

The background of the cover features a blurred image of a student with glasses sitting at a desk, using a laptop. The student's hands are visible, one holding a blue pen and the other on the keyboard. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic element on the left side.

IBPS RRB PO & Clerk Mains Exam 2023

GK Tornado PDF (Capsule)

GK-Tornado for IBPS RRB (PO& Clerk) Mains Exam 2023

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in the last **5 months (1st April 2023 to 31st August 2023)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like the SBI Clerk & PO exam 2022.

News related to RBI

August 2023

1. **ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to raise stake in ICICI Lombard**
Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted ICICI Bank to raise stake in ICICI Lombard by up to 4 per cent in various tranches. The private lender informed Indian stock market bourses about receiving the RBI's approval for raising stake in its subsidiary. However, the approval is subject to certain regulatory approvals. The Board of Directors approved an increase in shareholding in the Company, in multiple tranches up to 4. 0% additional shareholding, as permissible under applicable law, to ensure compliance with the Section 19(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The Bank would acquire at least 2. 5% stake out of the above 4. 0% before September 9, 2024.
2. **RBI data: Bank credit growth to MSMEs decelerates in Q1**
Note:According to RBI, Bank credit growth to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has decelerated on a year-on-year basis in the first three months of the FY 2023. As per the latest Reserve Bank data, the credit to medium industries in June grew by 13. 2 per cent (47. 8% 2022) and micro and small industries by 13 per cent (29. 2 % 2022). Gross bank credit outstanding to medium industries in June 2023 was Rs 2,63,440 crore compared to Rs 2,32,776 crore in June 2022.
3. **Reserve Bank of India keeps key interest rate unchanged for third time**
Note:According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy, released in August 2023, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6. 5 percent. Other Highlights:The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6. 25%. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6. 75%. RBI has revised the CPI inflation target for the current fiscal to 5. 4%. Projected real GDP growth for 2023-24: 6. 5%
4. **RBI has imposed ₹1. 50 lakh penalty on Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank for contravention of provisions of Maintenance of Deposit Accounts.**
Note: Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank was also penalized of ₹20,000 for non-compliance with specific directions under Supervisory Action Framework and KYC directions. Further, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1. 00 lakh on Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd and ₹1. 50 lakh on Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad.
5. **RBI Unveils AI-Powered “Conversational Payments” for UPI Transactions**
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features on UPI, in August 2023. Aims: To enable digital payments through voice commands. The concept, known as “Conversational Payments,” introduces a dynamic and user-friendly approach to transactions. Objectives: To allow users to initiate payments seamlessly within chat or messaging conversations, transforming routine interactions into instant financial exchanges
6. **RBI selects McKinsey and Company, Accenture Solutions to use AI and ML**
Note: RBI has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India in August 2023. Aim: To develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions. RBI is looking to AI and machine learning to analyze its huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks, NBFCs to ensure that the benefits of advanced analytics can accrue to the Department of Supervision in the central bank.
7. **RBI to launch pilot project on Public Tech Platform**
Note:The RBI has announced the launch of the Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI in August 2023. Aim: To enable

delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating a seamless flow of required digital information to lenders. Objectives: To encourages various stakeholders, including banks, non-banking financial companies, FinTech firms, and startups, and other financial services

8. Axis Bank partners with RBI innovation hub to launch KCCs and MSME loans

Note: Axis Bank announced the launch of two lending products powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit, introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub. Objective: To offer Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans to customers powered by the platform. KCC will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and will be available to customers for up to Rs 1. 6 Lakh to start with. MSME loans will be available across the country and will offer loans upto Rs. 10 Lakh.

9. UP, Gujarat among top 5 states in new investments

Note:Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Gujarat are among the top 5 states in India in terms of new investments in 2022-23.

According to RBI these two states together accounted for 57. 2% of the total investment proposals made during the year. In 2022-23, UP attracted the highest share of new investments, with a total project cost of Rs. 43,180 crore. Followed by Gujarat (Rs. 37,317 crore), Odisha (Rs. 11,810 crore), Maharashtra (Rs. 7,900 crore) and Karnataka (Rs. 7,300 crore).

10. RBI approves merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank and Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank. Aim: To streamline operations and services for customers under a unified entity. The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches would operate as branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank. The merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was also given the go-ahead by the central bank.

July 2023

1. IBA sets up a group to implement the RBI committee recommendations on ARCs

Note:The 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". 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

2. Forex reserves rise by \$1. 85 billion to \$595. 05 billion

Note: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. 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.

3. RBI cancels licence of 2 cooperative banks

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of two cooperative banks -- Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank, Tumkur, Karnataka and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Wai, Satara. 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.

4. RBI panel recommends measures for internationalization of 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.

5. RBI cancels licenses of two co-operative banks

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking licenses of two cooperative banks in Maharashtra and Karnataka. 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.

6. Inclusion of NongHyup Bank in Second Schedule: RBI Notification

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed all banks about the addition of "NongHyup Bank" to the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934. 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. Nonghyup Bank entered India in 2016.

7. RBI caps deposit withdrawal from ailing National Co-operative Bank

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed business restrictions on The National Co-operative Bank Ltd and capped deposit withdrawal at Rs 50,000 per account in July 2023. 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.

8. Banks write off bad loans worth Rs 2. 09 lakh crore in 2022-23: RBI

Note: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. 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.

9. RBI: Digital payments rise 13% YoY at March-end 2023

Note: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. 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.

10. India needs average annual 7. 6% GDP growth to become developed by 2047: RBI

Note: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. 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.

11. RBI cancels banking license of United India Co-operative Bank Bijnor

Note: The license of United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor has been revoked by the Reserve Bank of India. 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.

June 2023

1. RBI fines J&K Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Axis Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on Jammu and Kashmir Bank for non-compliance with directions related to time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls. A penalty of Rs 1.45 crore was also imposed on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on Man in the Middle Attacks in ATMs'. The RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Axis Bank.

2. RBI cancels Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank Dharwad's banking license

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of the Karnataka-based Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad, and allowed function only as a non-banking institution. The cancellation of the license is with effect from the close of business on June 27, 2023. RBI has also been instructed to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever

demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.

3. India's CAD narrows to 1. 3 billion dollars in the January-March quarter

Note: According to the data released by the Reserve Bank, the current account deficit (CAD) of India has been narrowed to 1. 3 billion dollars or 0. 2% of GDP in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal. The decline was mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports. RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

4. RBI imposed ₹20 lakh monetary penalty on Manappuram Finance

Note: Reserve Bank of India has imposed ₹20 lakh monetary penalty on Manappuram Finance for non-compliance with certain provisions of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). RBI imposed this penalty as it

did not classify certain gold loan accounts with overdue of more than 90 days as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). NBFC: It is a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/securities issued.

5. RBI notifies 4 key measures to strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks

Note: RBI has notified four key measures to strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the country. UCBs can now open new branches up to 10% of the number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation. UCBs have to get the policy approved by their board and comply with the Financially Sound and Well Managed Norms. The deadline to achieve PSL target of 60% also extended to March 31, 2024.

6. RBI penalizes Bihar State Co-op Bank Rs 60. 20 lakh

Note: RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 60. 20 lakh on The Bihar State Co-operative Bank Limited, Patna for a slew of shortcomings and violations. A statutory inspection of the Patna-based bank by Nabard after FY20 revealed that it failed to put in robust software for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions and submit statutory returns within prescribed timelines. The RBI also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Jowai Cooperative Urban Bank Limited, Meghalaya.

7. RBI permits banks to undertake compromise settlement of wilful defaults

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to go for compromise settlement of fraud accounts and wilful defaults. Reason: To ensure maximum recovery from distressed assets. All regulated entities (REs) will be required to put in place board-approved policies for undertaking compromise settlements, with specific guidance on the necessary conditions precedent. Conditions would include minimum ageing, deterioration in collateral value etc.

8. RBI, IIT Madras to launch voice-banking solution

Note: Reserve Bank Innovation Hub has partnered with IIT Madras Research Park and Incubation Cell to launch voice-banking solutions to eliminate language barriers. It will assist the illiterate and the visually impaired in their banking needs. Aim: To conduct the basic banking transactions through voice controls in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English, in the initial stage. SBI, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra, and IDFC First conducted a code fest on voice banking called 'Vaultier Voice'

9. RBI fines Indian Overseas Bank Rs 2. 2 crore for multiple violations

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2. 2 crore on Indian Overseas Bank for violating various norms. The RBI said it fined the bank under the powers vested by the Banking Regulation Act 1949. The RBI imposed this monetary penalty after finding contraventions of banking regulations and non-compliance with specific RBI directions related to income recognition, asset classification, provisioning, interest rates on deposits, and ATM security

10. RBI Governor launches Financial Inclusion Dashboard 'ANTARDRIHSTI'

Note: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a Financial Inclusion Dashboard 'ANTARDRIHSTI' to provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. It will enable the ability to gauge extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country. Presently, the dashboard is intended for internal use in the RBI. It will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach.

May 2023

1. RBI bought net \$750 mn in spot forex market in March 2023

Note: According to the RBI's March 2023 bulletin, the Reserve Bank of India bought \$750 million on a net basis in the spot foreign exchange market in March 2023. The RBI has purchased \$6. 91 billion and sold \$6. 16 billion. In February 2023, the central bank bought \$254 million on a net basis in the spot market. The Indian rupee appreciated by 0. 6% against the dollar in March 2023. The RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at \$23. 6 billion as of end-March 2023.

2. RBI imposes Rs 84. 50 lakh penalty on Central Bank of India

Note: The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 84. 50 lakh on the Central Bank of India for non-compliance with norms related to fraud classification and reporting. The RBI had conducted a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021. The reports revealed that the bank had failed to report as fraud to RBI certain accounts within seven days of the decision of the JLF to declare the accounts as fraud.

3. RBI sanctions merger of Maratha Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-op Bank

Note: RBI has approved the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, with effect from May 29, 2023.

The central bank had placed Maratha Sahakari Bank under Directions under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, on August 31, 2016. All the branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited. Maratha Sahakari Bank has seven branches in Mumbai.

4. RBI to introduce expected loss approach for bad loan provisioning

Note:RBI has proposed to introduce an expected loss-based approach for provisioning in 2023-24. It would be a part of its measures to strengthen the bad loan resolution ecosystem. This will enable banks to design their own credit loss models and spread the higher provisions over a five-year period under a newer system of setting aside money for lending. Aim: To classify financial assets as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale, into three categories (Stages 1, 2, and 3)

5. RBI working on lightweight, portable payment system

Note:RBI has conceptualized a lightweight payment and settlement system (LPSS), that can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff in the event of natural calamities and war. This new payment system will be independent of conventional technologies used for existing payment systems such as RTGS, NEFT, and UPI. This system is expected to operate on minimalistic hardware and software. It will process transactions that are critical to ensure the stability of the economy

6. RBI imposes penalty on Mizoram Rural Bank, Tripura Gramin Bank

Note: RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Mizoram Rural Bank and 2 lakh rupees on Tripura Gramin Bank for contravention of various norms. Reason: Both banks have failed to categorize certain loan accounts as non-performing in line with the Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms. The bank was asked to provide a justifiable reason as to why a penalty should not be imposed for its non-compliance with the directions.

7. RBI allows SBI Funds Management to acquire up to 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed SBI Funds Management (SBIFML) to acquire up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of HDFC Bank. SBIFML has been advised by RBI to acquire the aforesaid major shareholding in the bank within a period of six months i. e. by November 15, 2023. SBIFML must ensure that the aggregate holding in HDFC Bank remains below 10% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times.

8. Credit card spending in forex to come under RBI's remittance scheme

Note:As per a Finance Ministry notification, the spending in foreign exchange through international credit cards (ICCs) will be covered under the RBI's liberalized remittance scheme (LRS). Under this scheme, a resident can remit money abroad up to a maximum of USD 2.50 lakh per annum without the authorization of the Reserve Bank. Earlier, the usage of ICCs for making payments for fulfilling expenses during travel outside India was not included in the LRS limit.

9. RBI withdraws Rs 2000 notes from circulation under Clean Note Policy

Note:RBI has decided to withdraw Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation under the Clean Note Policy. The policy says that 2,000-rupee notes will continue to be legal tender but will not be circulated. RBI has said members of the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes into their bank accounts or exchange them for banknotes of other denominations. Exchange of Rs 2000 banknotes of other denominations can be made up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time from 23rd May, 2023.

10. RBI to pay ₹87,416 crore as dividend to Centre for FY23

Note:The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board has approved the transfer of ₹87,416 crore as surplus to the government for FY23, surpassing the budget estimate by 82%. The union budget estimated an aggregate dividend of ₹48,000 crore from the RBI and public sector lenders. The large surplus transfer by the central bank would help the government manage its fiscal math. Last year, the central bank transferred a surplus of ₹30,307 crore to the Centre.

11. RBI imposes ₹1.73 crore fine on HSBC for wrong credit card data

Note:RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.73 crore on Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC) for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006. HSBC has furnished incorrect credit information regarding several expired credit cards with nil dues to all four credit information companies. The RBI imposed the penalty in the exercise of powers conferred under the provisions of Section 25(1) and Section 23(4) of the CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005.

12. RBI parks incremental reserves in US treasuries, other sovereign securities

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deployed its incremental reserves in bonds and securities, focusing on US Treasuries and debt issued by other top-rated sovereigns. Reason: To manage its foreign currency assets and ensure the stability of the Indian economy. The latest half-yearly report on foreign exchange management

showed that as of end-March 2023, of the total foreign currency assets of \$509.69 billion, \$411.65 billion was invested in securities.

13. Reserve Bank gold reserves rose 4.5% to 794.64 tonnes in 2022-23

Note:RBI has added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tonnes. RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022. A recent World Gold Council (WGC) report showed that the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold in January-March 2023. The latest WGC report showed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the largest single buyer of gold (69 metric tonnes) during January-March 2023.

14. Settle fee, charges on forex prepaid cards in rupee: RBI

Note:RBI has stated that fees and charges payable in India on forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards must be denominated and settled in local currency. The use of such cards is limited to permissible current account transactions. It is subject to the prescribed limits under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules. The RBI had previously stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.

15. RBI imposes ₹2.92 Cr penalty on Canara Bank

Note:RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹2.92 crore on Canara Bank for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmarks, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities. A scrutiny of the bank was carried out by RBI in July 2020 based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank. After scrutiny, the RBI found that the bank failed to link interest on floating rate retail loans and loans to MSME to an external benchmark.

16. RBI, GFIN collaborate to prevent 'greenwashing'

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be participating in the Global Financial Innovation Network's (GFIN) Greenwashing TechSprint. Aim: To address the concern over exaggerated, misleading, or unsubstantiated claims related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials. GFIN support financial innovation in the interest of consumers. The RBI has invited Indian firms to participate in the TechSprint to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.

17. RBI launches '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a campaign '100 Days 100 Pays' for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days. Aim: To reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. An unclaimed deposit is one which

does not see any activity for 10 years or more and is deemed as an inactive deposit.

