

# Monthly GK Digest

July 2023



## Monthly Digest

### July -2023

#### Dear Readers,

This Monthly GK Digest is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in the month of 'July-2023'. This file is important for MBA exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

- The government raised the interest rates on select saving schemes by up to **0.3%** for the July-September quarter.  
**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.
- The government collected GST of **Rs 1.61 lakh crore** in June 2023.  
**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.
- The fiscal deficit of the government for April-May 2023 has been narrowed to **11.8%** of annual estimates to ₹2.10 trillion.  
**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.
- SBI** has pledged a grant of ₹22.5 crore to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).  
**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.
- India's external debt has increased marginally to **\$624.7 billion** annually in end-March 2023.  
**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.
- State Bank of India** launched 34 Transaction Banking Hubs at 21 district centers across the country.  
**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.
- Indian Bank** has unveiled new services under its digital transformation initiative 'Project WAVE'.  
**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.
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched a new RuPay Select Debit card, to provide luxury, convenience, and security, all in one card.  
**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
- India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005, published by **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. The RBI's working group has recommended **SDR and recalibration of the FPI** for the internationalization of the rupee.  
**Note:** 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 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 **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 **\$662 billion** during 2022.  
**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. **Bank of India** has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme.  
**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, **Bihar** has overtaken Tamil Nadu to become the state with the highest microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023.  
**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. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched its virtual branch, Metaverse.  
**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. **Flipkart** has joined hands with Axis Bank to offer loans for up to Rs 5 lakh to customers.  
**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.
18. In July 2023, **SEBI** released regulations for the introduction of general information and important information document concepts.  
**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.
19. **Indian Banks' Association** has constituted a five-member working group for implementing the recommendations of the RBI committee on the "working of the Asset Reconstruction Companies".  
**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.
20. National Housing Bank (NHB) has operationalized the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) with an initial corpus of **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).
21. **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)** has filed its Draft Red Herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for an IPO.  
**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.
22. According to the RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.853 billion to **\$595.051 billion** in the week ended on June 30, 2023.  
**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.
23. According to the Investment Bank Goldman Sachs, India is poised to become the world's second-largest economy by **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.
24. According to a study by Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management, India has overtaken **China** to become the most attractive emerging market for investing in sovereign wealth funds in 2023.  
**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.
25. In July 2023, **50th** edition of the GST Council meeting, headed by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, has been concluded in New Delhi.  
**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%
26. In July 2023, the RBI canceled the license of two cooperative banks Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank and **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.
27. India and **Bangladesh** launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees to reduce the dependence on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade.  
**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.
28. **Manoj Ahuja (Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture)** launched a month-long campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund.  
**Note:** Title of the campaign: BHARAT (Banks Heraldng 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.
29. India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has raised for the first time in five months to **4.81%** in June 2023.  
**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%.
30. 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 **5.2%** in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2023.  
**Note:** In May 2022, the factory output was at an 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%.
31. **Razorpay** has launched its first international payment gateway for the Malaysian market with Curlec.  
**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.
32. **State Bank of India** has raised Rs 3,101 crore of funds via additional tier-1, or perpetual, bonds at a coupon of 8.10% .  
**Note:** The AT-1 bonds had a base issue of ₹3,000 crore and received total bids worth ₹5,920 crore and also include a call option after 10 years. Perpetual bonds (AT-1 bonds) are considered riskier than other debt instruments, as they can be written down before equity, leading to losses for investors.
33. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has selected Tata AIG General Insurance as the lead non-life insurer for **Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** As lead insurer the company will collaborate with all non-life and health insurance companies in the state to increase insurance penetration. The concept of a lead insurer to increase insurance penetration in the states

- was developed by the regulator in line with its vision of "Insurance for all by 2047.
- 34.** In July 2023, India and **Indonesia** are working on a real-time payment mechanism and trading in local currencies.  
**Note:** Both countries have also discussed the possibility of cooperation in digital technology, payments systems under central banks, and using local currency. The two countries launched an Economic and Financial Dialogue that will focus on enhancing bilateral trade and investment, financial services, and infrastructure development, among others.
- 35.** An article published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its July 2023 bulletin stated that India could become a developed country by **2047** with an average annual real GDP growth of 7.6% over the next 25 years.  
**Note:** India must rebalance its economic structure by strengthening its industrial sector. Agriculture and services would have to grow at 4.9% and 13% per annum, respectively. Collaboration between the government, private sector, civil society and citizens is essential.
- 36. PhonePe Insurance Broking Services** launched the health insurance plans that will for the first time in India offer monthly subscriptions.  
**Note:** Aim: To reduce the burden by breaking down the premium payments into manageable monthly installments. These insurance plans come with coverage up to one crore rupees, allow users to choose any hospital room. Only platform in the country where customers can pay for Insurance in easy installments through UPI on the PhonePe app
- 37. SBI** would set up a new trustee company as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund.  
**Note:** SBI has a 62.53 percent stake in SBI Funds Management Ltd. The fund will act as a safety net to buy high-quality corporate debts when the bond market gets stress. This will make investors feel more secure. It will also improve the trading of these debts by setting up a system that can step in and help during tough market situations.
- 38.** According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's GDP growth at **6.4%** for the FY 2023-24.  
**Note:** The Asian Development Bank retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.7 per cent for the next FY (2024-25). The ADB noted that the inflation is expected to continue to fall, and is expected to approach its pre-pandemic levels as fuel and food prices decline. The bank forecasted 3.6% inflation this year for developing economies in Asia, and 3.4% in 2024. India's economy grew by 7.2% in the 2022-23 fiscal ended in March 2023
- 39.** The license of United India Co-operative Bank Limited has been revoked by the Reserve Bank of India, located in **Bijnor**.  
**Note:** The bank is not allowed to continue its banking operations, which include taking deposits and returning
- deposits. Result: The bank will stop functioning, and all depositors will be eligible to receive up to Rs 5 lakh as a deposit insurance claim from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
- 40.** Cognizant Technology Solutions in collaboration with **Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd** to launch an innovation and development centre in Chennai.  
**Note:** Aims: To drive product innovations, enhance customer experiences, and lead operational excellence for Max Life. Cognizant will use expertise in consulting and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, automation, and cloud transformation to further enhance the digital experience for customers, as per a release.
- 41.** The government approved the interest rate of **8.15%** recommended by the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for 2022-23.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment has conveyed the approval of the Central Government under para 60(1) of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 to credit interest@ 8.15% for the year 2022-23 to the account of each member of the EPF Scheme as per the provision under para 60 of EPF Scheme, 1952.
- 42. PhonePe** has launched an 'Income Tax Payment' feature on its app.  
**Note:** Aim: To allow taxpayers to pay self-assessment and advance tax directly from the app using UPI or credit card payments. To enable this feature, the company has partnered with PayMate, a B2B payments and service provider. Users can get a 45-day interest-free period and earn reward points on their tax payments, depending on their bank
- 43. NongHyup Bank** has been added to the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.  
**Note:** According to the RBI, NongHyup Bank has been officially included in the regulated list through a prior notification issued on June 20, 2023, and published in the Gazette of India. It is an agricultural bank headquartered in South Korea. The bank was established in 2012 owned by the NACF.
- 44.** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament that during the fiscal year 2022-23, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) extended loans amounting to **₹4.12 trillion** to state-backed corporations and public sector undertakings.  
**Note:** Canara Bank took the lead in lending ₹187,813 crore to government-backed entities. The top five PSBs – Canara Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank and Union Bank of India.
- 45.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed business restrictions on the National Co-operative Bank Ltd and capped deposit withdrawal of **Rs 50,000** per account in July 2023.  
**Note:** According to the RBI, the bank is not allowed to issue fresh loans or accept fresh deposits without prior approval from the central bank. Depositors will be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount up to

- Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
46. According to the RBI's data during the financial year 2022-23, banks wrote off bad loans amounting to over **Rs 2.09 lakh crore**, contributing to a total loan write-off of Rs 10.57 lakh crore by the banking sector over the past five years.  
**Note:** This loan write-off to bring down gross non-performing assets or defaulted loans to a 10-year low of 3.9 percent of advances by March 2023. According to RBI, banks have written off a total of Rs 15,31,453 crore since FY2012-13.
47. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased its projection for India's GDP growth in the current fiscal year from 5.9% to **6.1%**.  
**Note:** As per World Economic Outlook, In 2023 the growth rate of India's economy is estimated to be 6.1 percent, which is 0.2 percentage points higher than what was predicted in April 2023. According to Danish Leigh, the division chief of the Research department at IMF, India contributes one-sixth of the total global growth this year.
48. **Dvara KGFS** has entered into a co-lending partnership with HDFC Bank to provide business capital to micro business units operating primarily in rural areas and the unorganized sector across 10 States.  
**Note:** Dvara KGFS unveiled the enterprise loans vertical in 2020 with focus on three primary value chains – grocery, dairy and agriculture. This engagement will enhance our capabilities in empowering micro businesses operating in rural areas.
49. **HDFC Bank** has overtaken State Bank of India (SBI) to earn top spot on the list of 2023 CRISIL's Greenwich market share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking.  
**Note:** According to Coalition Greenwich many of the gains for large private sector and foreign banks came at the expense of the smaller banks. Indian companies are joining forces with the country's largest banks to help fuel their drive to become bigger, more international and more efficient.
50. The Reserve Bank has permitted **20 banks** operating in the country to open 92 Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) of partner banks from 22 countries.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote bilateral trade in local currencies. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash informed that an MoU has been signed between the RBI and the Central Bank of UAE in July 2023
51. **Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited** has finalized a definitive agreement with Aegon India Holding and Bennett, Coleman & Company Limited to acquire the complete shareholding of the two entities in Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited.  
**Note:** Upon completion, this strategic move will not only expand Bandhan Financial Holdings' presence in the banking and mutual fund sectors but also mark its entry into the country's life insurance sector, according to the company's statement
52. **Razorpay** has introduced the MoneySaver Export Account (MSEA), catering specifically to Indian exporters.  
**Note:** The account enables Indian exporters to open a smart account in their preferred foreign country, facilitating local receipt of payments through bank transfers on the Razorpay platform. Aims: To alleviate the burden of high transfer costs, chargebacks, and payment failures, making it a valuable asset for exporters.
53. According to the RBI's index measuring the adoption of online transactions, digital payments in the country witnessed a year-on-year growth of **13.24%** until March 2023.  
**Note:** The RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) showed a rise from 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022 to 395.57 by the end of March 2023. The increase in the RBI-DPI index across all parameters indicates substantial growth in payment infrastructure.
54. **Union Bank of India** has joined forces with IBM India Pvt Ltd to embark on a comprehensive digital transformation and to revolutionize the way customers interact with their financial services.  
**Note:** Aims: To establish a Digital Bank equipped with state-of-the-art capabilities, focusing on omni-channel experiences and data-driven hyper-personalization. Objective: To enable smooth digital journeys, offering customers unmatched convenience and efficiency.
55. **SBI Ecowrap** report predicts that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by FY28.  
**Note:** There is a growing agreement among experts that India's GDP in Q1FY24 is set to exceed 8%, leading to a GDP growth rate surpassing 6.5% in FY24. The incremental increase in India's economy between 2022 and 2027 is greater than the entire current size of Australia's economy, which stands at \$1.8 trillion.
56. **BlackRock**, the world's largest asset manager that teaming up with Mukesh Ambani-led Jio Financial Services (JFS) to enter India's asset management sector.  
**Note:** This collaboration represents BlackRock's return to the domestic market, and it will serve as a strong foothold for JFS, which is a recently separated division of Reliance Industries. This marks BlackRock's second attempt at tapping into the rapidly expanding domestic asset management space.
57. **Mahindra & Mahindra** has acquired a 3.5% stake in RBL Bank for Rs 417 crore.  
**Note:** The company might consider making further investments, but it will be subject to a ceiling of 9.9%. As per RBI norms, any entity looking to acquire over 5 percent stake in a bank needs to seek prior approval from the regulator. The Mahindra group is in the financial services sector primarily through its arm Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services – a non-banking finance company.
58. The first Rupee trade shipment from West Bengal's Petrapole border to **Bangladesh** in July 2023.



**Note:** Petrapole is the major land port for bilateral trade with the neighboring country. The Indian government has been promoting Rupee trade with several countries to reduce dependence on the US Dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade. According to Kamlesh Saini, the manager of the Land Ports Authority of India the value of the shipment is Rs 1. 23 crore.

59. **Federal Bank** announced the introduction of a unique NR savings account plan designed exclusively for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) women in July 2023.

**Note:** This scheme, known as NRE Eve+, has been designed to meet the specific financial needs of NRI women. Objective: To provide a variety of advantages

that are geared at enhancing their financial journeys. With NRE Eve+, account customers get free access to domestic and international airport lounges.

60. Govt of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing in **Rajasthan**.

**Note:** Objective: For the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in towns. A new feature in ADB's support is the water facility development for urban resilience improvement and heritage-sensitive urban development in eight heritage towns.

## 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.

4. 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).

5. Ravindra Mahajani, who has passed away, was a veteran actor of **Marathi** cinema.

**Note:** He has mainly acted in Marathi, Hindi, and Gujarati films. He made his film debut with a 1975 Marathi film Zunj, directed by veteran director V. Shantaram. His other popular films included Lakshmi, Duniya Kari Salaam, Gondhalat Gondhal, and Mumbaicha Faujdaar. Mahajani also Directed and produced the 1997 film Sattesathi kahihi.

6. Dr Mangala Narlikar, who passed away, was a well-known **Mathematician**.

**Note:** She is the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar, who is the founder and director of the Pune-based Inter-z Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA). She initially worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai before joining as a lecturer at Bombay and Pune universities. Her core fields of interest were real and complex analysis, analytic geometry, and topology.

7. Oommen Chandy, who passed away, was a former chief minister of **Kerala**.

**Note:** He served as the Kerala chief minister twice from 2004-06 and 2011-16. The veteran leader began his stint as a legislator by winning the 1970 state assembly elections at the age of 27. He later went on to win 11 consecutive polls. He represented the Puthupally assembly constituency and was the longest-serving MLA in the state assembly.

8. Brian Taber, who passed away, was associated with **Cricketer**.

**Note:** He played 16 Test matches for Australia between 1966 and 1970. Taber made his Test debut in Johannesburg against South Africa, where he took seven catches and a stumping. He also played against England, India, and West Indies. His highest Test score of 48 was achieved against West Indies at Sydney in 1969, in a match won by Australia with a 382-run margin.

9. Bishnu Pada Roy, who passed away, was a famous **Politician**.

**Note:** He was elected as Member of Parliament in 13th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabha representing Andaman and Nicobar Islands constituency in the years 1999, 2009 and 2014, respectively. He was a hardworking legislator who

made many efforts to fulfil people's aspirations. He also

worked hard to strengthen @BJP4Bengal.

### Important Days

1. India observed National Doctor's Day on **July 1** to recognize the contributions of doctors and medical professionals toward society.  
**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 **July 1** to honor the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).  
**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 **July 1** to give tribute to the hardships of the postal workers of the postal service department.  
**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 **July 3** to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastic bags on the environment.  
**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.
5. India observed the National Fish Farmer's Day on **July 10** annually to commemorate the contribution of eminent fisheries scientist professor Hiralal Chaudhary and his colleague Alikunhi.  
**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.
6. World Population Day is observed every year on **July 11** in order to raise awareness about global population issues, including population control.  
**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.
7. World Paper Bag Day is observed on **July 12** annually to recognize and celebrate the use of this more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags.  
**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.
8. World Youth Skills Day is celebrated on **July 15** every year to emphasize the need for imparting the right skills to youth for employment and entrepreneurship.  
**Note:** Theme 2023: Skilling teachers, trainers, and youth for a transformative future. United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day in 2014 to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
9. The Day of International Criminal Justice is celebrated every year on **17 July**.  
**Note:** Aim: To commemorate the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, which established the International Criminal Court. The ICC is a permanent international court that prosecutes individuals responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. ICC cannot be a substitute for the national courts but is available when a country cannot perform investigations.
10. World Brain Day is celebrated globally on **July 22** every year to promote education, research, and support for individuals affected by brain-related conditions.  
**Note:** World Brain Day's 2023 theme is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind." The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was founded on July 22, 1957. This international movement strives to close the information gap and increase public awareness of impairments to brain health.
11. The Nation celebrates the Kargil Vijay Diwas on **July 26**, remembering the sacrifice made by soldiers of the Indian Army.  
**Note:** The nation celebrates the victory of the Indian Army over Pakistani troops in Kargil, Ladakh, in 1999, following more than 60 days of intense battle. The main event was held at Kargil War Memorial in Drass. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan, attended the ceremony at Drass
12. In July 2023, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India's largest Central Armed Police Force, is observing its '84th Raising Day' on **27 July**.  
**Note:** CRPF is organizing its Raising Day Parade for the first time in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, the epicenter of Left



Wing Extremism, and it is a matter of pride for the entire nation. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.

13. International Tiger Day is observed annually on **July 29**.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote tiger conservation worldwide. Goal: To safeguard tigers and preserve their natural habitat on a global scale. As an endangered species in various regions across the world, tigers confront multiple threats to their existence, including habitat loss and poaching. International Tiger Day serves as an encouragement for humans and tigers to peacefully coexist.
14. World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on **July 28** to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and its impact on global health.  
**Note:** 2023 theme: One life, one liver. Objective: To promote prevention, testing, and treatment while showing support for those affected by hepatitis. Aims: To increase public awareness about the issue and the

necessary steps to enhance efforts in the prevention, screening, and control of viral hepatitis.

