

Weekly Current Affairs Magazine 15th - 21st July 2023



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Dear MBA Aspirants,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Which bank has raised Rs 3,101 crore of funds via additional tier-1, or perpetual, bonds at a coupon of 8.10% _____
State Bank of India.
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.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has selected Tata AIG General Insurance as the lead non-life insurer for which Indian state _____
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."
- In July 2023, India and which country are working on a real-time payment mechanism and trading in local currencies _____
Indonesia.
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.
- An article published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its July 2023 bulletin stated that India could become a developed country by which year with an average annual real GDP growth of 7.6% over the next 25 years _____
2047.
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.
- Which fintech organization launched the health insurance plans that will for the first time in India offer monthly subscriptions _____
PhonePe Insurance Broking Services.
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
- Which bank would set up a new trustee company as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund _____
SBI.
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.

7. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), what would be India's GDP growth for the FY 2023-24 _____
6.4%.
Note:
8. 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
9. The license of United India Co-operative Bank Limited has been revoked by the Reserve Bank of India, located in which Indian city _____ **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.
10. Cognizant Technology Solutions in collaboration with which life insurance organization to launch an innovation and development centre in Chennai _____ **Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd.**
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.

Obituaries

1. Ravindra Mahajani, who has passed away, was a veteran actor of which regional cinema _____ **Marathi.**
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.
2. 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.
3. Oommen Chandy, who passed away, was a former chief minister of which Indian state _____ **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.

Important Days

1. World Youth Skills Day is celebrated on which date every year to emphasize the need for imparting the right skills to youth for employment and entrepreneurship _____ **July 15.**
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.
2. The Day of International Criminal Justice is celebrated every year on which date _____ **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.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the first woman to lead Australia's Central Bank since it was founded in 1960 _____ **Michele Bullock**.

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.

2. Who has been appointed as the MD of Michelin India _____ **Shantanu Deshpande**.

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.

3. Who has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard _____ **DG Rakesh Pal**.

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.

4. Who has been elected as the new President of the Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) the apex body of India's large cement manufacturers _____ **Neeraj Akhoury**.

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.

5. Who joined as the Managing Director & CEO of Invest India on July 2023 _____ **Nivruti Rai**.

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.

Important News - India

1. Which minister has launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training programme on Artificial Intelligence on World Youth Skills' Day _____ **Dharmendra Pradhan**.

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.

2. 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 which Indian state _____ **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.

3. Who has inaugurated the National Mega Conclave on Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) in the cooperative sector _____ **Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah.**

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.

4. Coal Ministry has set a target to achieve coal gasification of 100 Million Tonnes of coal by which FY to harness the power of coal gasification _____ **FY 2030.**

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.

5. India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in June 2023 are estimated to be at what amount _____ **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

6. Which organization has released the third edition of the Export Preparedness Index 2022 report in New Delhi _____ **NITI Aayog.**

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.

7. Who has launched the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' _____ **Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.**

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.

8. Which organization has launched the Oil 2023 medium-term market report, titled 'IEA Oil 2023 – Supply and demand dynamics to 2028' in New Delhi _____ **International Energy Agency (IEA).**

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.

9. Which organization released the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress of Review 2023' in New Delhi _____ **NITI Aayog.**

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.
10. The government has set up a new oversight mechanism for official data has replaced the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with which committee _____ **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.
11. Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the sale of subsidized which pulse under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' _____ **Chana 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
12. Who would inaugurate the 'Festival of Libraries 2023', to be held on 5th - 6th August 2023 in New Delhi _____ **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- 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
13. The Regional Office of Universal Postal Union (UPU) was inaugurated in which Indian metropolitan city _____ **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.
14. The Indian Navy signed an MoU with which ministry to revive the 'stitched shipbuilding method' _____ **Ministry of Culture**.
- 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.
15. Minister of Fisheries inaugurated an International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation at NDDB, Anand. Who is the minister of Fisheries _____ **Parshottam Rupala**.
- 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.
16. Name the building, which has surpassed the Pentagon (headquarters of the US Army) to become the world's largest office _____ **Surat Diamond Bourse**.
- 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.

17. India has signed MoU with which country on the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system to revolutionize cross-border transactions between the two nations _____ **United Arab Emirates.**

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.

18. In which foreign city, IIT- Delhi would set up its first foreign campus _____ **Abu Dhabi.**

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.

19. India and which country signed an MoU to fabricate submarine and surface combatants and parts in Mumbai and Kolkata respectively for export _____ **France.**

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

20. Nokia joined hands with Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) to establish a 5G skill development CoE at Kaushalya - The Skills University, located in which Indian state _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- The Center of Excellence (CoE) at ITI Kuberanagar 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

21. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde inaugurated the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) at which city _____ **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.