18. RBI imposes ₹1.73 crore fine on HSBC for wrong credit card data

Note:RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.73 crore on Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC) for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006. HSBC has furnished incorrect credit information regarding several expired credit cards with nil dues to all four credit information companies. The RBI imposed the penalty in the exercise of powers conferred under the provisions of Section 25(1) and Section 23(4) of the CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005.

19. RBI parks incremental reserves in US treasuries, other sovereign securities

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deployed its incremental reserves in bonds and securities, focusing on US Treasuries and debt issued by other top-rated sovereigns. Reason: To manage its foreign currency assets and ensure the stability of the Indian economy. The latest half-yearly report on foreign exchange management showed that as of end-March 2023, of the total foreign currency assets of \$509.69 billion, \$411.65 billion was invested in securities.

20. Reserve Bank gold reserves rose 4.5% to 794.64 tonnes in 2022-23

Note:RBI has added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tonnes. RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022. A recent World Gold Council (WGC) report showed that the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold in January-March 2023. The latest WGC report showed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the largest single buyer of gold (69 metric tonnes) during January-March 2023.

21. Settle fee, charges on forex prepaid cards in rupee: RBI

Note:RBI has stated that fees and charges payable in India on forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards must be denominated and settled in local currency. The use of such cards is limited to permissible current account transactions. It is subject to the prescribed limits under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules. The RBI had previously stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.

22. RBI imposes ₹2.92 Cr penalty on Canara Bank

Note:RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹2.92 crore on Canara Bank for violation of various norms, including linking interest rates to external benchmarks, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities. A scrutiny of the bank was carried out by RBI in July 2020 based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank. After scrutiny, the RBI found that the bank failed to link interest on floating

rate retail loans and loans to MSME to an external benchmark.

23. RBI, GFIN collaborate to prevent 'greenwashing'

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be participating in the Global Financial Innovation Network's (GFIN) Greenwashing TechSprint. Aim: To address the concern over exaggerated, misleading, or unsubstantiated claims related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials. GFIN support financial innovation in the interest of consumers. The RBI has invited Indian firms to participate in the TechSprint to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.

24. RBI launches '100 Days 100 Pays' campaign

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a campaign '100 Days 100 Pays' for banks to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days. Aim: To reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. An unclaimed deposit is one which does not see any activity for 10 years or more and is deemed as an inactive deposit.

25. RBI, BIS launch global technology competition 'G20 TechSprint'

Note: RBI and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) have jointly launched the fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint, a global technology competition. Focus: On developing innovative technology solutions for cross-

border payments. Shortlisted teams will be invited to develop their solutions over a six-week period and each team will be eligible for a stipend of eight lakh rupees. The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of forty lakh rupees.

26. RBI updates KYC instructions on wire transfers for banks, institutions

Note: RBI has updated instructions in the Master Direction on KYC related to wire transfers and aligned the same with the relevant recommendation of the FATF. The Banks and other financial institutions ensure cross-border as well as domestic wire transfers contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary. Wire Transfer: It is an electronic transfer of funds via a network that is administered by banks and transfer service agencies around the world.

27. RBI announces 6.97% interest rate on Floating Rate Bond 2024

Note: RBI has announced the interest rate of 6.97% on the Floating Rate Bond 2024, for the half year from May 7 to November 6, 2023. Floating Rate Bonds are securities that do not have a fixed coupon rate. They have a variable coupon rate which is re-set at preannounced intervals. The FRB bonds carry a coupon with a base rate equivalent to a weighted average yield of the last three auctions of 182-day Treasury Bills (T-Bill) plus a fixed spread decided by way of auction.

April 2023

1. India's forex reserves rise \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion

Note: According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$5.98 billion to \$578.78 billion on March 24, 2023. Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023. India's foreign currency assets (FCA) also increased from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion. India's gold reserves rose by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.

2. Public sector banks transfer ₹35,012 cr unclaimed deposits to RBI

Note: The Public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred unclaimed deposits of ₹35,012 crore as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These deposits have not been operated for 10 years or more. SBI tops the list with an unclaimed amount of ₹8,086 crore, while PNB has ₹5,340 crore and Canara Bank has ₹4,558 crore. These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI. MoS for Finance Bhagwat Karad shared this information in Lok Sabha.

3. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.50%

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%. The GDP is expected to jump 6.5% in the current financial year. Retail inflation is expected to moderate to 5.2% in FY2023-24. The standing deposit facility (SDF) would remain unchanged at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and the bank rate at 6.75%. In Q1FY24, CPI-based inflation is expected to be 5.1%. The real GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7%.

4. FY23 bank credit growth highest since FY12, up 15%: RBI data

Note: According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the Bank credit rose by 15% year-on-year (YoY) in 2022-23 (FY23), against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (FY22). FY23 credit growth is the highest since 2011-12, when it was 19.3%. Bank deposits expanded 9.58% YoY in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth seen in the previous financial year (FY22). The outstanding credit stood at Rs 136.75 trillion at the end of the last fortnight of FY23 (March 24, 2023).

5. RBI announces framework for Acceptance of Green Deposits

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the framework for acceptance of Green Deposits of regulated entities (RE). Aim: To foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country. The framework will come into effect from June 1, 2023. It is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks including SFB excluding RRBs, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks. It also includes all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including Housing Finance Companies.

6. **RBI to stop banks from capitalizing penal charges on loans defaults**

Note:The RBI has proposed to prohibit the capitalization of penal charges and additional interest levied by banks on customers for loan defaults. Aim: To streamline divergent practices followed by lenders. As per the draft circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts', the quantum of penal charges should be proportional to the defaults/non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contracts up to a threshold.

7. **RBI allows AU SFB, Equitas Bank to deal with foreign exchange**

Note: RBI has approved the AU Small Finance Bank and Equitas Bank to deal in foreign exchange. AU SFB informed that RBI has granted the Licence to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange. The permission is subject to compliance with applicable regulations.

Equitas Small Finance Bank has also received Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License from RBI. AU Small Finance Bank CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

8. **RBI imposes Rs 44 lakh penalty on 4 co-op banks**

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties totaling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks. Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank: Penalty of Rs 13 lakh as it failed to transfer the eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF). Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank: Penalty of 16 lakhs as it failed to transfer eligible amounts to DEAF. Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank: A penalty of 2 lakhs has been imposed for contravention of certain norms.

9. **RBI cancels Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank's banking licence**

Note:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank, with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023. RBI has allowed Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function as a non-banking institution. RBI has also stopped to conduct the banking business, including acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect. The bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it.

Highlights Economic Survey 2022-2023

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Economic Survey 2022-21** in Parliament. Economic Survey is considered as the official report card of the union government, giving a roadmap for the country's economy and spells the way forward. It will also project India's gross domestic product growth for 2023-24.

1. State of the Economy 2022-23: Recovery Complete

- Indian economy is staging a broad based recovery across sectors after recovering from pandemic-induced contraction, Russian-Ukraine conflict and inflation, positioning to ascend to the pre-pandemic growth path in FY23.
- India's GDP growth for FY24 to be in the range of 6-6.8 %.

- Private consumption in H1 is highest since FY15.
- Outlay for capital expenditure in 2022-23 (BE) was increased sharply by 35.4% from 5.5 lakh crore in the previous year (2021-22) to 7.5 lakh crore, of which approximately 67% has been spent from April to December 2022.
- Credit growth to MSME sector was over 30.6% on average during Jan-Nov 2022.
- Retail inflation is back within RBI's target range in November 2022.
- Indian Rupee performed well in comparison to other Emerging Market Economies in Apr-Dec 2022.
- For April-November 2022, Direct Tax collections remain buoyant.
- Enhanced Employment generation was observed in the declining urban unemployment rate and in the faster net registration in Employee Provident Fund.

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** shows that urban unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above declined from **8%** in the quarter ending September 2021 to **7.2%** in the quarter ending September 2022.

2. India's Medium Term Growth Outlook: with Optimism and Hope

- Indian economy underwent wide-ranging structural and governance reforms that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency during 2014-2022.
- 2014-2022 has also witnessed balance sheet stress caused by the credit boom in the previous years and one-off global shocks, that adversely impacted the key macroeconomic variables.
- This situation is analogous to 1998-2002 when transformative reforms undertaken by the government had lagged growth returns due to temporary shocks in the economy.
- It shows that India's growth outlook seems better than in the pre-pandemic, and Indian economy is prepared to grow at its potential in the medium term.

3. Fiscal Developments: Revenue Relish

- Union Government finances have shown a resilient performance during FY23, aided by recovery in economic activity, buoyancy in revenues from direct taxes and GST, and realistic assumptions in the Budget.
- **Gross Tax Revenue** registered a YoY growth of **15.5%** from April to November 2022.
- Growth in direct taxes during the first eight months of the year was much higher than their corresponding longer-term averages.
- **Gross GST collections** increased at **24.8%** on YoY basis from April to December 2022.
- **Capital expenditure (Capex):**
 - Union Government's emphasis on Capex has led to increase it from a long-term average of **1.7% of GDP (FY09 to FY20)** to **2.5% of GDP in FY22 PA.**
 - Union Govt has also incentivized the State Governments through interest-free loans and enhanced borrowing

ceilings to prioritize their spending on Capex.

- It has large-scale positive implications for medium-term growth with an emphasis on infrastructure-intensive sectors like roads and highways, railways, and housing and urban affairs, the increase in Capex has large-scale positive implications for medium-term growth.

4. Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation: A Good Year

- RBI initiated monetary tightening cycle in April 2022 and since then raised the repo rate by 225 bps, leading to moderation of surplus liquidity conditions.
- Cleaner balance sheets led to enhanced lending by financial institutions.
- Non-food credit offtake by scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) has been growing in double digits since April 2022.
- GNPA (Gross Non-Performing Assets) ratio of SCBs has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.0.
- CRAR (Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio) remains healthy at 16.0.
- SCBs recovery rate through Insolvency and Bankruptcy (IBC) was highest in FY22 compared to other channels.

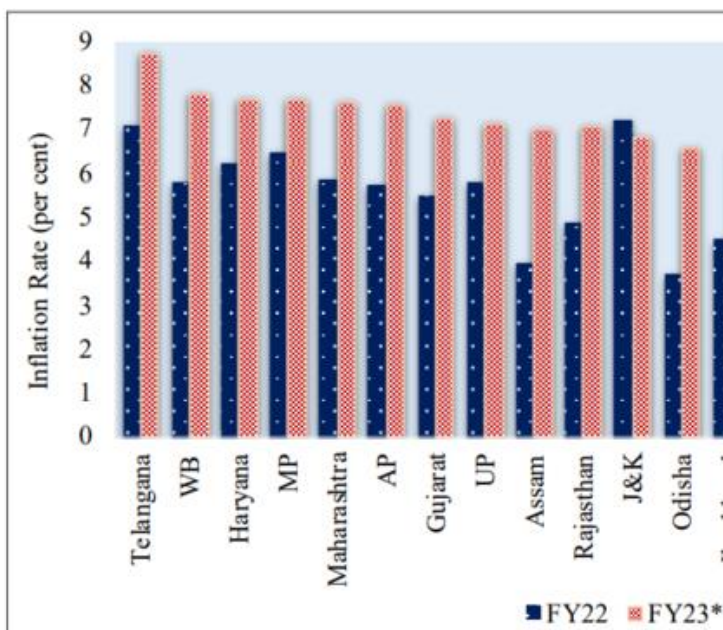
5. Prices and Inflation: Successful Tight-Rope Walking

- 2022 witnessed a return of high inflation in the advanced world after decades, India caps the rise in prices.
- India's retail inflation rate peaked at 7.8% in April 2022, above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%, overshoot of inflation above the upper end of the target range in India was however lowest in the world.
- Import duty on major inputs were brought to zero while tax on export of iron ores and concentrates increased from 30% to 50%.
- Govt waived customs duty on cotton imports with effect from 14 April 2022, until 30 September 2022
- Prohibition on the export of wheat products under HS Code 1101 and imposition of export duty on rice and reduction in basic duty on

crude and refined palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil

- **Housing Price Indices (HPI) assessment:** Stable to moderate increase in HPI also offers confidence to homeowners and home loan financiers in terms of retained value of the asset.
- Food inflation ranged between 4.2% to 8.6% between April and December 2022, while the core inflation rate stayed at around 6% except in April 2022.
- India's inflation management has been particularly noteworthy and can be contrasted with advanced economies that are still grappling with sticky inflation rates.

Figure for Higher Retail Inflation in Majority of States in FY23



6. Social Infrastructure and Employment: Big Tent

- Social Sector witnessed significant increased government spending.
- Central and State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector was **2.1% of GDP in FY23 (BE)** and **2.2% in FY22 (RE)** against 1.6% in FY21.
- Social sector expenditure increases from **Rs. 9.1 lakh crore in FY16** to **Rs. 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE)**.

- Survey also highlights the findings of the **UNDP report on Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022** which says that 41.5 crore people exit poverty in India between 2005-06 and 2019-20.
- **eShram portal** developed for creating National database of unorganised workers, which is verified with Aadhaar with total of over 28.5 crore unorganized registered workers as on 31 December 2022.
- Labour markets have recovered in both urban and rural areas, with unemployment rates falling from 5.8% in 2018-19 to 4.2% in 2020-21.
- FY22 saw improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER) in schools and improvement in gender parity.

Year	Primary			Upper Primary			Secondary		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
2013-14	107.9	106.5	107.2	88.6	85.0	86.7	73.5	74.2	73.8
2019-20	103.7	101.9	102.7	90.5	88.9	89.7	77.8	78.0	77.9
2020-21	104.5	102.2	103.3	92.7	91.6	92.2	79.5	80.1	79.8
2021-22	104.8	102.1	103.4	94.9	94.5	94.7	79.4	79.7	79.6

- Due to several steps taken by the government on health, out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure declined to **48.2% in FY19** from **64.2% in FY14**.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Under Five mortality rate (U5MR) and neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) have shown a steady decline.
- More than 220 crore COVID vaccine doses administered as on 06 January, 2023.
- Nearly 22 crore beneficiaries have been verified under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (ABS) as on 04 January, 2023 and over 1.54 lakh Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized across the country under Ayushman Bharat.

7. Climate Change and Environment: Preparing to Face the Future

- India declared Net Zero Pledge to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070 and achieved its

target of 40% installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.

- The likely installed capacity from non-fossil fuels to be more than 500 GW by 2030 resulting in average emission rate decline by around 29% by 2029-30, compared to 2014-15.
- India reduced emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005.
- About 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity to come from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- A mass movement, titled **LIFE (Life style for Environment)** launched.
- RBI auctions two tranches of ₹4,000 crores Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB).
- National Green Hydrogen Mission will enable India to be energy independent by 2047.
- Green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum will be developed by 2030.
- Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over ₹1 lakh crore and creation of over 6 lakh jobs by 2030 under National green Hydrogen Mission.
- Renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual GHG emissions is planned by 2030.
- 8 lakh individual household toilets and 6.2 lakh community and public toilets have been constructed (August 2022) under the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat.