15. World Day against Trafficking is observed on **July 30** to raise awareness about human trafficking trends as identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).  
**Note:** The theme of World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is 'Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind'. It seeks to exert pressure on governments, law enforcement agencies, and civil society to strengthen their efforts in preventing trafficking and supporting victims.
16. World Ranger Day is celebrated worldwide on **July 31** to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.  
**Note:** 2023 Theme: '30 by 30'. A Ranger is a person who is charged with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. World Ranger Day is an International Ranger Federation initiative promoted together with The Thin Green Line.

### New Appointments

1. **Tushar Mehta** has been appointed as Solicitor General of India for three years.  
**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 **Kameshwar Kodavanti** as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective from July 1, 2023.  
**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. **Debadatta Chand** assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Baroda.  
**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. **Ajit Agarkar** has been appointed as chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.  
**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. **QU Dongyu (China)** has been re-elected as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for a second term.  
**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. **Lt Gen MU Nair** has been appointed as the Head of the National Cyber Coordination Centre, after replacing Lt Gen (ret.) Dr. Rajesh Pant.  
**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. **Justice Sheo Kumar Singh** has been appointed as Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), till further order.  
**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 **Krishan Mishra** as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 August 2023.

- 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.
9. **K Rajaraman** 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.  
**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.
10. **Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait)** has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).  
**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.
11. **Preeti Aghalayam** has been named director-in-charge of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Zanzibar campus in Tanzania.  
**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.
12. Along with Justices Ujjal Bhuyan, **SV Bhatti** has been appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court.  
**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.
13. **Justice Alexander Thomas** has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.  
**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.
14. **Michele Bullock** has been appointed as the first woman to lead Australia's Central Bank since it was founded in 1960.  
**Note:** She will succeed Philip Lowe, who is coming to the end of a seven-year term as governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA). Her appointment comes as the country has been battling rising prices and the RBA is facing a major shakeup. She is currently the RBA's deputy governor and is due to start her seven-year term as governor on Sept 18, 2023.
15. **Shantanu Deshpande** has been appointed as the MD of Michelin India.  
**Note:** He will be based out of Pune, India. During his career, he held various leadership roles in sales and marketing in India, North America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He joined Michelin India in 1999 as an Area Sales Manager. He was appointed India Marketing Director in 2007 and also served as VP of Marketing with a Michelin subsidiary in North America.
16. **DG Rakesh Pal** has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.  
**Note:** He was conferred with Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018 for his successful service and also holds the recognition of being the First Gunner of ICG. He has commanded all classes of ICG ships namely; ICGS Samarth, ICGS Vijit, ICGS Sucheta Kriplani, ICGS Ahalyabai, and ICGS C-03, two Coast Guard bases of the forward area in Gujarat - Okha & Vadinar.
17. **Neeraj Akhoury** has been elected as the new President of the Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) the apex body of India's large cement manufacturers.  
**Note:** While Parth Jindal has been appointed as Vice President of CMA. Both were unanimously elected at the Extraordinary General Meeting of CMA. ICI will reiterate its commitment to being India's partner in nation-building for creating business value chains, supporting infrastructure growth and a sustainability agenda.
18. **Nivruti Rai** joined as the Managing Director & CEO of Invest India on July 2023.  
**Note:** She has received a special award called the "Nari Shakti Puraskar" for her outstanding achievements in the field of technology. The Board of Invest India is chaired by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT. Invest India is well acknowledged for its contributions and instrumental role in executing the Government's flagship initiatives like Make in India, Startup India.
19. **S. Vincent Rajkumar** has been appointed as chairman-elect of the Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF).  
**Note:** He takes over from the current chairman, Brian G. M. Durie, who is not seeking re-election to the post. Dr. Rajkumar has also served as principal investigator of several clinical trials for the treatment of myeloma. He awarded the Jan Waldenstrom Lifetime Achievement Award (2021).
20. Prime Minister Hun Sen resigned and handed power to his eldest son Hun Manet after almost four decades of hardline rule in 2023, was a PM of **Cambodia**.  
**Note:** His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won a landslide victory in an election on Sunday with no

meaningful opposition, taking 82 percent of the vote. Cambodia ranks 150th out of 180 in Transparency International's corruption perception index. In Asia, only Myanmar and North Korea rank lower.

21. Reserve Bank of India has granted approval for the appointment of **NS Vishwanathan** as the non-executive chairman of Axis Bank for a three-year term.

**Note:** With a career spanning nearly four decades at the central bank, Vishwanathan joined the Reserve Bank of India in 1981 and retired in March 2020 as the deputy governor. He showcased expertise in various areas, such as, banking, and non-banking regulation, demonstrating extensive knowledge in central banking.

22. **Professor Jim Skea** has been appointed as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the globally authoritative UN body on climate change science.

**Note:** He is exceptionally well-qualified to serve in this prestigious role and also contributed to the work of the IPCC for nearly thirty years. He was Co-Chair of the IPCC's Working Group III on Climate Change Mitigation and co-led the IPCC's seminal Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

23. **Nisha Biswal** has been designated as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of a US finance agency.

**Note:** She has a career of over over 30 years of experience in US foreign policy and international development programs, within the White House. She holds the position of Senior Vice President for International Strategy and Global Initiatives at the US Chamber of Commerce and oversees the US-India Business Council and US-Bangladesh Business Council.

24. **Shivendra Nath** has been designated as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.

**Note:** Currently, he holds the position of Senior General Manager at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which is also a PSU under the Department of Telecommunications. The Public Enterprises Selection Board panel has endorsed his appointment for the CMD position.

25. **A Madhavarao** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director at Bharat Dynamics Limited.

**Note:** He held the position of General Manager Technical at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam, where he was in charge of creating a long-term perspective plan for modernizing the dockyard. He actively participated in the Kargil and Pakistan operations and played a vital role in establishing the Nuclear and Safety field organization in Visakhapatnam.

26. **Thani Al Zeyoudi** has been elected as the chair of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held to take place in Abu Dhabi.

**Note:** The announcement was made during a meeting with WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the WTO General Council in Geneva. The conference will be attended by representatives from 164 countries and will involve reviewing the trading system's performance and making decisions on future work.

27. **Dhiraj Singh Thakur** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

**Note:** In 1989, he became a registered advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi, and later with the Bar Council of Jammu & Kashmir (JK). He became a Senior Advocate in 2011, and in 2013, he was appointed as a permanent judge of the High Court of JK. The Andhra Pradesh High Court which has a sanctioned strength of 37 judges is currently functioning with 30 judges.

### Important News - India

1. PM Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in the Shahdol district of **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 **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. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi.