22. Who has chaired the Regional Conference on Drugs Smuggling and National Security in New Delhi _____ **Union Home Minister Amit Shah.**

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 drugs-free India.

23. Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 event in which Indian cities _____ **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.

24. The 4th G20 Energy Transitions Working Group meeting chaired by Pankaj Agarwal, the secretary of the Union Ministry of Power, is being held in which Indian state _____ **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'.
25. Which country would host the ASEAN Countries Conference 2023 on Traditional Medicines _____ **India**.
- 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.
26. Under India's G-20 presidency, who will deliver a video message addressing the meeting of Labour and Employment Ministers _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.
- 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.
27. India and which country have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at fostering a robust semiconductor supply chain _____ **Japan**.
- Note:**
- According to Mr. Vaishnav, 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.
28. The DAHD has launched a "Credit Guarantee Scheme" specifically designed for which sector _____ **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.
29. Which organization has introduced the Heat Index on an experimental basis across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh _____ **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- Note:**
- Kiren Rijiju, 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.
30. Ministry of Culture and which bank signed an MoU to provide financial assistance to selected beneficiaries under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists _____ **Canara Bank**.
- 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.
31. Which organization 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 _____ **OPPO India**.
- 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

Important News – State

1. Which Indian state has launched a campaign named Gajah Kotha to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue _____ **Assam**.
- 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.
2. Which state government has designated nodal officials to assist the Ministry of Railway in the prompt execution of PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan _____ **Haryana**.

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

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.

Important News- World

1. Pakistan launched the 1200-megawatt nuclear power plant being built with the assistance of which country in Punjab province _____ **China**.

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.

2. Which country formally signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc _____ **United Kingdom**.

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).

3. Meta is partnering with which company to introduce AI large language model's next generation and make technology known as Llama 2 _____ **Microsoft**.

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.

4. According to the Henley Passport Index 2023, published by Henley & Partners, which country becomes the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations out of 227 around the world _____ **Singapore**.

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.

Honor & Awards

1. Which organization has won the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 in the Power Transmission sector from the Institute of Directors _____ **Adani Transmission Limited**.

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
2. Which organization has received the Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023 in Best Use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Upskilling category _____ **NTPC**.

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.
3. Who has won the prestigious Eni Award 2023 _____ **Prof. T. Pradeep**.
- 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
4. Union Minister of State for Skill Development, Rajeev Chandrasekhar Flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export to which country _____ **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
5. Which ministry awarded "Best Engagement" for its achievements on e- procurement through GeM by the Ministry of Commerce _____ **Coal Ministry**.
- 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 "Timely Payments" category.

Sports News

1. Who has won the fifth gold for India in the ongoing 2023 Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok _____ **Parul Chaudhary (Long-distance runner)**.

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.
2. Who has won his first 2023 Wimbledon Men's Single title, held in All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London _____ **Carlos Alcaraz**.

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)
3. Who 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 _____ **Ruturaj Gaikwad**.

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.
4. Australia's state of Victoria has withdrawn from hosting which year's Commonwealth Games (CWG) _____ **2026**.
- 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.
5. Who managed to feature in the Guinness World Record by striking the fastest smash in the ongoing Korea Open 2023 _____ **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**.
- 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
6. Harmehar Singh Lally and who won a silver medal in the skeet mixed team event at ISSF Junior World Championships, in Korea _____ **Sanjana Sood**.
- 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.
7. The Indian Surf Team earned the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship 2023 held in which country _____ **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
8. Who claimed the championship title in the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 in Hungary _____ **R Praggnanandhaa**.
- 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."

Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of the book titled, 'Tree & Serpent: Early Buddhist Art in India' _____ **John Guy**.
- 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

Science and Defence

1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched its third lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-3' on-board the heavy lift LVM3-M4 rocket in Sriharikota on which date _____ **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.

2. Which edition of the joint military exercise between India and Mongolia, 'Nomadic Elephant 2023', begins at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17 to 31 July 2023 _____ **15th.**

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
3. A Joint Military Drills 'Northern Interaction-2023', between Chinese and Russian naval and air forces would be conducted in which location _____ **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
4. Which organization has bagged orders worth Rs 800 crore from the Indian Army _____ Ashok Leyland.

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.
5. Which Indian state will get India's first 'Satellite Network Portal Site' _____ **Gujarat.**

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.
6. India's Nuclear power capacity has been set to increase from over 7000 Mega Watt to over 22480 Mega Watt by which year _____ **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.

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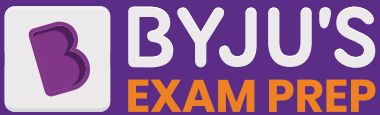
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