8. Agriculture and Food Management

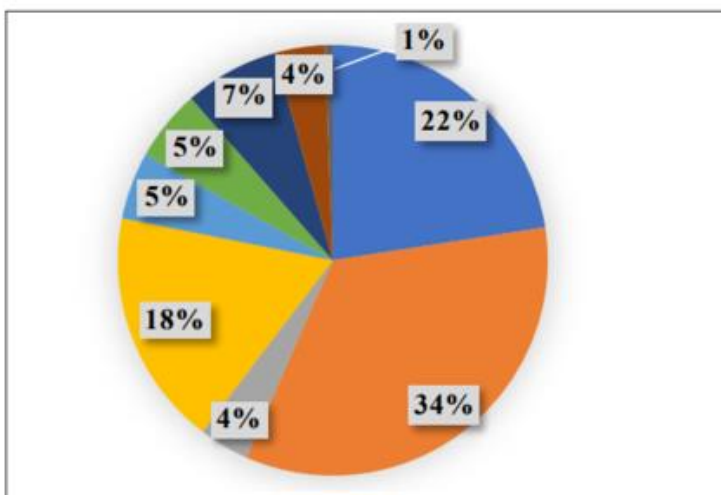
- The performance of the agriculture and allied sector has been buoyant over the past several years.
- Private investment in agriculture increases to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- MSP for all mandated crops was fixed at 1.5 times of all India weighted average cost of production since 2018.
- Institutional Credit to the Agricultural Sector continued to grow to 18.6 lakh crores in 2021-22
- Food grains production in India saw sustained increase and stood at 315.7 million tonnes in 2021-22 and free food grains were given to about 81.4 crore beneficiaries under National

Food Security Act for one year from January 1, 2023.

- Rs 13,681 crores sanctioned for Post-Harvest Support and Community Farms under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
- Online, Competitive, Transparent Bidding System with 1.74 crore farmers and 2.39 lakh traders put in place under National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme.
- India stands at the forefront to promote millets through International Year of Millets (IYM) initiative.

9. Industry: Steady Recovery

- Overall Gross Value Added (GVA) by Industrial Sector for the first half of FY 22-23, rose 3.7%, which is higher than the average growth of 2.8% achieved in the first half of the last decade.
- PMI manufacturing has remained in the expansion zone for 18 months since July 2021, and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grows at a very healthy pace.
- **Credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** has grown by an average of around 30% since January 2022 and credit to large industry has been showing growth of double-digit since October 2022.
- Electronics exports rise nearly threefold to US \$11.6 Billion in FY22 from US \$4.4 billion in FY19.
- India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally, with production of handsets going up to 29 crore units in FY21 from 6 crore units in FY15.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows has risen four times into the Pharma Industry, from US \$180 million in FY19 to US \$699 million in FY22.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes introduced across 14 categories, with capex of ₹4 lakh crore over the next five years, to plug India into global supply chains. .
- Over 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3500 provisions decriminalized as of January 2023.
- Annual FDI equity inflows in the manufacturing sector have been steadily increasing from US\$ 12.1 billion in FY21 to US\$ 21.3 billion in FY22.



10. Services: Source of Strength

- Services sector is expected to grow at 9.1% in FY23, as compared to 8.4% (YoY) in FY22.
- Robust expansion in PMI services, indicative of service sector activity, observed since July 2022.
- India was among the top ten services exporting countries in 2021, with world commercial services exports increasing from 3% in 2015 to 4% in 2021.
- India's services exports remained resilient during Covid-19 pandemic and amid geopolitical uncertainties driven by higher demand for digital support, cloud services, and infrastructure modernization.
- Credit to services sector has grown by over 16% since July 2022 and US\$ 7.1 billion FDI equity inflows has been observed in services sector in FY22.
- Sustained growth in the real estate sector is showing 50% rise between 2021 and 2022.
- Hotel occupancy rate has improved to 68-70% in November 2022 from 30-32% in April 2021.
- Digital platforms are transforming India's financial services.
- India's e-commerce market is projected to grow at 18% annually through 2025.

11. External Sector

- Merchandise exports were US\$ 332.8 billion for April-December 2022.

- India diversified its markets and increased its exports to Brazil, South Africa and Saudi Arabia.
- To increase market size and ensure better penetration, CEPA with UAE and ECTA with Australia come into force in 2022.
- India is the largest recipient of remittances in the world receiving US\$ 100 bn in 2022 and remittances are the second largest major source of external financing after service export
- As of December 2022, Forex Reserves stood at US\$ 563 bn covering 9.3 months of imports.
- As of November 2022, India is the 6th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world.
- External debt is shielded by the comfortable level of foreign exchange reserves.
- India has relatively low levels of total debt as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) and short-term debt as a percentage of total debt.
- Top export destination in April-November, 2022: **USA**, followed by **UAE** and **the Netherlands**.
- Top import items: **Petroleum, crude & products; electronic goods; coal, coke & briquettes; machinery, electrical & non-electrical and gold.**
- Top import source: **China, UAE, USA, Russia, and Saudi Arabia**
- Leading export items: **Petroleum products, gems & jewellery, organic & inorganic chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals were among the leading export items.**

12. Physical and Digital Infrastructure

Government's Vision for Infrastructure Development

1. Public Private Partnerships

- In-Principal Approval granted to 56 projects with Project Cost of ₹57,870.1 crore under VGF Scheme, from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- IIPDF Scheme with ₹150 crore outlay from FY 23-25 was also notified by government.

2. National Infrastructure Pipeline

- 89,151 projects costing ₹141.4 lakh crore under different stages of implementation and 1009 projects worth ₹5.5 lakh crore are completed
- NIP and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal linkage to fast-track approvals and clearances for projects are under way.

3. National Monetization Pipeline

- ₹ 9.0 lakh crore is the estimated cumulative investment potential and ₹ 0.9 lakh crore monetization target achieved against expected ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY22.
- FY23 target is envisaged to be ₹1.6 lakh crore (27 per cent of overall NMP Target)

4. GatiShakti

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched in 2022 budget creates comprehensive database for integrated planning and synchronised implementation across Ministries/ Departments to improve multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency while addressing the critical gaps for the seamless movement of people and goods.

5. Electricity Sector and Renewables

- Central government has sanctioned the entire target capacity of 40 GW for the development of 59 Solar Parks in 16 states till 30th September 2022.
- 17.2 lakh GWh electricity generated during FY22 compared to 15.9 lakh GWh during FY21.
- Total installed power capacity (industries having demand of 1 Mega Watt (MW) and above) increased to 482.2 GW on 31 March 2022 from 460.7 GW on 31 March 2021.

6. Making Indian Logistics Globally Competitive

- National Logistics Policy was launched to develop a technologically enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient, sustainable and trusted logistics ecosystem in the country for accelerated and inclusive growth.
- Rapid increase in National Highways (NHs) /Roads Construction with 10457 km NHs/roads

constructed in FY22 compared to 6061 km in FY16.

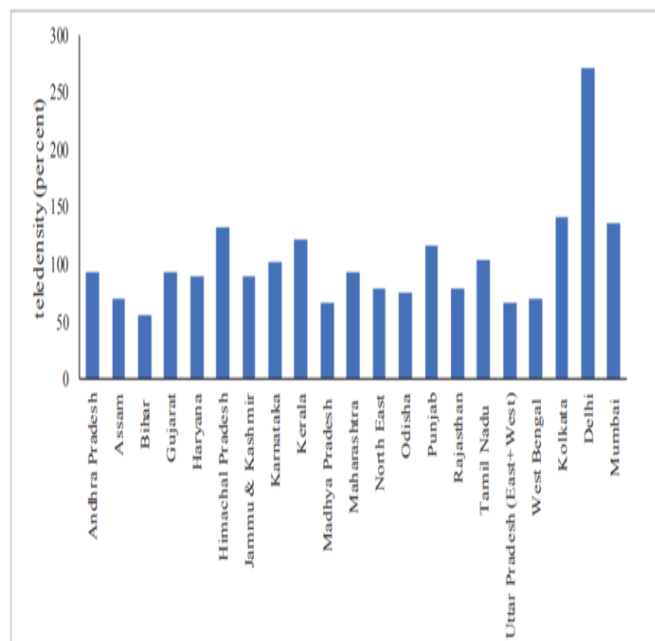
- Budget expenditure increased from ₹2.4 lakh crore in FY23 ₹1.4 lakh crore in FY20 giving renewed push to Capital expenditure.
- 2359 Kisan rails transported approx 7.91 lakh tonnes of perishables, as of 2022 October.
- More than one crore air passengers availed the benefit of the UDAN scheme since its inception in 2016 and major ports capacity are doubled in 8 years
- Inland Vessels Act 2021 replaced 100-year-old Act to ensure hassle free vessel movement promoting Inland Water Transport.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure

1. Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

- UPI-based transactions grew by 121 per cent in value and 115 per cent in volume terms, between 2019-22, paving the way for its international adoption.

2. Telephone and Radio



Source: Department of Telecommunications

- Total telephone subscriber base in India with 44.3% of subscribers in rural India, stands at 117.8 crore (as of Sept,22).
- More than 98% of the total telephone subscribers are connected wirelessly.

- Overall tele-density in India stood at 84.8% in March 22.
- 200% increase in rural internet subscriptions between 2015 and 2021.
- Prasar Bharati is now broadcasting in 23 languages, 179 dialects from 479 stations. Reaches 92 per cent of the area and 99.1 per cent of the total population.

3. Digital Public Goods

- India has achieved low-cost accessibility since the launch of Aadhaar in 2009

- Government schemes like MyScheme, TrEDS, GEM, e-NAM, UMANG has transformed market place and has enabled citizens to access services across sectors
- Under Account Aggregator, consent-based data sharing framework is currently live across over 110 crore bank accounts.
- National AI portal has published 1520 articles, 262 videos, and 120 government initiatives and is being viewed as a tool for overcoming the language barrier e.g. 'Bhashini'.
- Legislations are being introduced for enhanced user privacy and creating an ecosystem for standard, open, and interoperable protocols underlining robust data governance.

Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23

Union Budget 2023-24

Union Budget 2023-24 has been laid today on 1st February 2023 in a paperless format and contains Government's revenue and expenditure for the end of a particular fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31.

Before going in the highlights of the budget, lets us understand about the Union Budget 2023-24

About Budget

- Union Budget of India is also referred to as Annual Financial Statement and comes under Article 112 of Constitution of India
- It is presented on the first day of February.
- Since 1947, there have been a total of 73 annual budgets, 14 interim budgets and 4 special budgets, or mini budgets.

Which nodal body is responsible for preparing the Budget?

Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry

What is included in Indian Budget?

- Estimated receipts and expenditure of Government in a financial year.
- Estimates of revenue and capital receipts
- Ways and means to raise the revenue
- Estimates of expenditure
- Reasons for any deficit or surplus in that year
- Economic and financial policy of the coming year (tax proposals, prospects of revenue, spending programme and introduction of new schemes/projects)

Financial year begins on 1st April of the current year and ends on 31 March of the following year.

Stages of Budget

Budget goes through six stages in Parliament (Depict the underline content in stepwise mode)

- Presentation of Budget.
- General discussion.
- Scrutiny by Departmental Committees.
- Voting on Demands for Grants.
- Passing of Appropriation Bill.
- Passing of Finance Bill.

Highlights of Union Budget 2023-24

Budget 2023 is termed as the “first Budget of Amrit Kaal and the blueprint for India @100.

Capital Expenditure

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament, said that the capital investment outlay has been increased by 33% to Rs 10 lakh crore, which will account for 3.3% of the GDP.
- Effective capex will be Rs 13.7 lakh crore, which will form 4.5% of the GDP.

Fiscal Deficit

- Fiscal deficit for 2023-24 is fixed at **5.9 per cent of the GDP**.
- Government remains committed to bring fiscal deficit down to 4.5% of the GDP by 2025-26.



Part A

Main Focus Areas of Budget 2023

Budget 2023-24 focuses on seven priorities, which is termed by Finance Minister as the "Saptrishis guiding us through Amrit Kaal":

- Inclusive development
- Reaching the last mile
- Infrastructure and investment
- Unleashing the potential
- Green growth
- Youth power
- Financial sector



1

Priority 1: Inclusive Development

- Government’s philosophy of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* has facilitated inclusive development covering in specific, farmers, women, youth, OBCs, STs, SCs, divyangjan, EWS and overall priority for the underprivileged.

Agriculture and Cooperation

Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture: It will be built as an open source, open standard and inter operable public good.

Agriculture Accelerator Fund: It will be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas to bring innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers.

Enhancing productivity of cotton crop: For this, we will adopt a cluster-based and value chain approach through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

Atmanirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Program

- It will boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops at an outlay of 2,200 crore.

Global Hub for Millets: ‘Shree Anna’

- We are the largest producer and second largest exporter of ‘Shree Anna’ like *jowar, ragi, bajra, kuttu, ramdana, kangni, kutki, kodo, cheena, and sama*.
- Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, technologies and research at the international level.

Agriculture Credit

- Agriculture credit target is increased to 20 lakh crores with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.

Fisheries

- PM Matsya Sampada Yojana has targeted investment of 6,000 crores, this year.

Cooperation

- Ministry of Cooperation was formed to realize the vision of ‘*Sahakar Se Samriddhi*’.
- For this, government has already initiated computerization of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with 2,516 crore investment.

Health, Education and Skilling

Medical & Nursing Colleges: 157 new nursing colleges will be established in co-location with existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.

Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission: Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia will be launched by 2047 with awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore

people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas, and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.

Medical Research: Facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty and private sector R&D teams.

Pharma Innovation: New pharma programme to promote research and innovation will be taken up

Teachers' Training: It will be re-envisioned through innovative pedagogy, curriculum transaction, continuous professional development, dipstick surveys, and ICT implementation.

National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents: It will be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, genres, languages, and levels, and device agnostic accessibility. States will also be encouraged to set up physical libraries for them at panchayat and ward levels and provide infrastructure for accessing this National Digital Library resources.

Priority 2: Reaching the Last Mile

Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme: It was launched to cover 500 blocks for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains.

Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission: It was launched to improve socio-economic conditions of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). 15,000 crores will be made available to implement the Mission in the next 3 years under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools: Centre will recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, that serves 3.5 lakh tribal students.

Water for Drought Prone Region: Centre will provide 5,300 crore to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.

PM Awas Yojana: Its outlay is being enhanced by 66% to over 79,000 crore.

Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI): It will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.

Priority 3: Infrastructure & Investment

Capital Investment: Capital investment outlay is being increased steeply for the 3rd year in a row by 33% to 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3% of GDP.

Effective Capital Expenditure: It is budgeted at 13.7 lakh crore, which will be 4.5% of GDP.

Support to State Governments for Capital Investment: Centre will continue the 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure with enhanced outlay of 1.3 lakh crore.

Enhancing opportunities for private investment in Infrastructure: Infrastructure Finance Secretariat will assist the same.

Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure: It will be reviewed by an expert committee for recommending the classification and financing framework suitable for *Amrit Kaal*.

Railways: Capital outlay for this is 2.40 lakh crores, which is highest ever outlay and is 9 times the outlay made in 2013-14.

Logistics: 100 critical transport infrastructure projects and will be taken up on priority with investment of 75,000 crore, including 15,000 crores from private sources.

Regional Connectivity: 50 additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advance landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity.

