift Command vessels.
- USNS Salvor ship was received at Kattupalli Shipyard for voyage repairs.
- This is the third US ship coming to the shipyard for voyage repairs.

6. Which INS has participated in the 'Op Southern Readiness 2023' exercise conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in Seychelles from 10-12 July 2023 _____ **INS Sunayna**.

Note:

- Aim: To strengthen multilateral ties and enhance cooperation
- It is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure the region's safety and freedom of navigation.
- Participating Navies: USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, EUNAVFOR members

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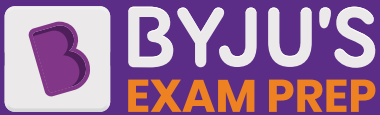
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