**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 **75** historic Lighthouses into Tourism Spots in India.

**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. **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has organized a one-day Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety, and Child Welfare in New Delhi.  
**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 **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 **19 states** under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).  
**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 **eSARAS** mobile App.  
**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, **Tamil Nadu (\$5. 37 billion)** has emerged as the top exporter of electronics in India.  
**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. **Department of Telecommunications** has launched Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.  
**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. **PM Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi in Satya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh via video conferencing.  
**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 **Indian Navy** signed an MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for the planning, development, construction, and commissioning of a gallery.  
**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. **National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India)** has signed an MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sports.  
**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. **Meesho** has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Vision & AI Lab of the Indian Institute of Science for one year.  
**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. **Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)** 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.  
**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. **DGCA** has signed an MoU with the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility.  
**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 **IIT Madras** and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar (Tanzania) to set up the first-ever IIT campus outside India.  
**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. **Ministry of Home Affairs** has launched a Scheme for the Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States with a total outlay of Rs. 5,000 Crore .  
**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. **PM Narendra Modi** hosted the 23rd edition of the SCO Summit virtually on July 4, 2023.  
**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 **Mumbai** on July 4, 2023.  
**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. **4th** edition of the Space Economy Leaders Meeting has started in Bengaluru on July 6.  
**Note:** It dwells 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. **Union Power Minister R.K.Singh** has inaugurated the International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2023, which is being organized in New Delhi from 5-7 July 2023.  
**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.
23. **Ministry of Education** has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs.  
**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.
24. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with **Bayer** launched a unique industry visit initiative under Atal Tinkering labs in Vapi, Gujarat.  
**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.
25. 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.
26. The Central Government issued a notification to bring the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the purview of the 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.
27. 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 **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.
28. AB-HWCs (**Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres**) 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).  
**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.
29. The Department of School Education and Literacy released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 and **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)
30. **Housing Ministry** organized a review-cum-workshop to evaluate and accelerate the planning and implementation of the SBM-Urban 2.0.  
**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
31. **National Law University (NLU), Delhi** launched Eklavya, a 'Research Affiliate' program, for those who do not have a traditional law degree.  
**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.
32. **Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'SAGAR SAMPARK'.  
**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
33. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd which will be based at **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.
34. PM Modi has embarked on his two-nation tour of France and **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.
35. **India's Vizhinjam railway tunnel** will adopt the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) for undertaking the tunneling works.  
**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-Baramula Rail Link (USBRL).
36. 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 **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.
37. The inaugural session of the third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting was organized in **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
38. **India** would host the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023.  
**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
39. The Election Commission of India and **Panama** Election Tribunal signed an MoU to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.  
**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
40. **CarTrade Tech Ltd** will acquire online marketplace OLX India's auto sales business for Rs 537 crore .  
**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.
41. **L&T** 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.  
**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.
42. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and **Climate Policy Initiative** have signed an MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation.  
**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
43. International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and **IIML-EIC** signed an MoU at the IIM Lucknow EIC, Uttar Pradesh.  
**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.
44. The Ministry of Defense and **FSSAI** signed an MoU to promote the use of millet & healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces and ensure safe & nutritious food.  
**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.
45. **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training programme on Artificial Intelligence on World Youth Skills' Day.  
**Note:** It is a joint initiative of Skill India and GUVI, NCVET and IIT Madras accredited online programme will equip youth with frontier skills. GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated startup is a tech platform that enables tech learning in vernacular languages and has been curated in 9 Indian languages.
46. A rare and globally endangered bird species named 'Jerdon's Babbler' was spotted in the buffer zone of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR), located in **Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Jerdon's Babbler lives in small flocks in pairs in high/long grasslands and is a globally threatened bird. It has been listed in the 'Vulnerable' category of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1994.
47. **Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah** has inaugurated the National Mega Conclave on Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) in the cooperative sector.  
**Note:** He also released the action plan for the formation of 1,100 new FPOs by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in New Delhi. The move is taken in the backdrop of government's announcement to set up ten thousand FPOs by 2027 and has allocated 6,900 crore rupees to achieve this goal.
48. Coal Ministry has set a target to achieve coal gasification of 100 Million Tonnes of coal by **FY 2030** to harness the power of coal gasification.  
**Note:** The proposal incorporates comprehensive measures that capitalize on natural resources and demonstrate coal gasification's financial and technical feasibility. Adopting gasification technology in India will revolutionize the coal sector, reducing reliance on imports of Natural Gas, Methanol, and other products.
49. India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in June 2023 are estimated to be at **USD 60.09 Billion**.  
**Note:** It is exhibiting a negative growth of (-)13.16% over June 2022. Overall imports are estimated to be USD 68.98 Billion. **Merchandise Trade:** Merchandise exports: USD 32.97 Billion; Merchandise imports: USD 53.10 Billion. **Service Trade:** Estimated value of export: USD 27.12 Billion; Estimated value of services: USD 15.88 Billion
50. **NITI Aayog** has released the third edition of the Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Prepared by: NITI Aayog and Institute for Competitiveness. Evaluate 4 pillars: Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance. Top Performers: (1) TN, (2) Maharashtra, (3) Karnataka, and (4) Gujarat. The higher average of coastal states represents their better preparedness and higher contribution to national export.
51. **Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** has launched the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal'.  
**Note:** Aim: To strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and to protect the interests of the members of the cooperatives. SC directed that 5000 crore rupees be transferred out of the 'Sahara-SEBI Refund Account' to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies for disbursement against the legitimate dues of the genuine depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies.
52. **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has launched the Oil 2023 medium-term market report, titled 'IEA Oil 2023 - Supply and demand dynamics to 2028' in New Delhi.  
**Note:** It was launched in collaboration with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). As per the report, biofuel production expands by nearly 600 kb/d from 2022 to 2028, with Brazil, Indonesia, and India combined accounting for 70% of this increase.
53. **NITI Aayog** released the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress of Review 2023' in New Delhi.

- Note:** As per the report, India witnessed 13.5 crore people moving out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21 with the fastest reduction in UP, Bihar, MP, Odisha, and Rajasthan. The National MPI measures deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators.
54. The government has set up a new oversight mechanism for official data has replaced the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with **Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS)**.  
**Note:** The SCES was tasked with examining economic indicators pertaining to the industrial sector, the services sector, and the labor force statistics. The former Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, Pronab Sen has been named the new chair of the committee.
55. Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the sale of subsidized **Chana Dal** under the brand name 'Bharat Dal'.  
**Note:** This would be available at the rate of 60 rupees/Kg for one-kilogram-pack and 55 rupees/Kg for a 30-kilogram pack. Aim: To make pulses available to consumers at affordable prices. The retail outlets of the NAFED in Delhi-NCR are selling the chana dal. The milling and packaging of the Chana Dal has been undertaken by NAFED for distribution through its retail outlets in Delhi-NCR.
56. **President Droupadi Murmu** would inaugurate the 'Festival of Libraries 2023', to be held on 5th - 6th August 2023 in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Aims: To facilitate the formulation of action-oriented policies for the development of Model Libraries in India, right down to the village and community levels. The launch of a crowd-sourced Directory of Libraries, the signing of a Tripartite MoU between 3 libraries, and the release of Cursive Writing Books in the 22 vernacular languages.
57. The Regional Office of Universal Postal Union (UPU) was inaugurated in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** India would undertake UPU's technical assistance activities in the South Asia region. India announced a contribution of USD 2,00,000 for four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities. Aims: To support capacity building, infrastructure development, and other essential activities to strengthen the postal sector in the region.
58. The Indian Navy signed an MoU with **Ministry of Culture** to revive the 'stitched shipbuilding method'.  
**Note:** Aims: To revive the maritime memory and instill a sense of pride in India's rich maritime heritage among its citizens and to promote cultural memories among the Indian Ocean littoral countries. Construction: By stitching wooden planks together rather than using nails, offered flexibility and durability, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.
59. Minister of Fisheries, **Parshottam Rupala** inaugurated an International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation at NDDB, Anand.  
**Note:** Aims: To promote insightful discussions and collaborations to ensure a more efficient and sustainable future for the global livestock sector. "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam" is the signature theme of India's G20 Presidency.
60. **Surat Diamond Bourse** has surpassed the Pentagon (headquarters of the US Army) to become the world's largest office.  
**Note:** Surat is known as the world's diamond capital, where 90% of the precious stones are cut. Diamond Bourse was designed by Delhi-based Morphogenesis and is based on the concept of Panchtatva, the five elements of nature – water, fire, air, earth, and sky. The building will be officially inaugurated by Narendra Modi in November 2023.
61. India has signed MoU with **United Arab Emirates** on the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system to revolutionize cross-border transactions between the two nations.  
**Note:** LCS system allows the use of the Indian Rupee and UAE Dirham in bilateral trade, marking India's first-ever LCS arrangement. It will reduce dependence on international currencies and further strengthen economic cooperation between India and the UAE.
62. **Abu Dhabi**, IIT- Delhi would set up its first foreign campus.  
**Note:** Ministry of Education has signed MoU with Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi. IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi will set a brand-new template for leveraging the power of knowledge for mutual prosperity and global good and unfolds a new chapter in internationalization of India's education. It is expected to launch its academic programs in 2024.
63. India and **France** signed an MoU to fabricate submarine and surface combatants and parts in Mumbai and Kolkata respectively for export.  
**Note:** Aim: To boost the Make in India initiative. Mazagon Dockyards Limited will jointly develop and manufacture Scorpene class submarines with the French Naval Group for a third country. In addition, GRSE and Naval Group France also signed an MoU to collaborate in the field of the surface ship.
64. Nokia joined hands with Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) to establish a 5G skill development CoE at Kaushalya - The Skills University, located in **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** The Center of Excellence (CoE) at ITI Kubernagar would establish a skill Lab dedicated to training individuals in 5G technology skills. Aim: To offer job placements to at least 70% of learners within 4-6 weeks after completing the course. President and CEO of Nokia: Pekka Lundmark

65. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde inaugurated the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) at **Amravati**.  
**Note:** The event was also attended by Piyush Goyal (Union Textiles Minister) and Darshana Jardosh (Minister of State of Textiles). The Government of India aims to set up 7 PM MITRA Parks for the Textile industry. The PM MITRA Parks was inspired by the 5F (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) vision of PM Modi.
66. **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has chaired the Regional Conference on Drugs Smuggling and National Security in New Delhi.  
**Note:** During the Conference, over 1,44,000 kilograms of drugs worth 2,416 rupees crore, were destroyed in various parts of the country by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in coordination with Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTFs) of all states. The Government has adopted a Zero Tolerance policy against narcotics to create a drug-free India.
67. Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 event in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** Objective: To create an international forum for key decision makers and industry leaders; to provide an opportunity platform for start-ups, researchers, and incubators. The official brochure for the Maritime India Summit was also unveiled. The Global Summit event is scheduled on 17-19th October 2023.
68. The 4th G20 Energy Transitions Working Group meeting chaired by Pankaj Agarwal, the secretary of the Union Ministry of Power, is being held in **Goa**.  
**Note:** The Priority Areas focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family', and giving hope for our 'One Future'. Highlights: 'Enabling policies to accelerate e-mobility', 'Promoting solar energy for universal energy access' and 'DRE applications for achieving SDG7 goals'.
69. **India** would host the ASEAN Countries Conference 2023 on Traditional Medicines.  
**Note:** In this conference, 10 ASEAN countries including Cambodia, and Vietnam will participate in it. Aims: 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. AYUSH has the potential for expansion of 'Act East Policy' in traditional systems of medicine.
70. Under India's G-20 presidency, **PM Narendra Modi** will deliver a video message addressing the meeting of Labour and Employment Ministers.  
**Note:** The meeting is being held in Indore where the draft from the Employment Working Group will also be presented. A minister-level meeting will take place, attended by a total of 165 representatives, including 24 ministers from G-20 and invited countries. The meeting will be presided over by (ULEM) Bhupendra Yadav.
71. India and **Japan** have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at fostering a robust semiconductor supply chain.  
**Note:** According to Mr. Vaishnaw, the Electronics and IT Minister, this MoU reflects the global belief in India's competence and dedication to establishing a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem in the country. Japan is an important semiconductor producer and technology developer. There will be cooperation on Manufacturing, Equipment Research and Design.
72. The DAHD has launched a "Credit Guarantee Scheme" specifically designed for **Livestock Sector**.  
**Note:** Objective: To ensure that the credit facility from the lender is solely secured based on the primary security of the financed assets. Scheme: Access to financial resources for the un-served and under-served livestock sector, this makes financial assistance from lenders accessible to primarily first-generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged segments of society.
73. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has introduced the Heat Index on an experimental basis across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.  
**Note:** Kiren Rijju, the Union Minister of Earth Sciences, shared that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently introduced the Heat Index on an experimental basis across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. It provides information about the impact of humidity on the high temperatures and thus provides a feel-like temperature for human beings which can be used as an indication for human discomfort.
74. Ministry of Culture and **Canara Bank** signed an MoU to provide financial assistance to selected beneficiaries under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists.  
**Note:** Scheme: Financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above the age of 60, who have contributed in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or still contribute, but due to old age, they are facing difficulty and are in penury condition.
75. **OPPO India** collaborated with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has announced the establishment of the first-ever Atal Tinkering Lab, based on the Public-Private Partnership model in Kerala.  
**Note:** Objective: To create an empowered future-ready workforce and nurture entrepreneurship and technological skills among the youth. The collaboration holds great significance to promote 'out of the box' thinking and instill community-oriented problem-solving skills in students.
76. **Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the 'GST Bhawan' at Agartala, Tripura.  
**Note:** It is a project for CGST, CX, and Customs Office, Agartala, Guwahati Zone under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The project sits at



- Mantri Bari Road, Agartala, and has quick and easy access to all taxpayers. The inauguration of the project in Amrit Kaal during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav showcases the strength of New India.
77. Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh confirmed that India's first Cannabis Medicine Project is set to be pioneered in **Jammu**.  
**Note:** This project will play a vital role in Atma-Nirbhar Bharat, as it will be capable of producing export-quality drugs designed for various neuropathies etc. The project will spread awareness that this substance of abuse has diverse medicinal uses, especially for patients suffering from malignancies and other diseases.
78. In association with FICCI and BIS, **Ministry of Textiles** conducted the 6th National Conclave on Standards & Regulations under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).  
**Note:** The event included 5 technical sessions in specialized areas of Technical Textiles, such as Protective textiles, Geotextiles, Build tech, Oekotech. Bureau of Indian Standards releases four new standards in the field of Medical textiles, Geotextiles, Agro textiles, Carpet textiles
79. **PM Modi** inaugurated Gujarat's first greenfield airport, situated in Hirasar village near Rajkot city in July 2023.  
**Note:** Aim: To reduce the time and cost related to logistics for multiple industries in the region. The Rajkot International Airport has been included under PM Gati Shakti Project. During this event, he will dedicate packages 8 and 9 of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana.
80. **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)** has become the single largest PSU refinery in the country for the year 2022-23.  
**Note:** It processed 17.14 million metric tonnes of crude oil during the past financial year. It processes 10 per cent of the total crude oil refined by the PSU petroleum refineries in the country. MRPL can process more than 250 different types of crude from around the world.
81. **Home Minister Amit Shah** launches a virtual platform, part of the unique initiative of 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Qutub Minar in New Delhi.  
**Note:** MGMD, a pan-India project under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping in coordination with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). The main objective of the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages on a comprehensive virtual platform.
82. 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting (ECSWG), a three-day event held in **Chennai**.  
**Note:** Objective: To reach a consensus on the Ministerial Outcome and the Presidency Documents, both of which are vital in shaping policies and actions towards addressing environmental and climate challenges. PM Narendra Modi showcased the importance of environmental protection. Bhupendra Yadav is the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
83. **President Droupadi Murmu** laid the foundation stone for "Divine Light House" of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV) at Dasabatia.  
**Note:** Theme: "The Year of Positive Change". According to the president (PBKIVV) is paving the way for spirituality through a disciplined lifestyle. She appreciated Brahma Kumaris organization's efforts for making humanity aware and helping people move forward in a positive direction.
84. Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA), **Deepak Mohanty** launched the revamped website of the National Pension System Trust.  
**Note:** The new website features a sleek and intuitive design, optimized for both desktop and mobile devices. The key highlights of the website are: Streamlined navigation and menu structure. Structured Information. Enhanced online services with new features. Enhanced user experience. Improved search functionality
85. The 10th meeting of the Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India and Malaysia was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Indian Side was headed by, Ministry of Defence Amitabh Prasad, while the Malaysian side was headed by Assistant Chief of Staff, Khairul Anuar bin Abd Aziz. The Indian side highlighted the potential of the Indian defense industry with capacity and capability to cooperate with the Malaysian Armed Forces in its shipbuilding and maintenance plans
86. **National Health Authority** has launched 100 Microsites Project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).  
**Note:** Aim: To establish a small ecosystem within a particular geographic area where there is complete ABDM adoption, and the entire patient journey is digitized. It will be a cluster of small and mid-sized health facilities that would be fully compliant with ABDM. It shall encompass all small and medium-scale clinics, nursing homes, and other healthcare facilities.
87. **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) and initiated the muhurat trading in the Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation mechanism — AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL).  
**Note:** Objective: To deepen the functioning of the corporate debt markets. AMC Repo Clearing Limited aims to provide a settlement guarantee in the repo market, which will help eliminate the need for bilateral counterparty exposure limits.
88. **Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla** inaugurated the 20th annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region.  
**Note:** The conference will focus on discussing natural disasters and management strategies, particularly concerning the northeast region. He also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity through the Act East policy, as it can lead to enhanced

regional integration at economic, and social levels in the North East

**89. Amrit Bharat Station** scheme has been launched for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways.

**Note:** 1309 Railway Stations have been identified under this scheme including 80 no. of stations in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Scheme: For the development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves the preparation like improvement of station access, toilet, lift, free Wi-Fi, and kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product'

**90. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSD&E)** implemented the Capacity Building Scheme for the North Eastern Region, which is carried out by the Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) located in Guwahati, Assam

**Note:** IIE has organized numerous capacity development initiatives in Assam as part of the Pradhan Mantri Vandhan Yojana (PMVDY) scheme. In the Sonitpur district, a total of 6 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras Clusters have been approved under the PMVDY scheme.

**91. G20 Energy Transitions Ministers' Meeting** held on in **Goa**.

**Note:** Union Minister of Power, R. K. Singh informed the G20 Energy Ministers have adopted the ambitious and forward-looking Outcome Document & Chair's Summary of the meeting and G20 High-Level Voluntary Principles on Hydrogen. Delegates also agreed on five principles and that free and open trade will be encouraged so that zero and low-carbon hydrogen is used more and more.

**92. Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Suman Berry** concluded the 2-day Global Food Regulators Summit 2023.

**Note:** According to Suman Berry, we must enhance food safety scientific standards and enforce regulations to stop food adulteration and counterfeiting. It will serve as a timely intervention in addressing global food safety challenges and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of zero hunger, good health and well-being".

**93. Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** inaugurated a two-day National Conference on Rural WASH Partners' Forum (RWPF).

**Note:** Theme: 'Accelerating Progress towards a Swachh Sujal Bharat'. Objective: To support the expeditious implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), the flagship missions of DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India.

**94. Under the Indian Presidency, the inaugural session of the 3rd G20 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group** held in **Chennai**.

**Note:** Mami Mizutori, Representative of the UN Secretary-General for DRR stated that the establishment of a Working Group is a commitment of all G20 countries

to finally change from reacting to disasters to proactively addressing their root causes. Commitments is to enhance cooperation with the private sector, capital market actors, technology providers

**95. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** will jointly organize the 5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit in **Khajuraho** of Madhya Pradesh.