Making Cities ready for Municipal Bonds: Through property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure, cities will be incentivized to improve their credit worthiness for municipal bonds.

Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF): Like RIDF, UIDF will be established through use of priority sector lending shortfall and will be managed by the National Housing Bank and used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Urban Sanitation: All cities and towns will be enabled for 100% mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers to transition from manhole to machine-hole mode.

Priority 4: Unleashing the Potential

Mission Karmayogi

- Under Mission Karmayogi, Centre, States and Union Territories are making and implementing capacity-building plans for civil servants.
- An integrated online training platform, *iGOT Karmayogi* is also launched
- Jan Vishwas Bill will amend 42 Central Acts for trust-based governance

Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence: It will be set-up in top educational institutions and leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable problem solutions in different areas.

National Data Governance Policy: It will be brought to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.

Simplification of Know Your Customer (KYC) process: It will be done by adopting 'risk-based' instead of 'one size fits all' approach.

One stop solution for identity and address updating: It will be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.

Common Business Identifier: Permanent Account Number (PAN) will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies and will be facilitated through a legal mandate.

Unified Filing Process: It will be set up for obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies.

Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief for MSMEs

- In cases of MSMEs failure to execute contracts during Covid period, 95% of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to them by government and government undertakings.

Vivad se Vishwas II – Settling Contractual Disputes

- To settle contractual disputes, voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced.

State Support Mission of NITI Aayog

- It will be continued for 3 years for our collective efforts towards national priorities.

E-Courts

Phase-3 of the E-Courts project will be launched with an outlay of 7,000 crore.

Fintech Services: For proper Fintech innovative services, scope of documents available in DigiLocker for individuals will be expanded.

Entity DigiLocker: It will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts and will be towards storing and sharing documents online securely.

5G Services: 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services will be set up in engineering institutions to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.

Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD): It is a technology-and innovation-driven emerging sector with high employment potential was launched to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machines.

Priority 5: Green Growth

Green Hydrogen Mission: National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched with an outlay of 19,700 crores to facilitate transition of the economy to low carbon intensity to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.

Energy Transition: This Budget provides 35,000 crores for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Energy Storage Projects: Battery Energy Storage Systems with 4,000 MWH capacity will be supported with Viability Gap Funding to steer the economy and a detailed framework for Pumped Storage Projects will also be formulated.

Renewable Energy Evacuation: Inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh will be constructed with investment of 20,700 crore including central support of 8,300 crores.

Green Credit Programme: It will be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act for encouraging behavioural change.

PM-PRANAM (Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth): It will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

GOBARdhan scheme: 500 new waste to wealth plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting circular economy and will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants at total investment of 10,000 crore.

Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres: 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up for creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes): It will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, wherever feasible, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources

Amrit Dharohar: It will be implemented over the next 3 years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism

opportunities and income generation for local communities.

Coastal Shipping: It will be promoted as energy efficient and lower cost mode of transport, both for passengers and freight, through PPP mode with viability gap funding.

Vehicle Replacement: Central Government and States will also be supported in replacing old vehicles and ambulances.

Priority 6: Youth Power

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0: It will be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next 3 years. It will also cover new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.

Skill India Digital Platform: Digital ecosystem for skilling will be further expanded with unified Skill India Digital platform for:

- enabling demand-based formal skilling,
- linking with employers including MSMEs, and
- facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme: It will be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.

Tourism: With an integrated and innovative approach, at least 50 destinations will be selected through challenge mode. Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development will be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.

Unity Mall: States will be encouraged to set up Unity Mall in their state capital or prominent tourism centre and sell their own ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products, and for providing space for such products of all other States.

Priority 7: Financial Sector

Revamped Credit Guarantee for MSMEs: It will be launched with effect from 1st April 2023 through

infusion of 9,000 crore in the corpus with additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of 2 lakh crore.

National Financial Information Registry: It will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information.

Financial Sector Regulations: Public consultation will be brought to the process of regulation-making and issuing subsidiary directions. Financial sector regulators will be requested to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations to simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance.

GIFT IFSC: Various measures are being taken to enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC:

- Delegating powers under SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation,
- Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI, etc.
- **Data Embassy:** It will facilitate countries looking for digital continuity solutions.

Improving Governance and Investor Protection in Banking Sector: For this, certain amendments are proposed to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act.

Capacity Building in Securities Market: For this, SEBI will be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in National Institute of Securities Markets and to recognize award of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Central Data Processing Centre: It will be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.

Reclaiming of shares and dividends: For investors to reclaim unclaimed shares and unpaid dividends with ease, an integrated IT portal will be established.

Digital Payments: Fiscal support for this digital public infrastructure will continue in 2023-24.

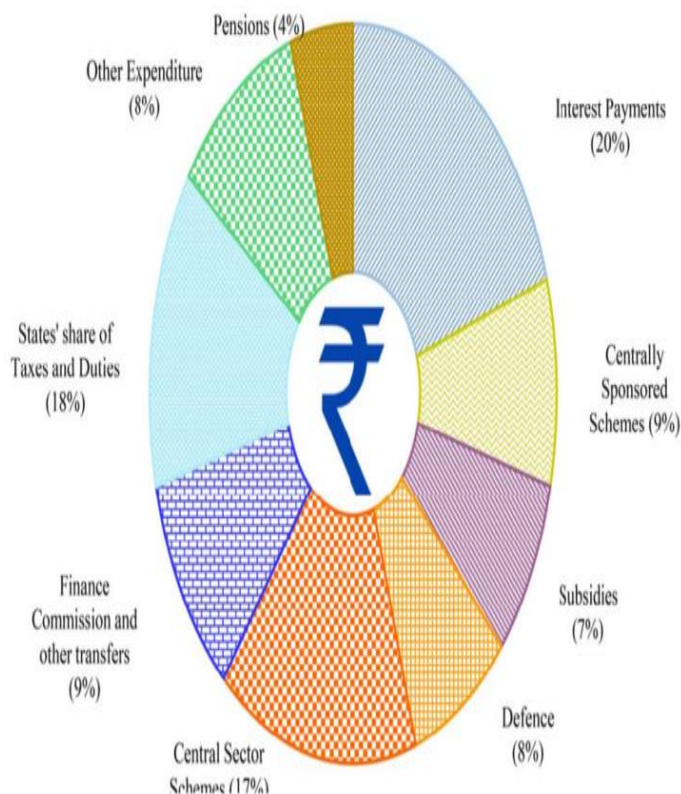
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mahila Samman Bachat Patra: One-time new small savings scheme, Mahila

Samman Savings Certificate, will be made available for 2-year period up to March 2025 and will offer deposit facility up to 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.

Senior Citizens:

- Maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will be enhanced to 30 lakh from 15 lakh.
- Maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme will also be enhanced to 9 lakh from 4.5 lakh for single account and from 9 lakh to 15 lakh for joint account.

Fiscal Management



Fifty-year interest free loan to States

- The entire 50-year loan to states has to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24.

Fiscal Deficit of States

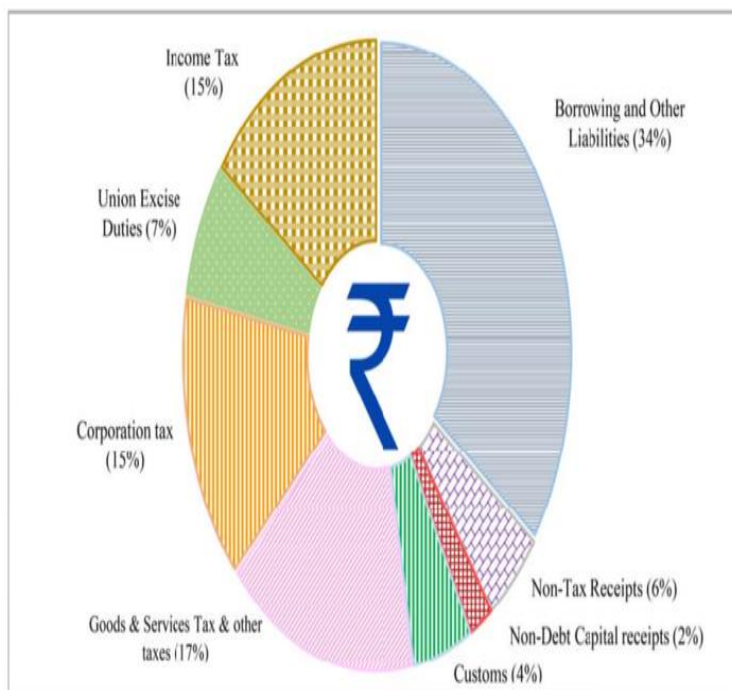
- States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of GSDP of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.

Revised Estimates 2022-23

- Revised Estimate of total receipts other than borrowings is 3 lakh crores, of which the net tax receipts are 20.9 lakh crore.
- Revised Estimate of the total expenditure is 41.9 lakh crores, of which the capital expenditure is about 7.3 lakh crore.
- Revised Estimate of the fiscal deficit is 6.4% of GDP.

Part B

Tax Proposals



- Highest surcharge rate is reduced to 25% from 37% in the new tax regime.
- Number of slabs in new tax regime is revised and maximum exemption limit is now Rs. 3 lakhs.
- Section 87A rebate increased to Rs. 7 Lakhs from the current Rs. 5 Lakhs in the alternative tax regime
- FM caps the upper limit for exemption under Sections 54 and 54F at Rs. 10 crores

and benefit of a lower tax rate of 15% to new cooperative societies is proposed.

- Start-ups incorporated up to 31st March 2024 shall be eligible to claim tax exemptions under Section 80-IAC.
- Higher limit of Rs. 3 crores on TDS on cash withdrawal is proposed for co-operative society.
- Finance Ministry announces increase in the threshold limits for presumptive taxation schemes.
- Basic Customs Duty on electric kitchen chimneys duties has been increased to 15% and reduced to Basic Customs Duty on heat coils.
- Custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to produce Lithium-ion cells used in batteries of EV.

Income Tax

New personal income tax slab regime has been reduced to 5 slabs from 6 income slabs with increase in the tax exemption limit to Rs 3 Lakhs

Budget also increased Income Tax rebate limit to Rs 7 lakh from Rs 5 lakhs.

New tax rates are:

0-3 lakh	Nil
3-6 lakh	5 per cent
6-9 lakh	10 per cent
9-12 lakh	15 per cent
12-15 lakh	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh	30 per cent

Legislative Changes in GST Laws

- Amendments to **Sections 132 and 138 of CGST Act** are being proposed to
 - Raise the minimum threshold of tax amount for launching prosecution under GST to Rs. 2 crore from Rs. 1 crore, except for the offence of issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services or both.

- Reduce the compounding amount from present range of 50% to 150% of tax amount to the range of 25% to 100%;
- Decriminalize certain offences specified under clause (g), (j) and (k) of sub-section (1) of section 132 of CGST Act, 2017 that contains obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties, deliberate tempering of material evidence and failure to supply the information.
- FM also proposed to amend Sections 37, 39, 44 and 52 of CGST Act, 2017 to restrict filing of returns/ statements to a maximum period of 3 years from the due date of filing of the relevant return / statement.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

August 2023

1. 2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report

Note: According to Swiss-based research consultancy Earth Action Earth saw its first Plastic Overshoot Day which means the point at which the amount of plastics exceeds the global waste management capacity. India is among the 12 countries which are responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste. When it comes to plastic consumption on a per-person basis, the world's worst offender is Iceland. The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg.

2. Reliance Industries tops India Inc in Forbes Global 2000 list for 2023

Note: Reliance Industries Limited continued to top the Indian corporates in the 2023 edition of 'The Global 2000' published by Forbes. Reliance Industries was placed at 45 in the overall ranking of 2000 global corporates ahead of well-known names like Germany's BMW Group, Switzerland's Nestle, China's Alibaba Group, US's Procter and Gamble, and Japan's Sony.

July 2023

1. Henley Passport Index 2023

Note: 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. 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.

2. IEA launches Oil 2023 (Analysis & forecast to 2028) medium-term market report

Note: The 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. It was launched in collaboration with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). As per the report, biofuel production expanded by nearly 600 kb/d from

2022 to 2028, with Brazil, Indonesia, and India combined accounting for 70% of this increase. India's focus is on decarbonization and it has already achieved 12% ethanol blending in Petrol and has targeted 20% blending by 2025.

3. Niti Aayog report claims decrease in multidimensional poverty

Note: NITI Aayog released the 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress of Review 2023' in New Delhi. 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. Uttar Pradesh registered the highest decline in the number of poor with 3.43 crore, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. 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. Rural areas saw the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%.

4. **415 million people exited poverty in India in 15 years: UN report**

Note: 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. 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.

5. **Global Peace Index 2023**

Note: According to the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI), released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, India has ranked 126 out of 163 countries. 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.

6. **Unsafe WASH behind 395,000 deaths of children under 5 in 2019: WHO report**

Note: As per the WHO report, Unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under the age of five in 2019. 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. It also showed that half of the world's population still does not have adequate access to WASH.

June 2023

1. **India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top**

Note: India bagged the 67th position globally in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index. WEF informed that India is the only major economy whose energy transition accelerated across all dimensions. Top 5: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland The global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.

2. **QS World University Rankings 2023-24**

Note: According to the 20th QS World University Rankings 2023, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has climbed 23 positions to secure the 149th rank globally. While in the overall ranking, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States topped the rankings for the twelfth consecutive year. UK's Cambridge University ranked second followed by Oxford University. This year, India is the seventh most represented country globally, with 45 universities ranked.

3. **Harish Bhat is ranked 10 on Forbes list of top 50 global CMOs**

Note: Forbes has ranked Tata Group's brand custodian Harish Bhat as among the top ten most influential Chief Marketing Officers (CMO) for the second consecutive year. Last year, he was in the

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

4. **2023 Global Competitiveness Index**

Note: According to the Global competitiveness index 2023, published by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), India has ranked 40 out of 64 economies in its annual report. Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland took the top three places. Switzerland ranked fourth, followed by the Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sweden, the USA, and UAE. The report uses a combination of surveys, statistical data, and trends to benchmark competitiveness around the world.

5. **Global Liveability Index 2023**

Note: According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), Vienna in Austria has topped the ranking of the most liveable cities. While Copenhagen in Denmark placed second on the list, followed by Melbourne and Sydney. Damascus in Syria and Tripoli in Libya remained at the bottom of the liveability index. From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.

6. **Gender Gap Index 2023**

Note: According to a Gender Gap Index 2023, released by World Economic Forum, India has been ranked 127 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2023, up by 8 positions from 135 in 2022. The report reflects an improvement of 1.4% points. India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap, marking a partial recovery toward India's 2020 (66.8%) parity level. India's neighboring countries rank: Bangladesh (59), Bhutan (103), China (107), Sri Lanka (115), Nepal (116), and Pakistan (142). For the 14th year running, Iceland (91.2%) takes the top position. While Norway ranked 2nd, followed by Finland, and Sweden.

7. **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list**

Note: As per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is the most valuable private company in India, with a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore. TCS with Rs 11.8 lakh crore ranked second in India, followed by HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore. The value of Reliance decreased by 5.1% in the last six months, while the total value of TCS increased marginally by 0.7% and HDFC Bank increased by 12.9%.

8. **India to overtake China in oil demand growth by 2027**

Note: According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the growth in demand for oil in India will overtake that in China by 2027. 'Oil 2023', the multilateral agency's outlook highlighted that China's demand will fall consistently from 2024 after a massive rise this year. The United States, China, and India are the world's three largest oil consumers in that order. IEA also raised its forecast for world oil growth demand to 2.4 million barrels per day in 2023.

9. **Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023**

Note: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023, which covered 85% of the global population. The index has revealed that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women. Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one bias against women. This index has tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions i.e. political, educational, economic and physical integrity.

10. **2023 Forbes' -The Global 2000**

Note: According to the 2023 Forbes' -The Global 2000, India's largest power generation company, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has climbed 52 positions to secure the 433rd rank. In the 2022 ranking, the company was on 485th rank. The climb of 52 positions has demonstrated the NTPC's emergence as a strong force in the global market. 'The Global 2000' List recognizes the world's largest companies based on sales, profits, assets, and market value.

11. **Global Slavery Index 2023**

Note: The Global Slavery Index 2023 provides national estimates of modern slavery for 160 countries. Produced by: ILO, Walk Free, and the International Organisation for Migration. Walk Free has reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million. Countries with the highest prevalence: North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany

12. **Mercer's Cost of Living survey 2023**

Note: According to the Mercer's Cost of Living survey 2023, Mumbai has ranked the most expensive city in India for expatriates. After Mumbai, cities like New Delhi and Bengaluru fall on the second and third place in the most expensive list for expats list in India. In global ranking, Mumbai has been positioned at 147, New Delhi (169), Chennai (184), Bengaluru (189), and Pune (213). Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich are the most expensive cities for international employees this year.

13. **India's e-Conomy To Reach \$1 Trillion By 2030: Report**

Note: According to a report titled 'The e-Conomy of a Billion Connected Indians' published by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company, India's internet economy is expected to grow sixfold to \$1 trillion by 2030 from \$175 billion in 2022. The contribution of the Internet economy to India's technology sector would expand, from 48% to 62% in 2030. While its share in India's GDP will increase from 4-5% to nearly 12-13%. The report emphasizes that the growth will be spearheaded by the B2C e-commerce segment, followed by B2B, and SaaS providers.

14. **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023**

Note: According to the 'Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023', Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore has emerged as India's

highest-placed university. The university is ranked at 52nd rank globally out of 1,591 universities. Topped by: Western Sydney University followed by the University of Manchester (UK), Queen's University (Canada), Universiti Sains Malaysia, and the University of Tasmania. Amrita Vishwa stood out for its efforts toward meeting the UNSDGs.

15. The State of India's Environment 2023

Note: A non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released its annual compendium, titled 'State of India's Environment 2023'. It is based on four parameters i.e. environment, agriculture, public health, and infrastructure. Telangana was ranked at the top in terms of overall environmental performance and in terms of increasing forest cover. In agriculture, Madhya Pradesh takes the top slot and Delhi leads in public health. Gujarat leads the rankings in public infrastructure.

16. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2023

Note: MoS for Education and External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2023 on June 5, 2023. IIT Madras has emerged as the top college under the overall category for the fifth consecutive year and the best engineering institute for the eighth consecutive year.

- Research category: IISc Bengaluru has earned the top spot
- Dental Category: Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai
- Agriculture and Allied Sectors: Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
- Medical category: AIIMS Delhi

- College Ranking: Miranda House, DU retains best college tag
- Law Ranking: NLU Bengaluru
- University ranking: IISc, Bengaluru
- Innovation Ranking: IIT Kanpur taking the lead, followed by IIT Madras and IIT Hyderabad.
- Five Parameters: Teaching, Learning & Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcome, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception

17. GCC 4.0 - India Redefining the Globalization Blueprint

Note: According to the report titled "GCC 4.0 - India Redefining the Globalization Blueprint", released by NASSCOM - Zinnov, India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem will expand with over 1,900 GCCs and a market size of \$60 billion by 2025. As of FY23, India is home to 1,580 unique GCCs, with several global MNCs opting to establish their first global center outside their headquarters in India. The GCC market size in FY 23 was \$46 billion (up from \$36 billion in FY21).

18. Electoral Democracy Index 2023

Note: India has been ranked at 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index 2023. Denmark has been ranked first in the Electoral Democracy Index 2023, followed by Switzerland and Sweden. According to V-Dem data, 72% of the world's population (5.7 billion people) now live in electoral or closed autocracies, which is an increase from 46% ten years ago. In all these indexes, 0 is the lowest value and 1 the highest and values of these indexes have been declining since 2014 in India.

May 2023

1. Global real estate transparency index (GRETI) 2022

Note: India is ranked at 36th spot out of 94 countries, in JLL's 2022 Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI). India was ranked 34th in the 11th edition of the Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2020. GRETI is a valuable resource for organizations doing business in foreign markets and an exclusive benchmark for real estate market transparency.

2. Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Initiatives

Note: The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas monitoring

initiative to support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increase. Aim: To fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated, operational framework. The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof. The decision received unanimous support from WMO's 193 Members. It is envisaged that the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will consist of four main components:

1. A comprehensive sustained, global set of surface-based and satellite-based observations of CO₂, CH₄

and N₂O concentrations, total column amounts, partial column amounts, vertical profiles, and fluxes and of supporting meteorological, oceanic, and terrestrial variables, internationally exchanged as rapidly as possible, pending capabilities and agreements with the system operators;

2. Prior estimates of the GHG emissions based on activity data and process-based models;

3. A set of global high-resolution Earth System models representing GHG cycles;

4. Associated with the models, data assimilation systems that optimally combine the observations with model calculations to generate products of higher accuracy.

3. Top 50 innovative companies 2023 list

Note: Tata Group is the only Indian company to feature in the Top 50 innovative companies 2023 list, released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). Tata Group ranked 20 among the Top 50 innovative companies. Top 10: Apple, Tesla, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft, Moderna, Samsung, Huawei, BYD, and Siemens. BCG's list parameters: Superior performance, higher resilience to shocks and disruptions, and the ability to exploit innovation faster for value-creating growth, among other things

4. World Bank's annual "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing Report

Note: According to the World Bank's annual "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing" report, revenues from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) have reached a record high, about \$95 billion. This is despite the challenging context for governments facing high inflation, fiscal pressures, and energy crises. As per the report, the prices are still too low to drive the changes needed to meet Paris climate accord target. Several countries are using a price on carbon emissions to help meet their climate goals in the form of a tax, Emissions Trading System (ETS), or cap-and-trade system. There are currently 73 global carbon pricing instruments in operation covering around 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions. As of April 1, 2023 less than 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions are covered by a direct carbon price at or above the range recommended by 2030.

5. Financial Times Ranking 2023

Note: According to the Financial Times Ranking 2023, IIM Kozhikode has been placed among the top 4 schools in India and among the top 75 schools

worldwide for its Open Enrolment Executive Education Programme. IIM Kozhikode has been ranked 72 among the top 75 providers of open-enrolment executive programs globally. While IIM Ahmedabad ranked 45, IIM Bangalore at 47, and Indian School of Business at 65. The ranking was topped by Iese Business School, Spain, followed by HEC Paris.

6. World Economic Forum's latest Future of Jobs report

Note: According to the World Economic Forum's latest Future of Jobs report, the Indian job market is estimated to witness 22% churn over the next five years, with top emerging roles coming from AI, machine learning, and data segments. Globally, the job market churn is estimated at 23%, with 69 million new jobs expected to be created and 83 million eliminated by 2027. Almost a quarter of jobs (23%) are expected to change in the next five years through a growth of 10.2% and a decline of 12.3%

7. 2023 World Press Freedom Index

Note: According to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders, India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries. In 2022, India was ranked at 150. Norway is ranked first for the seventh consecutive year, followed by Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland. Last three: North Korea (180th), China (179th), and Vietnam (178th). This report is based on five indicators - Political, Economic, Legal Framework, Sociocultural, and Safety

8. Global Fintech 2023: Reimagining the Future of Finance

Note: According to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and QED Investors, Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is set to overtake the United States as the world's largest financial technology (fintech) market by 2030. Report title: Global Fintech 2023: Reimagining the Future of Finance. It has been predicted that APAC will have a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27%, surpassing North America's CAGR of 17%. The growth will be driven by emerging APAC countries such as China, India, and Indonesia.

9. The World's 10 Highest-Paid Athletes 2023

Note: According to Forbes, Soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) has become the highest-paid athlete in the world for 2023, after moving to Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr. He has signed a £175 million-a-

year contract with Al-Nassr, which will expire in 2025. He has earned \$136m (£108.7m) over the past 12 months. Lionel Messi (Argentina) ranked second with earnings of \$130 million, followed by Kylian Mbappé (\$120 million), LeBron James (\$119.5 million), and Canelo Álvarez (\$110 million).

10. The Wealth Report 2023

Note: According to a new report, 'The Wealth Report 2023' released by Knight Frank India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) with a net

worth of over \$30 million will rise by over half (58.4%) in the next five years. From the last count in 2022, the number is likely to grow to 19,119 individuals in the next five years in 2027. In that year, the billionaire population is also expected to reach 195 from the current 161 individuals in 2022. The high-net-worth-individual (HNI) population, with an asset value of \$1 million and more will also rise to 16.5 lakh.

April 2023

1. Delhi airport now 9th busiest in world

Note: According to the data shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has secured the ninth position in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022. As per the data, this airport is handling 59.5 million passengers annually. IGI Airport has improved its ranking from 2021 (13th). Top: Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (93.6 million passengers)

2. TIME100 list

Note: Actor Shah Rukh Khan has secured the top position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list. For the second spot, the readers picked the Iranian women protesting for more freedom in the country's Islamic regime. The healthcare workers of the US made it to third place. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle took the fourth spot, with each of them getting 1.9% of the votes. Lionel Messi secured the fifth spot.

3. Mumbai among 19 cities with the best public transport in the world

Note: According to a survey, published by London-based 'Time Out' - a media outlet, Berlin (Germany) was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally. It is followed by Prague (Czech Republic), Tokyo (Japan), and Copenhagen (Denmark). While India's city Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city. Mumbai's Suburban Railways form the backbone of public transport for a population of 12.5 million.

4. India to chair Commonwealth group on reform of financial architecture

Note: Finance ministers from various Commonwealth countries have agreed for India to be the chair of the Finance Ministers Working Group for a Commonwealth Call for Reform of the Global

Financial Architecture. While Nigeria has been elected as the deputy chair of the Finance Ministers Working Group. Their collective call for reform came at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers High-Level Working Group Meeting in Washington DC. Commonwealth Secretary-General: Patricia Scotland KC

5. Banking on Climate Chaos Report

Note: According to the annual Banking on Climate Chaos report, the world's 60 largest banks have spent \$5.5 trillion (Rs 4,49,36,265 crore) on financing fossil fuel projects since 2016. This report was jointly released by Rainforest Action Network, BankTrack, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club and Urgewald. JPMorgan Chase & Co has spent \$434.15 billion, followed by Citibank NA, Wells Fargo & Company, Bank of America Corporation, and Royal Bank of Canada. Canada and Japan were the top financiers for fossil fuels from 2020-2022. G7 countries provided \$73 billion in public finance for fossil fuels from 2020-2022.

6. World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023

Note: According to the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2023, published by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth, New York City has emerged as the wealthiest city in the world, with 340,000 resident millionaires. Tokyo with 290,300 resident millionaires, ranked second, followed by The Bay Area, London, and Singapore. While the US has topped the list in the number of wealthy cities, with 10 out of the top 50 cities in the world, followed by China, and Australia.

7. India surpasses China to become world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people: UN data

Note: According to the UN data, India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation with 142.86 crore people. China has a population of 142.57 crore. In 2016, China ended its strict "one-child policy", imposed in the 1980s amid overpopulation fears, and started letting couples have three children in 2021. According to the UN data, the global population will have hit 8.045 billion by mid-2023. Factors Influencing population growth: Fertility rate, Increasing longevity, International migration.

8. UNICEF Flagship Report highlights new data on India's gains in vaccines confidence amidst large scale decline of confidence in childhood vaccines following COVID-19 pandemic

Note: According to a report published by UNICEF, India is among the three countries out of 55 studied for popular perception of the importance of vaccines for children that have shown improvement. The other two countries are China and Mexico. The data was collected by The Vaccine Confidence Project (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). Countries shown low confidence, including the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Senegal and Japan after the start of the pandemic.

9. Prodigy Finance's Study Abroad Insights Report 2022

Note: According to Prodigy Finance's Study Abroad Insights Report 2022, its services have received significant growth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions in India, where they saw an uptick of 162%. * Cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, and Chennai have the highest number of loan applications in 2022 versus 2021. In Tier 1 cities, Delhi saw a massive increase of 237% followed by Hyderabad. Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities witnessed a growth of average 53% and 109% respectively in the number of applications.

10. World Military Expenditure 2022

Note: A report on Trends in World Military Expenditure 2022, published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, stated that total global military expenditure increased by 3.7% in real terms in 2022, to reach a new high of \$2240 billion. The three largest spenders in 2022—the United States, China, and Russia have accounted for 56% of the total world. The United States remains by far the world's biggest military spender. India's military spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world.

Banking & Financial Awareness

August, July, June, May, April 2023

1. **Fino Payments Bank** has renewed its association with **Rajasthan Royals (RR)** for Season 16 of the Indian premier cricket competition, IPL.

Note: Fino Bank will be RR's official **digital banking partner**. The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the digital payments partner. The newly launched **FinoPay digital savings account** is expected to get more traction through this engagement.

2. The **interest rate of the National Savings Certificate** will now **attract 7.7%** up from 7%.

Note: The rate for **Sukanya Samriddhi** has increased to 8% from 7.6%. The interest rates **for PPF** and **savings deposits** have been retained at 7.1% and 4%. **Senior citizen savings** scheme: 8.2%. **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**: 7.5%. KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier.

3. India's **GST revenue collection for March 2023** stood at **1.6 lakh crore rupees**, which is 13% higher than the GST revenues in March 2022.

Note: It is for the **fourth time**, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has **crossed 1.5 lakh crore** rupees, since the implementation of GST. Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees. The gross revenues in 2022-23 were 22% higher than in 2021-22.

4. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** in collaboration with **Airtel** has launched **WhatsApp Banking Services** for IPPB customers in New Delhi.

Note: This channel will enable IPPB customers to seamlessly connect with the bank on WhatsApp and effortlessly avail of a host of banking services. It includes doorstep service requests, locating the nearest Post Office, and much more. Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers.

5. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved a **15.6 billion US dollar support package for Ukraine** to assist with the conflict-hit country's economic recovery.

Note: The loan is part of a broader 115 billion US dollar international support package to help the country meet urgent funding needs. Of the total amount, 2.7 billion dollars is being made available to Ukraine immediately and the rest of the funds are due to be released over the next four years.

6. According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **current account deficit (CAD)** has **narrowed to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP)** in the **October to December quarter (Q3FY23)** from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September 2022.

Note: Reason: The decline was mainly due to the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit. Services exports reported a growth of 24.5% on a y-o-y basis.