**Note:** Theme: "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft". Objective: Enhance the scope of the UDAN Scheme in remote and hilly terrains and expand the country's rural to urban connectivity.

**96. The national conference on "Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions"** was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pravin Pawar**.

**Note:** Objective: To address the challenges in implementing the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and find solutions to mental health issues. The government is actively promoting cost-effective treatment for common mental disorders, and mental health is integrated into the flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme.

**97. The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** organized the 3rd edition of the Summit on "Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India" (GCPMH 2023) in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitaraman will inaugurate the two days Summit on Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs 2023. Aim: To develop possible strategies and address the challenges that will shape the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industry in India and across the world.

**98. PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 conclave at Mahatma Mandir in **Gujarat**.

**Note:** The three-day conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to showcase India's semiconductor strategy and development in the field of Semiconductors. The theme of the Conference is 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'. Representatives from major companies like Micron Technology, Applied Materials, Foxconn, and AMD have participated.

**99. Bengaluru** joined the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), in July 2023, and becomes the first Indian city to achieve the feat.

**Note:** Aim: To curate, facilitate and catalyze activities that will enable the citizens and communities of Bangalore to engage better with their city. WCCF is a global network of nearly 40 cities, which provides a way for policymakers in these cities to share research and intelligence, and explore the vital role of culture for their future prosperity.

## Important News – State

- 1. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah** has virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on **Sabarmati** river front.  
**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. Gujarat** has doubled the insurance coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, effective from July 11, 2023.  
**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 **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. Odisha** 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.  
**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 **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.
- 6. Karnataka's CM Siddaramaiah** has unveiled the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 and has introduced a notable provision.  
**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.
- 7. Odisha** launched 'Ama Pokhari' Yojana to rejuvenate around 2,000 large water bodies in all 115 urban local bodies of the state.  
**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.
- 8. Gujarat** has signed six MoUs with private industries for the mangrove plantation under the MISHTI scheme.  
**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.
- 9. Gujarat** launched the Antyodaya Shram Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme from Kheda.  
**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.
- 10. Odisha** approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.  
**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.
- 11. J&K** has launched a path-breaking Mobile-Dost-App in sync with the vision of Apka -Mobile-Hamara-Daftar.  
**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.
- 12. Assam** has launched a campaign named Gajah Kotha to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue.  
**Note:** Focus: On HEC-affected villages in eastern Assam, where it aims to educate residents about the behavior, ecology, and cultural significance of elephants in the region, emphasizing the importance of conservation. It is



a joint initiative of Aaranyak (wildlife NGO), British Asian Trust, and the Assam Forest Department, supported by the Darwin Initiative.

- 13. Haryana** has designated nodal officials to assist the Ministry of Railway in the prompt execution of PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan.

**Note:** Aim: To establish goods sheds in every district of Haryana. This strategic move is expected to significantly boost the State's economy, enhancing trade and logistics across the region. These goods sheds will have a transformative impact on Haryana's transportation network, leading to increased trade and commerce within the state.

- 14. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** has collaborated with the Government of Gujarat to inaugurate the 'One District One Product' Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan in New Delhi.

**Note:** Aims: To select, brand, and promote at least One Product from each District of the country for enabling holistic socioeconomic growth across all regions. Features: 68 unique products, including traditional crafts like Gamthi Block print and Mata-ni-Pachedi to agricultural goods.

- 15. Rajasthan** assembly passed the Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023 to cover an adult population of the state with a guarantee of wages or pension.

**Note:** All families of the state, whether urban or rural, will be able to get an employment guarantee of 125 days every year and also get a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month in case of aged/disabled/single women, etc. The pension will also be automatically increased at the rate of 15% each year.

- 16. Amit Shah** inaugurated the Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi.

**Note:** Aviation Sector is one of the most dynamic, publicly visible, and international environment-sensitive sectors. The Aviation Security Control Centre have 4 components: Communication and Monitoring Centre, Incident Management Centre, Aviation Research Centre and Data Centre.

- 17. Union Home Minister Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:** It will be built at a cost of over 500 crore rupees and this project is spread over an area of 10 acres in Mantralayam village. Amit Shah stated that the statue to be erected in Mantralayam will convey the message of Sanatan Dharma to the entire world, further bolstering the Vaishnava tradition.

- 18. Odisha** has approved Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana.

**Note:** Under this scheme, an interest subvention on bank loans up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided to beneficiaries to purchase a scooter. The State government has made a budgetary provision of Rs 528.55 crore for the execution of the scheme over a period of the next five years. The Cabinet has also approved a budget of Rs 1001.14 crore for expanding Comprehensive Cancer Services.

- 19. Madhya Pradesh** would introduce its maiden online gaming industry, named "**Madhya Pradesh State Esports Academy**".

**Note:** Objective: To offer young esports players a platform and opportunity to elevate their skills to a professional level. Goal: To train and nurture aspiring gaming and esports professionals. Out of the available seats, 80% will be reserved for gamers from Madhya Pradesh, while the remaining seats will be open to gamers from across the country.

### Important News- World

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

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

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

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

**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, published by **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. India ranked at **126** in the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI), released by the Institute for Economics and Peace. **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.
7. **China** has launched its first homegrown open-source operating system named OpenKylin for computers. **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.
8. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar informed that India and **Tanzania** have started trade settlements in local currencies. **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.
9. **France** would join Britain in supplying long-range SCALP missiles to Ukraine. **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
10. Elon Musk launched 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.
11. **Israel** parliament has approved a bill that limits some Supreme Court power. **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 unreasonably. 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
12. According to the latest Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), by UNDP, **Around 415 million people** exited poverty within a span of just 15 years between 2005 and 2021 in India. **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.
13. Pakistan launched the 1200-megawatt nuclear power plant being built with the assistance of **China** in Punjab province. **Note:** Earlier, PM Sharif had inked an agreement with China worth a whopping USD 3.5 billion under which Beijing would build the Chashma-V nuclear plant at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab. Two other nuclear power plants are also operational in Pakistan. Karachi Nuclear Power Plants (KANUPP 2 & 3) have a capacity of 2,290.
14. **United Kingdom** formally signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc. **Note:** The UK also become the first European country to join the CPTPP. Aim: To grow the country's economy and provide access for British businesses to a market of over 500 million people. CPTPP: It is a free trade agreement between 11 nations (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam).
15. Meta is partnering with **Microsoft** to introduce AI large language model's next generation and make technology known as Llama 2. **Note:** It will be available for research and commercial use, enabling developers and businesses to hold the next generation of generative AI tools. Meta had already released the first iteration of Llama (Large Language Model Meta) in February 2023.
16. According to the Henley Passport Index 2023, published by Henley & Partners, **Singapore** becomes the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations out of 227 around the world. **Note:** While India ranked 80th with visa-free entry to 57 nations. Germany, Italy, and Spain shared second place with 190 visa-free destinations. Japan has slipped to third place as the number of destinations its passport can access without a visa fell to 189.
17. **Italy** has unveiled the memorial named VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial at Montone. **Note:** Reason: To pay tribute to the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War (1939-1945) and also honour Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Victoria Cross, who was killed in action fighting on the heights of Upper Tiber Valley. The memorial is in

the form of a live sundial. Motto: Omines Sub Eodem Sole (Translates to 'We all live under the same sun')

18. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune informed that the nation has applied to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group, he is a president of **Algeria**.

**Note:** Algeria has also submitted a request to become a shareholder member of the BRICS Bank. The North African country is rich in oil and gas resources and seeking to diversify its economy. BRICS nations account for more than 40% of the world's population and about 26% of the global economy.

19. The new logo of Twitter is **X**.

**Note:** The owner Elon Musk, and Chief Executive Officer Linda Yaccarino of Twitter, revealed its new logo, replacing the blue bird on its website with an X as part of a broader rebranding effort. The new logo now shows a white X on a black background. It is the latest change since Elon Musk bought the social media platform for 44 billion dollars last year. Twitter is a free social networking site where users broadcast short posts known as tweets.

20. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and **Meta** expanded their 'WhatsApp Se Wyapaar' program to digitally train and upskill 10 million local traders on the WhatsApp Business App.

**Note:** Goal: To localize digitization efforts to unleash growth opportunities for businesses with hyper-local digital training in 11 Indian languages across all 29 Indian states. CAIT will conduct workshops to digitize their storefronts and establish their 'digital dukaan'

21. A Norwegian woman and her Nepali Sherpa guide climbed K2, the world's second tallest mountain, in Pakistan becoming the world's fastest climber to summit all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters (26,246 feet) in **92 days**.

**Note:** This was their 14th highest peak in just over three months. Other climbers included Pakistan's Shahbaz Khan, the younger brother of renowned mountaineer Sirbaz Khan. Harila and Tenjen set the fastest climbing record by beating Nirmal Purja of Nepal.