CAD: It is the **difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange**.

7. **Union Bank of India** has become the **first Indian bank** to open its '**Special Rupee Vostro**' account through its corresponding bank in **Malaysia** i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia for trade settlement in rupee.

Note: The trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the Indian rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. In July 2022, RBI decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee. **Malaysia currency: Ringgit**

8. According to the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the government's **fiscal deficit for April 2022-February 2023** has **widened to Rs 14.54 lakh crore**, i.e. **accounted for 82.8%** of the full-year target for 2022-23.

Note: In 2021-22, the Fiscal deficit in the first 11 months was 82.7% of that year's target. The Centre made an upward revision in its **fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 in the 2023 Budget to Rs 17.55 lakh crore** from Rs 16.61 lakh crore.

9. **IRDAI** has identified Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), New India Assurance, and General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) as **domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for 2022-23**.

Note: These were the **same institutions identified as DSII in 2021-22**. D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

10. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, **India's foreign exchange reserves increased** by \$5.98 billion to **\$578.78 billion on March 24, 2023**.

Note: Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023. **India's foreign currency assets (FCA)** also increased from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion. **India's gold reserves rose** by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.

11. The **Public sector banks (PSBs)** have **transferred unclaimed deposits of ₹35,012 crore** as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: These deposits have **not been operated for 10 years or more**. **SBI tops the list** with an unclaimed amount of ₹8,086 crore, while PNB has ₹5,340 crore and Canara Bank has ₹4,558 crore. These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI. MoS for Finance Bhagwat Karad shared this information in Lok Sabha.

12. **Axis Bank and VISA** jointly launched a mobile application, '**Digital Dukaan**' to **empower merchants** to accept payments through various digital modes.

Note: It is designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management, and billing. This Android Smart POS application has an in-built camera with an LED flashlight to enable scanning of product barcodes and allow a **tap-and-pay option for transactions up to Rs 5,000**.

13. **World Bank** has predicted India's economy to slow in the **current fiscal (2023-24) to 6.3%** on the back of shrinkage in consumption due to slower income growth.

Note: The report estimates India's **inflation to moderate from 6.6% to 5.5%** in the current fiscal. The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is expected to be 5.2% in FY24. The Economic Survey had projected a growth of 6.5% for the current fiscal while RBI's latest projection pegs growth for FY24 at 6.4%.

14. **Canara Bank** has introduced a "**Premium Payroll Package**" for **Salary account holders** with competitive features.

Note: This product has been designed to meet all Banking requirements of Salaried Customers. **Features:** Free Term Life Insurance, Insta over Draft, free Personal & Air Accident Insurance coverage, Premium Cards etc. All employees of a firm/company with a minimum of 5 employees. Age: 18-65 years. Salary Band: Rs. 50,000-Rs.1,00,000

15. According to the latest edition of ADB's flagship economic publication, **Asian Development Outlook (ADO)** April 2023, **India's GDP** would grow to moderate to **6.4% in FY24 (2023-24)**.

Note: Reason: Risks arising from global and domestic factors. ADB has also highlighted that India's GDP will rise in FY25 to 6.7%. While inflation will likely moderate to 5% in 2023-24, assuming moderation in oil and food prices. Inflation will be at 4.5% in FY25.

16. The government has **removed the windfall tax on crude oil** production to nil from 3,500 rupees (\$42.56) per tonne and on diesel has been slashed to Rs 0.5 per litre from Re 1 per litre, effective from April 4, 2023.

Note: Windfall tax: It is **levied by governments** when an **industry unexpectedly earns large profits**. The tax was levied in July 2022 as high energy prices led to

soaring profits for oil producers. The decision comes at a time when OPEC+ decided to cut production.

17. **PhonePe** has launched a new consumer-facing application named **Pincode**, which will be a part of **India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework**.

Note: Aim: To strengthen its e-commerce forays. **Pincode is a buyer app** that focuses on hyperlocal commerce and is available for download on both Google Play and the App Store. It will launch in six major categories including grocery, food, pharma, electronics, home decor, and fashion.

18. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the **repo rate unchanged at 6.50%**.

Note: The **GDP is expected to jump 6.5%** in the current financial year. **Retail inflation** is expected to moderate to 5.2% in FY2023-24. The **standing deposit facility (SDF)** would remain unchanged at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and the bank rate at 6.75%. In Q1FY24, **CPI-based inflation** is expected to be 5.1%. The **real GDP growth** in 2022-23 was 7%.

19. According to the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, released by the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, the **global merchandise trade volume is expected to grow by 1.7% in 2023** as compared to an earlier estimate of 1% in October 2022.

Note: It would be **lower than 2.7% growth in 2022**. The expectation would be 'subpar' due to multiple factors, including Russia-Ukraine conflict, high inflation, tighter monetary policy, and financial uncertainty. **WTO DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

20. According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, the **Bank credit rose by 15% year-on-year (YoY)** in **2022-23 (FY23)**, against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (FY22).

Note: **FY23 credit growth is the highest** since 2011-12, when it was 19.3%. **Bank deposits expanded 9.58% YoY** in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth seen in the previous financial year (FY22). The outstanding credit stood at Rs 136.75 trillion at the end of the last fortnight of FY23 (March 24, 2023).

21. The **PM MUDRA Yojana** has completed **8 years** of its inception on **April 8, 2023**.

Note: As per the government data, around Rs 23.2 lakh crore has been sanctioned in 40.82 crore loan accounts under this scheme since its inception. About 68% of accounts under the scheme belong to Women entrepreneurs. 51% of accounts belong to entrepreneurs of SC/ST and OBC categories. **MUDRA Yojana: Launched: 2015**; Aim: To facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit of up to Rs 10 lakh

22. **World Bank** Group President David Malpass has informed that the lender has revised its **2023 global growth outlook slightly upward to 2%** from a January 2023 forecast of 1.7%.

Note: But the slowdown from stronger 2022 growth will increase debt distress for developing countries.

Reason: The upward revision was due to an **improved outlook for China's recovery** from Covid-19 lockdowns, with growth now pegged at 5.1% this year compared to 4.3%.

23. The Income Tax Department has notified the **Cost Inflation Index (CII)** for the current fiscal beginning April 2023, for **calculating long-term capital gains** arising from the sale of immovable property, securities, and jewelry.

Note: CII is **used by taxpayers to compute gains** arising out of the sale of capital assets after adjusting for inflation. The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2023-24 relevant to AY 2024-25 stood at 348. It is notified under the Income-tax Act, 1961 every year

24. The government official has informed that the union government may set up the **16th finance commission** this FY 2023-24.

Note: Aim: To suggest the ratio in which **tax is to be divided between the Centre and states for five years, beginning April 1, 2026**. Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations. The 15th Commission, under NK Singh, had kept the tax devolution ratio at 42%.

25. **SBI** is planning to launch new variants of the current a/c (with balances of ₹50,000 and ₹50 lakh) and the **"Parivar" (family) savings a/c in FY24**.

Note: Aim: To minimize the gap between deposit growth and credit growth. Domestic deposits of SBI grew 8.86% year-on-year (y-o-y) by the end of 2022. While domestic advances were up 16.9% y-o-y. SBI also expects that its domestic deposits and domestic advances will grow about 12% and 16% y-o-y, respectively, in FY24.

26. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the framework for **acceptance of Green Deposits** of regulated entities (RE).

Note: Aim: To foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country. The framework will come into effect from June 1, 2023. It is applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks including SFB **excluding RRBs, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks**. It also **includes all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, including Housing Finance Companies.

27. The **ICICI Bank** has introduced an **EMI facility for UPI payments** made by scanning a QR code.

Note: Those customers are eligible for the **PayLater facility** can avail of the EMI facility using the Bank's 'buy now, pay later' option. Customers can pay amounts above Rs 10,000 in easy installments for 3, 6, and 9 months. The ICICI Bank's PayLater facility was introduced in 2018 to enable customers to buy small ticket items in a completely paperless manner.

28. **JICA (Japanese lender) and Citibank** will provide a **USD 125 million funding line** to India's **IndusInd Bank**.

Note: Reason: For co-finance funding for on-lending to the agricultural sector in the country. The funding

includes a **JPY 13 billion (approx USD 97.45 million) loan** from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and another **USD 30 million from Citi** to IndusInd Bank. In the past, Citi has committed USD 1 trillion to sustainable finance by 2030.

29. The annual World Economic Outlook of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has **lowered India's economic growth projection** for the current fiscal (2023-24) to **5.9%** from 6.1% earlier.

Note: Yet India will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world. It has also lowered the forecast for 2024-25 to 6.3% from the 6.8% it had predicted in January 2023. IMF growth forecast is lower than projections by the RBI, which predicted a 6.4% in the current fiscal.

30. **NSE Indices Ltd**, an arm of the National Stock Exchange, has launched the country's first-ever Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts index -**Nifty REITs and InvITs Index**.

Note: Aim: To track the performance of REITs and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE. A **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** or an **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** is an investment vehicle that owns revenue-generating real estate or infrastructure assets.

31. The **RBI** has proposed to **prohibit the capitalization of penal charges** and additional interest levied by banks on customers for **loan defaults**.

Note: Aim: To streamline divergent practices followed by lenders. As per the **draft circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'**, the quantum of penal charges should be proportional to the defaults/non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan contracts up to a threshold.

32. **HDFC Bank** has signed a "**Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement**" with the **Export-Import Bank of Korea** for a **USD 300 million line of credit**.

Note: The pact was signed by the two entities at **GIFT City in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. It will help bank to raise foreign currency funds which it would extend to Korea-related businesses. It can be utilized towards funding requirements of consumers for the purchase of cars manufactured by Korean companies.

33. RBI has authorized the Karnataka Bank to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

Note: The RBI authorized on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Customers are enjoying seamless online payments for custom duty by selecting Karnataka Bank in the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway 'ICEGATE' portal of CBIC.

34. **Canara Bank and NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)** have launched cross-border inward bill payment services for Indians based in **Oman**.

Note: NRIs can now leverage the robust platform offered by the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to make bill payments on behalf of their families **through the Musandam Exchange**. With this, Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to offer inbound cross-border bill payments through BBPS.

35. **YES Bank** has become the **first Indian company** to have over **50 lakh shareholders**.

Note: The bank had 50.6 lakh shareholders as of March 31, 2023, all of whom were public shareholders. While **Tata Power was a far second** with 38.5 lakh shareholders, followed by Reliance Industries with 33.6 lakh shareholders, according to the December 2022 shareholding disclosures. Since then, the total number of shares held has also more than doubled from 1,255 crores to 2,875 crores.

36. Agri-tech company **Fasal** signed a partnership **agreement with the State Bank of India (SBI)** to provide farmers with **easy access to capital**.

Note: The partnership will help to **solve the cash-flow constraints** during key cycles in farming by providing quick, easy, and collateral-free loans at very competitive rates. These ties will help to fulfill Fasal's larger objective of solving the many challenges across the entire horticulture value chain.

37. According to the **United Nations, India's economic growth** is projected to **decelerate to 6% in 2023** from 6.6% in 2022.

Note: The UNCTAD in its latest **Trade and Development Report** Update released, expects global growth in 2023 to drop to 2.1%, compared to the 2.2% projected in September 2022. UNCTAD expects the South-Asian region to expand at a still fast pace of 5.1 percent in 2023. Recently, IMF lowered India's economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 5.9%.

38. According to the annual Banking on Climate Chaos report, the world's 60 largest banks have spent **\$5.5 trillion (Rs 4,49,36,265 crore)** amount on financing fossil fuel projects since 2016.

Note: Released by: Rainforest Action Network, BankTrack, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club and Urgewald. JPMorgan Chase & Co has spent \$434.15 billion, followed by Citibank NA, Wells Fargo & Company, and Bank of America Corporation

39. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has collaborated with **State Bank of India** bank for the National Common Mobility Card or Singara Chennai Card as part of the multimodal and ticket integration plan.

Note: It can be used on metro trains and on MTC buses and suburban trains later, and can also be used in other metros. The option to link the card to an SBI bank account will be available soon. It can be preloaded with cash from 100 to 2,000 with a 1.8% commission charged by SBI.

- 40. SIDBI** has launched a pilot scheme for better financing terms in the electric vehicle space and strengthening the whole ecosystem.
Note: The pilot phase of 'Mission 50K-EV4ECO' aims to strengthen the EV ecosystem, including uptake for two, three, and four-wheelers through direct and indirect lending. Direct lending: SIDBI will directly give loans to eligible MSMEs. Indirect lending: Targeted at NBFCs, including small unrated focused, and emerging NBFCs.
- 41. State Bank of India (SBI)** has reintroduced a retail term deposit 'AMRIT KALASH', a special scheme of 400 days tenor.
Note: Earlier, the bank had launched this retail term deposit scheme with a specific duration and it was valid from February 15, 2023, to March 31, 2023. The Rate of Interest on this term deposit is 7.10 % w.e.f. April 12th, 2023. While Senior Citizens are eligible for a rate of interest of 7.60%. The Scheme will be valid till 30-June-2023.
- 42. Gazprombank** of Russia has expanded its ties with banks in India to expedite trade between the two countries in national currencies, as Russia this year has become the biggest supplier of oil to India.
Note: It is the third-largest lender of Russia by assets and a key conduit of the Russian energy trade. In 2022, India implemented a broader framework to facilitate overseas trade in rupees, and since then many Russian institutions have opened vostro accounts with Indian banks.
- 43.** According to a report by a French payment and transactional services firm, Indian city **Bengaluru** has topped the list of Indian cities in terms of the highest digital transactions in the year 2022.
Note: The city recorded 29 million transactions worth ₹6500 crore in 2022. Delhi ranked second followed by Mumbai, Pune, and Chennai. Report title: India Digital Payments Annual Report. Payment modes like UPI, Debit and Credit cards processed 87.92 billion transactions.
- 44.** The CBIC (**Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs**) is likely to introduce a system of publishing daily currency exchange rates on the integrated customs portal.
Note: It would replace the existing system of notifying rates fortnightly. Aim: To capture daily exchange rate fluctuations and help importers and exporters to precisely calculate customs duties based on daily exchange rate. Currently, CBIC manually notifies exchange rates of 22 currencies every fortnight based on rates obtained from SBI.
- 45.** ADB will provide a loan of USD 230 million to **Bangladesh** to help the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the northeastern part of the country affected by devastating floods in May-June 2022.
Note: The agreement between ADB and the government of Bangladesh was signed in Dhaka. The assistance under the Flood Reconstruction Emergency Assistance Project will help in the reconstruction, improvement of resilience, and economic recovery.
- 46. AU Small Finance Bank** has become the country's first commercial bank to connect with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and deliver bill payment services via video banking.
Note: Aim: To increase digital accessibility and economic capabilities, which will lead to greater financial inclusion. Customers can use this platform to pay their bills without having to go to a branch, which is especially useful for senior persons and others with mobility challenges.
- 47.** RBI has approved the AU Small Finance Bank and **Equitas Bank** to deal in foreign exchange.
Note: AU SFB informed that RBI has granted the Licence to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange. The permission is subject to compliance with applicable regulations. Equitas Small Finance Bank has also received Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License from RBI. AU Small Finance Bank CEO: Sanjay Agarwal
- 48. South Indian Bank** has introduced SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE, two flexible saving accounts, for NRI customers.
Note: SEAFARER: Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts. No minimum balance is required for the maintenance of the NRI Term Deposit of Rs.2 lakh and above. PULSE: Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts. NR Term Deposit above Rs.2 Lakh or RD with minimum monthly installment above Rs.20,000/-
- 49. Federal Bank** has signed with an agri fintech start-up, KiVi as Banking Correspondent.
Note: Aim: To scale and expand its agri-lending portfolio in Tamil Nadu. Federal Bank launched the instant KCC platform in September 2022 and claimed to be the first of its kind in agriculture lending, it offers farmers convenience and turnaround time. Aim: At providing small loans to small and marginal farmers, and to facilitate efficient credit flow to underserved rural populations
- 50. Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd.** provider has introduced three add-on covers for its vehicle insurance policies - Smart Save, Roadside assistance, and Return-to-invoice.
Note: Smart Save: This is for private cars, comes at a zero cost and will help the customer to get an upfront discount in OD insurance premium, for repairing their vehicles at Royal Sundaram's identified repair shops. Roadside Assistance: It is for two-wheeler policies and will cover 11 emergency services.
- 51. HDFC Bank** has received a three years to comply with the priority sector lending norms (PSL).
Note: No relaxation is allowed for abiding by the cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) rules. As per the RBI norms, commercial banks need to

extend 40% of the adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) of the previous year towards the priority sector.

- 52. Mastercard** has joined hands with M1xchange to offer a digital invoice discounting solution to farmers, farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and agri-MSMEs through Farm Pass.

Note: This platform will enable easy access to credit and working capital. This solution will also allow farmers and FPOs to directly connect with buyers, negotiate the best price for their produce, and get paid faster. Farm Pass is part of Mastercard's broader Community Pass platform.

- 53.** According to the Morgan Stanley report, India's GDP in FY24 -- **6.2 percent**.

Note: Inflation in India is likely to be below 5% in the second quarter of the calendar year 2024. The headline consumer price index (CPI) for March was in line with expectations. Morgan noted that the key to sustained domestic demand is a pickup in capex, which will help create more jobs, thus leading to a virtuous cycle of more jobs-to-higher income-higher savings-higher investment.

- 54. IndusInd Bank** is planning to launch its own digital bank 'Indie'.

Note: The necessary approvals for all these expansion plans and other logistics by the bank are likely to be completed in 2 years. The bank is also planning to enter the mutual funds, insurance, and broking sector. It is likely to apply for the license in a few days. The Hinduja-promoted bank is likely to approach SEBI, IRDAI, and other regulators to obtain the necessary licences. IndusInd Bank HQ: Mumbai

- 55. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed penalties totaling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks.

Note: Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank: Penalty of Rs 13 lakh as it failed to transfer the eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF). Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank: Penalty of 16 lakhs as it failed to transfer eligible amounts to DEAF. Baran Nagrik Sahkari Bank: A penalty of 2 lakhs has been imposed for contravention of certain norms.

- 56.** Which bank and HDFC Bank would acquire up to a 9.94 percent stake in Go Digit-Life Insurance.

Note: HDFC Bank informed that it has executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches. The bank has made the first tranche of payment of ₹10.93 crore for towards the acquisition. Axis Bank has also executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit-Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.

- 57. Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** will launch a gold-pegged digital currency and legalize them in the country.

Note: It is believed that the government took this step for stabilizing the local currency after its continuous devaluation in comparison to the U.S. dollar. This initiative taken by Zimbabwe will allow the exchange of Zimbabwean dollars with digital gold tokens and secure

Zimbabweans against currency volatility. Zimbabwe Capital: Harare; President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

- 58.** Neobanking platform **Jupiter** has received a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India to enter into the lending business.

Note: The startup, Jupiter will be offering the loan under Amica Financial Technologies. Jitendra Gupta (founder of Jupiter) has informed that there will be an equity infusion of Rs 100 crore from Jupiter to develop the NBFC product. The startup will be looking to raise a loan from banks for an additional Rs 100 crore.

- 59.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of **Kerala-based Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank** with effect from the close of business on April 24, 2023.

Note: RBI has allowed Adoor Co-operative Urban Bank to function as a non-banking institution. RBI has also stopped to conduct the banking business, including acceptance of deposits from non-members with immediate effect. The bank shall ensure to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of on-members held by it.

- 60. State Bank of India (SBI)** has opened an exclusive branch for startups at the Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.

Note: This is the fourth startup-focused branch, after Bengaluru, Chennai, and Gurugram. In Mumbai, the bank has entered into multiple MoU with the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at IIT-Bombay, Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration, and S.P Jain Institute of Management & Research. Aim of MoU: To boost the startup ecosystem in the region

- 61. Reliance General Insurance** has become India's first general insurance company to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee for premium payments.

Note: Aim: To provide customers with an easy, safe, instant, and green payment solution. The company has partnered with Yes Bank to enable premium collection. Customers with an active e-wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's e-Rupee QR code to make immediate payments.

- 62. Bank of India** has launched the "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens.

Note: With this scheme, seniors, including super senior citizens can take benefit of an additional interest rate of 0.50% for senior citizens and 0.65% for super senior citizens. It provides super senior citizens seniors with 501-day fixed deposits at a high-interest rate of 7.80%. Other senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 80 can invest at a rate of 7.65%.

- 63.** FMCG giant **ITC** has overtaken the market capitalization of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges.

Note: ITC's market cap currently stands at ₹5.11 trillion (at the time of writing this report). This achievement comes after the share price of ITC rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023. Meanwhile, Infosys

shares have fallen by 20% in 2023. Top 5: Reliance, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL

- 64. HDFC Bank** has introduced a Digital Distribution Platform, 'Smart Saathi' for its agents and business correspondents to sell services, especially in rural areas.

Note: HDFC Bank Smart Saathi provides a secure and user-friendly experience to its users. The newly launched feature will use advanced technology solutions to connect Business Correspondents/Business Facilitators to the bank. Aim: To boost financial inclusion by taking banking products and services to the last mile.

- 65. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) of Rs 1.87 lakh crore** was collected in April 2023.

Note: It is the **highest monthly mop-up** since the inception of the indirect tax regime in July 2017. The government has collected CGST of Rs 38,440 crore, SGST of Rs 47,412 crore, and IGST of Rs 89,158 crore (including Rs 34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 12,025 crore. The highest GST collection was recorded in April 2022 at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

- 66. Home Ministry** has canceled the **Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA) license** of the **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**.

Note: About FCRA: Enacted in: 1976; Validity: 5 years; It requires every person/NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be: Registered under the Act, To open a bank account for the receipt of foreign funds in SBI, Delhi, To utilize those funds only for the purpose they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.

- 67. India and Russia** have agreed to explore the possibility of **accepting each other's payment cards, RuPay (India) and Mir**.

Note: Reason: For hassle-free payments between the two countries, This decision was made during the meeting of the Internal Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). This meeting was chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar and Russia's Deputy PM Denis Manturov.

- 68. The World Bank** will **provide financial aid of 2.25 billion dollars** to **Bangladesh** for five infrastructure and development projects.

Note: Accelerating transport and trade connectivity in Eastern South Asia worth \$753.45 million. USD 500 million for Resilient **Infrastructure Building Project**: USD 500 million First Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development; USD 250 million Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation; USD 250 million Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation

- 69. Airtel Payments Bank** has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India** to roll out Face Authentication for Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS).

Note: AePS allows customers to carry out financial and non-financial transactions at any banking point using their Aadhaar number/ virtual ID to access their Aadhaar-linked bank account. This facility will enable customers to validate the transaction by undertaking face authentication along with the Aadhaar number.

- 70. According to the IMF report,** the growth of **the Asia-Pacific region** is expected to increase to **4.6%** in 2023 from 3.8% in 2022.

Note: The **two largest emerging market economies (India & China)** of the region are expected to contribute around half of global growth in 2023. 2023 will be challenging for the global economy, with global growth decelerating as the effects of monetary policy tightening and Russia's war in Ukraine continue to weigh on economic activity.

- 71. Merchant commerce platform, Pine Labs** has partnered with **ICICI Bank** for the acceptance of the **digital Rupee on its PoS terminals**.

Note: The technology integration between the two entities will now support Digital Rupee acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Pine Labs' execution of the Digital Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR (quick response) built within its smart Android PoS terminals.

- 72. Cashfree Payments** has partnered with **YES Bank** to offer '**Global Collections**', an international collection service for exporters.

Note: Under this partnership, the bank's account holders will be able to collect payments in over **30 foreign currencies** using the Global Collections service. The funds so received can then be converted into rupee and settled into their local bank account in India within one business day.

- 73. RBI** has released a **report titled, 'Currency and Finance 2022-23'** with a theme of 'Towards A Greener Cleaner India'.

Note: This report covers four **major dimensions of climate change to assess future challenges** to sustainable high growth in India. Areas: Unprecedented scale and pace of climate change; its macroeconomic effects; implications for financial stability; and policy options to mitigate climate risks. The country's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070.

- 74. Capital markets regulator SEBI** has **introduced LEI system**.

Note: LEI refers to **Legal Entity Identifier**. Reason: For issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts. It is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions. It is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity party to a financial transaction.

75. RBI and **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** have jointly launched the **fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint**, a global technology competition.
Note: Focus: On developing innovative technology solutions for cross-border payments. Shortlisted teams will be invited to develop their solutions over a six-week period and each team will be eligible for a stipend of eight lakh rupees. The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of forty lakh rupees.
76. RBI has updated instructions in the **Master Direction on KYC** related to wire transfers and aligned the same with the relevant recommendation of the **FATF**.
Note: The Banks and other financial institutions ensure cross-border as well as domestic wire transfers contain complete information about the originator and beneficiary. **Wire Transfer:** It is an electronic transfer of funds via a network administered by banks and transfer service agencies worldwide.
77. RBI has announced the interest rate of **6.97%** on the **Floating Rate Bond 2024**, for the **half year from May 7 to November 6, 2023**.
Note: Floating Rate Bonds are securities that do not have a fixed coupon rate. They have a variable coupon rate which is re-set at preannounced intervals. The FRB bonds carry a coupon with a base rate equivalent to a weighted average yield of the **last three auctions of 182-day Treasury Bills (T-Bill)** plus a fixed spread decided by way of auction
78. **Axis Bank** and **India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd** (IndiaShelter) have signed a strategic partnership under the co-lending model to offer secured MSME loans to middle and low-income borrowers in semi-urban areas.
Note: Axis Bank will bring deep financial expertise, while IndiaShelter will provide loan processing technology to assess borrowers' credit profiles. This partnership will **strengthen the mortgage segment** and help the bank augment its priority sector lending portfolio
79. **HDFC Bank** has launched its retail banking program '**Vishesh**' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies.
Note: The bank plans to add more branches and launch **tailor-made products and financial solutions** for this market segment. They will look to add 675 branches in semi-urban and rural geographies in FY24. Presently, 52% of the bank's 7,821 branches are in rural and semi-urban locations.
80. **Capital Small Finance Bank** has partnered with **Max Life Insurance Company** Limited to offer life insurance offerings to Capital SFB's customers.
Note: Capital SFB would offer its customers a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans of Max Life. Capital SFB has also partnered with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Limited and HDFC life insurance Limited to provide their life insurance products. **MD & CEO, Capital SFB: Sarvjit Singh Samra**
81. **BharatPe Group** has rebranded its multi-brand loyalty program, **Payback India to Zillion**.
Note: Aim: To target customers across age groups and add a new dimension to their overall shopping experience, across categories and brands. Zillion will offer a wide range of options for customers to earn and redeem at a wide range of partners across the country. The customers will be able to **earn 'Zillion coins' for their routine spending**. BharatPe CEO (Interim): Nalin Negi.
82. According to the **Fitch Ratings, India's GDP growth** forecast for 2023-24 would be **6%**.
Note: 6.7% in 2024-25. Reason: Headwinds from elevated inflation, interest rates, and subdued global demand. The rating firm has also reaffirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook. 'BBB' issuer default rating indicates that expectations of default risk are currently low and payment capacity to meet financial commitments is considered adequate
83. RBI has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹1.73 crore** on **HSBC** for contravention of Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.
Note: HSBC has furnished incorrect credit information regarding **several expired credit cards with nil dues** to all four credit information companies. The RBI imposed the penalty in the exercise of powers conferred under the provisions of Section 25(1) and Section 23(4) of the CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005.
84. RBI has added **34.22 metric tonnes** of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the **total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tons**.
Note: RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022. A **recent World Gold Council (WGC) report** showed that the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold in January-March 2023. The latest WGC report showed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the largest single buyer of gold (69 metric tonnes) during January-March 2023.
85. **AU Small Finance Bank** has **partnered RuPay** to launch the Business Cashback Rupay credit card to meet the financial requirements of **self-employed customers**.
Note: Aim: To provide a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. It was launched in the presence of Dilip Asbe (CEO, NPCI) and **Sanjay Agarwal (MD & CEO of AU SFB)**. It simplifies financial operations for businesses with benefits like up to 2% cashback, 48 days of interest-free credit, and instant loans.
86. **Max Life Insurance** has partnered with **the Indian Industries Association (IIA)** to provide life insurance plans to the MSME sector's workforce in Uttar Pradesh.
Note: Aim: To enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP. Max Life is the appointed lead insurer for UP, under IRDAI's State

insurance plan. It offers life insurance access to more than 11 lakh MSME workforce affiliated with IIA and their families in the State.

- 87. Rukart** has tied up with **SBI** for providing easy loans to customers for buying the cold storage system '**Subjee Cooler**'.

Note: Rukart sells 'Subjee Cooler' to enhance the shelf life of fruits and vegetables by 4-6 days. It is a cold chain storage system that requires only 20 liters of water a day. The cost of the product is Rs 50,000 each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg. It is dedicated to minimizing the carbon footprint through innovative solutions.

- 88. SEBI** has allowed stock exchanges to **extend DMA to registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** with immediate effect.

Note: DMA refers to **Direct Market Access**. **Reason:** To promote institutional participation in Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs). DMA facilitates the clients of a broker to directly access the exchange trading system through the broker's infrastructure to place orders without manual intervention by the broker.

- 89. Yes Bank** has launched **YES KIRAN** for offering financial assistance to **MSMEs manufacturers**.

Note: **Aim:** To support the adoption of sustainable energy practices by small and mid-sized enterprises. MSMEs will get various benefits such as reduced operational cost, a flexible loan tenure at competitive interest rates, and a broad range of tie-ups with leading solar panel manufacturers and installers to help MSMEs

- 90. RBI** has stated that fees and charges payable in India on **forex prepaid cards, store value cards, and travel cards** must be denominated and settled in **Local** currency.

Note: The use of such cards is limited to permissible current account transactions. It is subject to the prescribed limits **under the Foreign Exchange Management Rules**. The RBI had previously stated that no prior permission from the bank is needed for such cards.

- 91. RBI** has imposed a **penalty of ₹2.92 crore on Canara Bank** for violation of various norms.