22. In July 2023, **Bhutan** has announced the successful elimination of rubella.

**Note:** In the past 20 years, Bhutan's health workers have worked tirelessly and fought against rubella, also known as German Measles. This infectious disease poses a threat to those infected and also causes severe complications for pregnant women, resulting in irreversible birth defects in newborns. Bhutan's efforts in vaccination promotion and creating awareness have resulted in commendable success.

### Honor & Awards

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

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

**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.

3. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) awarded the highest honor, 'Philippe Chatrier Award 2023', to **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.

4. **NLC India Limited** bagged the GeM award in the category "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" for the year 2023.

**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.

5. The Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust (Hind Swaraj Sangh) would confer the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 to **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

6. **Jammu & Kashmir 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.

**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.

7. **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at the 8th World Digital Insurance Awards, hosted by TDI - The Digital Insurer.



- 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.
8. **India** topped the medals tally at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023 held in Al Ain, UAE from 3 July to 11 July 2023.  
**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
9. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Wanindu Hasaranga (**Sri Lanka**) as the recipients of the 'Men's Player of the Month' award for June 2023.  
**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.
10. **PM Modi** was honoured with France's highest civilian and military honour, 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', by French President Emmanuel Macron.  
**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
11. **Jammu and Kashmir** Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award 2023 under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in the Gold category.  
**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.
12. **Adani Transmission Limited** has won the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 in the Power Transmission sector from the Institute of Directors.  
**Note:** Recognition: Environmental management and serves as a testament to its leadership in the industry. This award acknowledges ATL's steadfast dedication to minimizing its ecological footprint through programs like zero waste to landfill, single-use plastic free, etc. Adani Transmission MD & CEO: Anil Sardana
13. **NTPC** has received the Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023 in Best Use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Upskilling category.  
**Note:** The organization also received an award in Best Advance in Creating an Extended Enterprise Learning Programme category. The award was received by Director (HR), NTPC, Dillip Kumar Patel. NTPC has been adopting and institutionalizing progressive and best HR practices, which have been recognized by various prestigious fora at national and international levels.
14. **Prof. T. Pradeep** has won the prestigious Eni Award 2023.  
**Note:** He is associated with the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). Reason: To discover advanced sustainable and affordable nano-scale materials for the removal of toxic contaminants from water. Eni Award is considered among the top global honors for scientific research in energy and environment. It is given in three categories-Energy Transition, Energy Frontiers and Advanced Environmental Solutions
15. Union Minister of State for Skill Development, Rajeev Chandrasekhar Flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export to **the United Kingdom**.  
**Note:** The Namda craft of Kashmir has successfully been revived under Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The project has successfully trained individuals across six districts of Kashmir - Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, and Anantnag
16. **Coal Ministry** awarded "Best Engagement" for its achievements on e- procurement through GeM by the Ministry of Commerce.  
**Note:** Coal Ministry sets new standards in the e-procurement ecosystem, creating a level playing field for stakeholders and fostering fair competition. Coal India Limited has been awarded "Rising Star" and NLC India Limited has been awarded in the "TimelyPayments" category.
17. **Byculla Railway station** was awarded by UNESCO after its successful restoration to its original glory in July 2023.  
**Note:** The project, launched in July 2019 by Shaina NC, Trustee of 'I Love Mumbai' and in memory of her father Nana Chudasama, aimed to revive the station's original architectural splendor. Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav congratulated Central Railway.
18. **Prem Prakash** was honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of journalism in New Delhi.  
**Note:** ANI chairman Prem Prakash has dedicated over 70 years in the world of journalism. Throughout his illustrious career, he has established new dimensions to journalism from time to time and emerged as a great inspiration to society.
19. The Maharashtra government has decided to confer the first 'Udyog Ratna' award 2023 to **Ratan Tata**.  
**Note:** The award is the state's highest honor given to eminent individuals, has led the Maharashtra government to introduce Udyog Ratna Award from this

year onward. The first recipient of this award will be the renowned industrialist, Ratan Tata. The award is a

recognition of his outstanding achievements in the industrial sector.

### Sports News

- India** won the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship title for the eighth time by defeating Iran in a final match, organized in Busan, South Korea.  
**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.
- Neeraj Chopra** has clinched the 2023 Lausanne Diamond League title with the best throw of 87.66 meters.  
**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.
- Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen** has clinched the Austrian Grand Prix 2023, held at the Red Bull Ring, Spielberg in Austria.  
**Note:** Ferrari driver, Charles Leclerc has ranked second, while Red Bull's Sergio Pérez placed third in the Austrian Grand Prix 2023.
- India** has won the 2023 Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou.  
**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.
- India** defeated Kuwait 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out to lift the SAFF Championships trophy 2023 held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.  
**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.
- India** has won the final of the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland.  
**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.
- Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket, is associated with **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.
- Max Verstappen** has clinched F1 2023 British Grand Prix title, held at the Silverstone Circuit, England.  
**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
- Lakshya Sen** has clinched Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament in Calgary, Canada.  
**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.
- Parth Salunkhe** became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships 2023.  
**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.
- Nishad Kumar** has clinched a silver medal in the ongoing Para Athletics World Championships 2023 in Paris.  
**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.
- India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being organized in **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.
13. **Jyothi Yarraji** has won India's first gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, held at the Supachalasai Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.  
**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.
  14. **Parul Chaudhary (Long-distance runner)** has won the fifth gold for India in the ongoing 2023 Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok.  
**Note:** She has clinched the 3000m Steeplechase event in the women's category and left behind her Chinese counterpart Xu Shuangshuang and finished the event in 9 minutes 38.76 seconds. Japan's Yoshimura Reimi eclipsed her by 0.02 seconds, sealing the third place and completed her run in 9 minutes and 48.48 seconds.
  15. **Carlos Alcaraz** has won his first 2023 Wimbledon Men's Single title, held in All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London.  
**Note:** In the final, he defeated Novak Djokovic. Women's Single: Markéta Vondroušová (Czech Republic). Men's Doubles: Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (United Kingdom). Women's Doubles: Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)
  16. **Ruturaj Gaikwad** would lead India's men's squads in cricket for the 19th Asian Games, held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 and October 8, 2023.  
**Note:** While Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the women's cricket competition, which will take place from September 19-28, 2023. Both competitions will be played in T20 formats. Team India (Senior Men) squad also include Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul Tripathi, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), and many more.
  17. Australia's state of Victoria has withdrawn from hosting **2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG)**.  
**Note:** Reason: Due to a significant increase in projected costs, reaching around \$7 billion, exceeding their budgetary limits. Victoria stepped in to bid for the 2026 Games when no other countries showed interest. The event rotates across different host cities within the Commonwealth. It was first held in 1930.
  18. **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** managed to feature in the Guinness World Record by striking the fastest smash in the ongoing Korea Open 2023.  
**Note:** He broke the record of Malaysian Tan Boon Heong by surpassing his speed by 72 kmph and registered a record-breaking speed of 565 kmph. He and his partner, Chirag Shetty, are the only men's doubles pair from India to win the BWF World Tour 1000 & be ranked inside the top 10 of the BWF World Ranking
  19. Harmehar Singh Lally and **Sanjana Sood** won a silver medal in the skeet mixed team event at ISSF Junior World Championships, in Korea.  
**Note:** Indian duo lost their match with the Italian duo of Andrea Galardini and Sara Bongini. China is at the top with six gold, eight silver, and four bronze medals. India stayed in second place on the medals table with four gold, four silver and three bronze medals. Italy is in the third spot with two gold, one silver and three bronze medals.
  20. The Indian Surf Team earned the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship 2023 held in **Maldives**.  
**Note:** In this championship, 18 countries from Asia participated. The Surfing Federation of India sent a team consisting of 4 senior male surfers and 2 surfers in the Under 18 category. 5 out of the 6 surfers representing India were from Tamil Nadu. Arun Vasu: The President of the Surfing Federation of India
  21. **R Praggnanandhaa** claimed the championship title in the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 in Hungary.  
**Note:** In the 10-player event, the 17-year-old GM secured the top spot by scoring 6.5 points, finishing a clear point ahead of M Amin Tabatabaei from Iran and Russia's Sanan Sjugirov after nine rounds of play. He notched five victories, drew three games, and experienced a single defeat in the fifth round at the hands of Amin Tabatabaei.
  22. **Stuart Broad (England)** has become the second pace bowler to take 600 wickets in Test cricket.  
**Note:** He reached the mark by removing Australia's Travis Head on day one of the fourth Ashes Test at Old Trafford. England team-mate James Anderson is the only other quick bowler to achieve the feat. Broad is fifth on the all-time list and Anderson third, with spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble completing the top five.
  23. **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** defeat Indonesian top seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in the men's doubles Korea Open final 2023.  
**Note:** They have won all the four finals they played. They won the Swiss Open Super-300 tournament on March 26, became Asian champions on April 30, and claimed their first Super-1000 title at the Indonesia Open on June 18 and Korean open on July 23, South Korea.
  24. **Bomman**, a mascot for Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament, to be held in Chennai from August 3 to 12.  
**Note:** Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin unveiled the trophy. Six teams from the continent – India, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and Korea – will compete for the coveted trophy. Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 17 crore for the conduct of the event.



25. **Kamaljeet** won two gold medals in the 50-meter free pistol event in the Junior World Championship 2023 in Changwon, Korea.  
**Note:** In this championship, India was second on the medals table with six gold, six silver, and five bronze medals. China stayed on top with 12 gold, nine silver, and seven bronze medals. In the women's free pistol, Tiyana Phogat won the silver, one point behind Khanna Aliyeva of Azerbaijan.
26. **Annu Rani** won the women's javelin throw events at the Lebanon Athletics Championships 2023 in Beirut.  
**Note:** Indian javelin throwers Annu Rani and Kishore Jena bagged gold medals in the women's and men's javelin throw events, respectively, at the Lebanon Athletics Championships 2023 in Beirut. In the women's event, Annu Rani recorded a best throw of 55.32m to top the six-woman field. In the men's event, Kishore Jena achieved a distance of 78.96m to clinch the gold medal. Tokyo Olympics champion 2022 Neeraj Chopra holds India's national record in men's javelin throw.
27. India secured the **Second position** at the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea.  
**Note:** Indian shooters achieved a total of 17 medals, comprising 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze. Seven Indian athletes earned more than one medal each. Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet both claimed two gold medals. Sainyam won three medals, including a gold in the 10m air pistol women's event, and a bronze each in the 10m air pistol mixed team and women's team events.
28. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in **Greater Noida**.  
**Note:** The international event will see the participation of more than 30 Indian weightlifters, including many Khelo India Athletes who won 61 medals at Weightlifting Commonwealth Championships. More than 15 nations from the Asian region, 200 athletes are participating. It will conclude on the 5th of August.
29. **Aditya Samant** becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster after earning his third GM norm at the Master Tournament (MTO) in the Biel International Chess Festival 2023.  
**Note:** The Maharashtra player had earned his first norm to become a grandmaster at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August 2022. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points and his live rating going into the ninth round game is 2525.4.
30. **India** women's hockey won the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament held in Terrassa, defeating hosts Spain with a scoreline of 3-0.  
**Note:** Lalremsiami showcased her remarkable skills, scoring a hat-trick for India. With this win, India took the top spot in the standings, earning five points from three matches. Hosts Spain came second, with four points.
31. **Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar** won the Gold medal for India at the FISU World University Games 2023 in China.  
**Note:** Competing in men's 50-meter rifle three positions, he achieved the top podium with a total score of 461.7 points in the final. With this, India have now a gold, silver and bronze each in shooting. The Indian trio of Tomar, Sartaj Singh Tiwana and Surya Pratap Singh joined forces to secure Bronze in the men's 50 meter rifle 3 position team event.
32. **14 medals** medals won by India at the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships 2023.  
**Note:** Indian athletes clinched six medals at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo. Amoj Jacob, Aishwarya Mishra, Muhammed Anas, and Himanshi Malik, in the 4x400 meter mixed relay team, earned the first gold medal of the day. Kishore Kumar Jena, the Indian javelin thrower who won the gold medal, received the Best Male Thrower trophy.

### Books and Authors

- The novel "Dudiya: In your Burning Land", authored by **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.
- The book titled **Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow** released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.  
**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.
- John Guy** is the author of the book titled, 'Tree & Serpent: Early Buddhist Art in India'.  
**Note:** This book is published by Mapin in collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) in New York. It is a pioneering study of the emergence of Buddhist art in southern India, featuring vibrant photography of rare works. It will feature over 125 objects, including a series of spectacular sculptural masterpieces from southern India on public display.
- Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** unveiled a book named 'Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India'.

**Note:** The book features 75 ODF Plus Best Practices and was launched during the two-day National Conference of Rural WASH Partners Forum. Innovations: To overcome challenges, awareness-raising efforts, special campaigns, and other initiatives of States/UTs in different ODF Plus activities to achieve the goals of SBM-G Phase-II.

5. **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the book titled 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram in July 2023.

### Science and Defence

1. Indian Naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in **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 **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. **Seventh** 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.

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

**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.

5. **Voyager Space** 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).

**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

**Note:** The book is about the history of Indian rocketry, science, technology and innovation, beautiful representation of Indian politics and administrative system, and description of many incidents related to wishes and imagination of Dr. Kalam. Amit Shah also paid a visit to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House and the Mission of Life Gallery Museum.

from NSIL in support of spacecraft manufacturing, deployment, etc.

6. **China** has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit.

**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.

7. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** 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.

**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.

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

**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.

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

**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.

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

- 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.
11. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched its third lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-3' on-board the heavy lift LVM3-M4 rocket in Sriharikota on **July 14, 2023**.  
**Note:** It is planned to soft land on the surface of the South Pole region of the Moon on August 23. If this mission came out to be successful, India will enter an elite club of nations (US, Russia and China) achieving such a feat. It consists of an indigenous lander module (LM), propulsion module (PM), and a rover.
  12. **15th** edition of the joint military exercise between India and Mongolia, 'Nomadic Elephant 2023', begins at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17 to 31 July 2023.  
**Note:** Indian Army soldiers from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment and Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 participated in the exercise. Aim: Counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate. The scope of this exercise involves a Platoon level Field Training Exercise
  13. A Joint Military Drills 'Northern Interaction-2023', between Chinese and Russian naval and air forces would be conducted in **Sea of Japan**.  
**Note:** It is organized by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Northern Theater Command. Aim: To enhance the level of strategic cooperation between both militaries, as well as strengthen the ability to jointly safeguard regional peace; China Capital: Beijing; Russia Capital: Moscow
  14. Ashok Leyland has bagged orders worth Rs 800 crore from the Indian Army.  
**Note:** Reason: To deliver specialized vehicles to the defense sector. These vehicles includes the Field Artillery Tractor (FAT 4x4) and the Gun Towing Vehicle (GTV 6x6). The FAT 4x4 and GTV 6x6 are specialized vehicles employed by the Artillery for towing light and medium guns, respectively.
  15. **Gujarat** will get India's first 'Satellite Network Portal Site'.  
**Note:** London-based company OneWeb and the state gov signed MoU for the establishment of the Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gandhinagar. Aims: To provide affordable, secure and high-speed internet access to villages, district panchayats, local administrative bodies and government departments. OneWeb is setting up two 'SNPS' and one of them will be in the Mehsana district of Gujarat.
  16. India's Nuclear power capacity has been set to increase from over 7000 Mega Watt to over 22480 Mega Watt by **2031**.
  - Note:** The present installed nuclear power capacity in the country is seven thousand 480 Mega Watt comprising 23 nuclear power reactors. The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country was about 2.8 percent in 2022-23.
  17. India has gifted its in-service missile corvette INS Kirpan to **Vietnam** to robust the strategic partnership between the two nations, especially in the maritime domain.  
**Note:** The frontline warship was handed over to Vietnam, during an official visit of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar. It is fossr the first time that India gifted a fully operational corvette to any friendly foreign country. INS Kirpan was an indigenously built Khukri-class missile corvette, commissioned in 1991.
  18. Union Minister of State Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh, visited the Technology Showcase at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in **Goa**.  
**Note:** It was organized on the sidelines of the G20 Energy Transition Ministerial Meeting with the support of the 8th Mission Innovation and 14th Clean Energy Ministerial. It was organized under three parts: Vehicle and Charging showcase; Infrastructure Showcase; Mission Innovation and Clean Tech Start-up presentations.
  19. The World Health Organization has identified a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in a 28-year-old male from **United Arab Emirates**.  
**Note:** MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory infection caused by a coronavirus known as MERS. The infection is transmitted to humans through direct or indirect contact with dromedary camels, which are the natural host and zoonotic source of the MERS-CoV infection. The symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath
  20. The Ministry of Earth Sciences celebrated its **17th** Foundation Day 2023 at its Prithvi Bhavan headquarters in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Union Minister Kiren Rijju launched several citizen-centric initiatives to mark this occasion. He highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions the country becoming a developed nation by 2047. Earth Sciences Ministry is mandated to provide services for weather and climate, ocean and coastal state, hydrology, seismology, and natural hazards.
  21. **SpaceX** launched the world's largest private satellite into space in July 2023.  
**Note:** From Launch Complex 39A in Florida, the satellite will be launched on SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket. This will be the seventh launch for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket. Instead of attempting a drone-ship landing at sea, SpaceX will expand its core booster in the Atlantic Ocean following the first-stage separation, which deviates from their usual practice.





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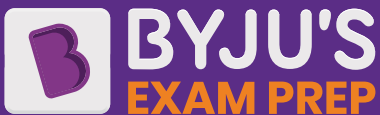
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**Address:** Windsor IT Park, Tower - A, 2nd Floor,  
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Website: [www.byjusexamprep.com](http://www.byjusexamprep.com)