Note: It includes **linking interest rates to external benchmarks**, and opening savings accounts of ineligible entities. A scrutiny of the bank was carried out by RBI in July 2020 based on a high-value fraud reported by another bank. After scrutiny, the RBI found that the bank failed to link interest on floating rate retail loans and loans to MSME to an external benchmark.

- 92. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will be participating in the **GFIN Greenwashing TechSprint**.

Note: GFIN refers to **Global Financial Innovation Network**. **Aim:** To address the concern over exaggerated, misleading, or unsubstantiated claims related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials. GFIN support financial innovation in the

interest of consumers. The RBI has invited Indian firms to participate in the TechSprint to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.

- 93. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched **100 Days 100 Pays** for banks.

Note: **Reason:** To trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days. **Aim:** To reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/claimants. An unclaimed deposit is one that does not see any activity for 10 years or more and is deemed inactive.

- 94. PayNearby** has launched a new meta-commerce platform called **PayNearby Mall**.

Note: This platform is designed to enable easy access to goods and services and will be **integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform**. **Aim:** To upgrade every retailer in its million+ active network and help them meet the demand of their customers. **Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby: Anand Kumar Bajaj**.

- 95. RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 5 lakh on Mizoram Rural Bank** and **2 lakh rupees on Tripura Gramin Bank** for the failure of **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms**.

Note: **Reason:** Both banks have **failed to categorize certain loan accounts as non-performing** in line with the Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms. The bank was asked to provide a justifiable reason as to why a penalty should not be imposed for its non-compliance with the directions.

- 96. RuPay** has introduced the **CVV free payment experience** for its debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders who have tokenized their cards on the merchant application or webpage.

Note: It ensures that the cardholder will not have to reach out to their wallet or remember card details if they have saved their card on the e-commerce merchant. Tokenization is a simple technology to secure card transactions without sharing real card details with the merchants.

- 97. IRDAI** has constituted a **five-member expert committee** to advise it on matters related to **mental health and insurance**.

Note: Headed by: **Pratima Murthy (Director at NIMHANS, Bangalore)**. The panel will advise on coverages offered/to be offered under insurance products, for mental illnesses. The panel will also provide expert advice/inputs on terminology, concept, and the like on matters relating to mental illnesses from the medical domain perspective.

- 98. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **SBI Funds Management (SBIFML) to acquire up to 9.99%** of the paid-up share capital or **voting rights of HDFC Bank**.

Note: SBIFML has been advised by RBI to acquire the aforesaid major shareholding in the bank **within a period of six months** i.e. by November 15, 2023.

SBIFML must ensure that the aggregate holding in HDFC Bank remains below 10% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the Bank at all times.

99. According to Morgan Stanley, **India** is expected to contribute **16%** of the **global gross domestic product (GDP)** growth over 2023-24.

Note: The Indian economy is a key contributor to Asian economic growth outperformance and the broad-based recovery in demand runs counter to the weakness seen outside Asia. In recent months, a wide variety of indicators suggest that India's recovery is strong and broad-based, and is well-placed to sustain growth rates of above 6%.

100. **HDFC AMC Ltd** has launched **India's first mutual fund** focussed on the **defence sector**.

Note: Aim: To provide investors with an opportunity to participate in the growth potential of this space. The new fund offering (NFO) of HDFC Defence Fund is an open-ended equity scheme, that opened on May 19 and close on June 2, 2023. The fund will **invest at least 80% of its net assets in defence** and allied sector companies including stocks forming part of aerospace and defence.

101. **IRDAI** has formed a task force to facilitate **ease of doing KYC and allied matters using Aadhaar**.

Note: KYC refers to **Know Your Customers**. At present, the UIDAI framework allows insurance companies to identify the customer by using his/her Aadhaar with consent management. Besides the simplicity of customer onboarding and avoiding potential fraud, there are problems with providing the services and making claims.

102. **Aditya Birla Capital** has launched an **MSME-focused portal, Udyog Plus**.

Note: Aim: To provide capital and other business solutions to small businesses, including investments and utility services. It offers online **loans up to Rs 10 lakhs** to MSMEs through various product offerings such as supply chain finance. Loans up to Rs 2 lakhs are provided without collateral or documentation. For loans above Rs 2 lakhs, MSMEs are required to submit financial statements, ITR, and GST returns.

103. As per a Finance Ministry notification, the spending in **foreign exchange through international credit cards (ICCs)** will be covered **under the RBI's LRS**.

Note: LRS refers to **Liberalized Remittance Scheme**. Under this scheme, a resident can remit money abroad up to a **maximum of USD 2.50 lakh per annum** without the authorization of the Reserve Bank. Earlier, the usage of ICCs for making payments for fulfilling expenses during travel outside India was not included in the LRS limit.

104. RBI has decided to **withdraw Rs 2000** banknotes from circulation under the **Clean Note Policy**.

Note: The policy says that 2,000-rupee notes will continue to be legal tender but will not be circulated. RBI has said members of the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes into their bank accounts or exchange

them for banknotes of other denominations. Exchange of Rs 2000 banknotes of other denominations can be **made up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time from 23rd May, 2023**.

105. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board has approved the transfer of **₹87,416 crore as surplus** to the government for FY23, surpassing the **budget estimate by 82%**.

Note: The union budget estimated an **aggregate dividend of ₹48,000 crore from the RBI** and public sector lenders. The large surplus transfer by the central bank would help the government manage its fiscal math.

106. The Ministry of Finance has notified that **no Tax Collection at Source (TCS)** will be levied on individual payments using international debit and credit cards of up to **Rs 7 lakh** in a financial year **from July 1, 2023**.

Note: Further, the Union Budget 2023 has increased TCS for foreign remittances **under the LRS from 5% to 20% (except for education and medical purposes)**. This rule will be effective from July 1, 2023.

107. **Paytm Money** has launched the most advanced **bond platform for retail investors in India**.

Note: This platform will simplify debt investing for individuals. Investors can invest in **three types of bonds - government, corporate, and tax-free** on Paytm Money. It provides all relevant information on one platform to investors. Investors can find all information related to coupon vs yield, clean price vs dirty price, coupon frequency, and coupon record dates on one dashboard.

108. **Google Pay** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** rolled out support for **RuPay credit cards on Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

Note: With this, the users can now link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay to pay at all online and offline merchants where RuPay credit cards are accepted. It is now available to RuPay credit card holders of Axis Bank, BoB, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, PNB, and Union Bank of India.

109. According to the RBI's March 2023 bulletin, the Reserve Bank of India bought **\$750 million** on a net basis in the **spot foreign exchange market in March 2023**.

Note: The RBI has **purchased \$6.91 billion and sold \$6.16 billion**. In February 2023, the central bank bought \$254 million on a net basis in the spot market. The Indian rupee appreciated by 0.6% against the dollar in March 2023. The RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at \$23.6 billion as of end-March 2023.

110. The **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)** at the IIT Kanpur joined hands with **YES Bank** by signing an MoU that seeks to provide crucial **support to the startups incubated at SIIC**.

Note: Aim: To identify innovative startups and extend them the necessary financial backing. It bolsters the startup ecosystem in India by granting these ventures access to a wide range of resources through YES Bank's specialized startup-focused program called YES Head Startup.

111. YES BANK has adopted Azure Red Hat OpenShift to transform its next-generation mobile banking applications for an efficient mobile banking experience for its customers.

Note: It will enable YES BANK to **improve customer experience** and provide innovative banking solutions. It will have the agility and flexibility to increase the demand and also support creating a seamless customer experience across multiple banking solutions.

112. Axis Bank has launched 'Sarathi' a digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.

Note: This platform provides a seamless and **hassle-free experience** for merchants. Onboarding process: **Realtime database checks** for faster application processing. Live video verification to authenticate merchant information. Eliminates the field verification process which helps in instant decision-making. Instant installation of POS

113. The Indian government has signed a loan agreement of USD 141.12 million with Asian Development Bank for the development of infrastructure in three industrial clusters situated in **Andhra Pradesh.**

Note: This financing is **the second tranche of the 500 million** multi-tranche financing facility. Aim: To promote industrialization to increase the share of manufacturing in the state's gross domestic product, build competitiveness and create jobs in the project's target areas

114. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of **loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2022-23.**

Note: BoM has also recorded the highest growth in profitability with the bottom line growing almost 126% to Rs 2,602 crore during the year. In terms of percentage increase in gross advances, BoM recorded a 29.4% rise in loans at Rs 1,75,120 crore as of March 2023. It was **followed by Indian Overseas Bank and UCO Bank.**

115. HDFC Bank has partnered with Manipal Global Academy of BFSI to launch its **Future Banker 2.0 programme.**

Note: Aim: To **groom young graduates into banking professionals** within a year. The nationwide recruitment initiative seeks to establish a talent pipeline for the bank's retail banking division. The one-year professional diploma incorporates classroom sessions, guest lectures, role plays, and practical

fieldwork. It also includes eight months of paid internship.

116. The Central govt has cleared a prompt digital reporting and communication mechanism between banks and Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) to plug defaults on loans of over **Rs 50 crore.**

Note: CEIB will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of Rs 50 crore or higher at the **pre-approval stage within 15 days of request.** The new system will require banks to submit their requests to CEIB through dedicated emails in a specific format

117. PhonePe has become the first digital payments app to successfully enable the linkage of **two lakh RuPay credit cards** to the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI).**

Note: Besides, it has also processed a total payment value (TPV) of Rs 150 crore via RuPay credit on UPI. PhonePe offers a comprehensive suite of solutions for RuPay Credit on UPI in partnership with NPCI. It has already enabled the acceptance of RuPay Credit Cards on UPI across 12 million merchant outlets.

118. Equitas Small Finance Bank has signed an agreement with International Business Machines (IBM) to design and build a digital banking platform.

Note: Aim: To provide a secure experience to customers. The collaboration will **boost the digital products** offered by Equitas as well as its service offerings, as it evolves its business for a digital-first generation. Equitas SFB aims to commence its modernization journey with a cloud-native platform architecture.

119. The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 84.50 lakh on Central Bank of India for non-compliance with norms related to **fraud classification and reporting.**

Note: The RBI had conducted a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2021. The reports revealed that **the bank had failed to report as fraud to RBI certain accounts** within seven days of the decision of the JLF to declare the accounts as fraud.

120. RBI has approved the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank, with effect from May 29, 2023.

Note: The central bank had placed **Maratha Sahakari Bank under Directions under Section 35** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, on August 31, 2016. All the branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited. Maratha Sahakari Bank has seven branches in Mumbai.

121. Indian Bank has entered into an agreement with Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd. (ICCL) as its Clearing and Settlement Bank.

Note: Indian Bank will now **facilitate banking services to members of BSE, Mumbai** for clearing and settlement operations. Clearing members can now open

settlement accounts with the bank for funds settlement under the equity derivatives segment. The proposal to extend this facility to the members of NSE is under active consideration.

122. SEBI has formed an Intermediary Advisory Committee to advise the market regulator on changes in the legal framework, is headed by S Ravindran.

Note: The committee will also advise SEBI on increasing transparency in the functioning of market intermediaries like stock exchanges, clearing corporations, etc. **Other members:** Ashish Chauhan (CEO of NSE) and Sundararaman Ramamurthy (CEO of BSE), representatives from the broking community, legal, and FI

123. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as the management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs).

Note: The NPA fell as low as 0.25% during the financial year ended March 2023. This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore and not just public sector banks (PSBs). While HDFC Bank's net NPA fell to 0.27% followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank placed third spot with 0.37% of net advances.

124. According to PwC report 'The Indian Payments Handbook - 2022-27, UPI transactions are likely to reach 1 billion per day by 2026-27, accounting for 90% of the retail digital payments.

Note: UPI is driving the digital payments revolution, accounting for about 75% of the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23. The Indian digital payments market also saw steady growth at a CAGR of 50% (volume) and is expected to reach 411 billion transactions in FY 2026-27

125. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, the Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India has declined by 22% to \$46 billion in 2022-23.

Note: Reason: Lower inflows in computer hardware and software, and the automobile industry. The FDI inflows stood at \$58.77 billion during 2021-22. **Top Investors** (April-March 2022-23): Singapore (\$17.2 billion), Mauritius, US, and UAE. State-wise, Maharashtra received the highest inflows of \$14.8 billion.

126. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched its 2023-27 country partnership strategy for India.

Note: Aim: To identify accelerating structural transformation and job creation, promoting climate-resilient growth, and deepening social and economic inclusiveness as key focus areas. ADB highlighted that India has quickly rebounded from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with economic growth projected at 6.4% in FY24. India ranks among the fastest-growing major global economies.

127. Bajaj Allianz Life has launched an exclusive term insurance plan for Type 2 diabetic and pre-diabetic individual

Note: The Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c is first of its kind protection plan in the Indian life insurance industry. The insurer offers a 10% premium reduction for individuals trying to achieve health goals and other health management services. The policy term ranges from five to 25 years and premiums can be paid monthly/annually.

128. Aegon Life provider has become the first insurance company to launch a policy that covers surrogate mothers and egg donors.

Note: Aim: To support the financial well-being of surrogate mothers and egg donors. The new cover aligns with the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, introduced by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It provides a three-year life cover for surrogate mothers and a one-year cover for egg donors

129. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub has partnered with IIT Madras Research Park and Incubation Cell to launch voice-banking solutions to eliminate language barriers.

Note: It will assist the illiterate and the visually impaired in their banking needs. Aim: To conduct the basic banking transactions through voice controls in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English, in the initial stage. SBI, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra, and IDFC First conducted a code fest on voice banking called 'Vaultor Voice'

130. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.2 crore on Indian Overseas Bank for violating various norms.

Note: The RBI said it fined the bank under the powers vested by the Banking Regulation Act 1949. The RBI imposed this monetary penalty after finding contraventions of banking regulations and non-compliance with specific RBI directions related to income recognition, asset classification, provisioning, interest rates on deposits, and ATM security

131. ICICI Bank has committed to donating Rs 1,200 crore towards Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), from its CSR funds.

Note: Aim: To set up three new buildings spanning over a combined area of 7.5 lakh square feet at TMC's centers at Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Mullanpur (Punjab), and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth (ICICI Foundation), the CSR arm of ICICI Bank, will implement the initiative, which is likely to be completed by 2027.

132. SEBI released guidelines for transactions in corporate bonds through the Request for Quote (RFQ) platform by stock brokers in order to increase liquidity on the platform, from July 1, 2023.

Note: For all the trades in a proprietary capacity, stock brokers will have to undertake at least 10% of their total secondary market trades by value in corporate

bonds in that month by placing quotes through one-to-one or one-to-many mode. In April 2024, the percentage will increase to 25%

- 133. Karbon Card** has launched a mobile-based **expense management card** for businesses and individuals wherein it offers its users **uncapped cashback of upto 1%**.

Note: Card ++ differentiates itself by providing interesting cashback offers, incentivizing people their spending. The unique feature adds value to the card, making it an option for users. Its features include the ability to make payments on various platforms such as Google, Amazon, Swiggy, and Ola.

- 134. State Bank of India** Bengaluru Circle has launched '**Project Kuber**', which will have four Transaction Banking Hubs and One Corporate Salary Package Hub.

Note: Aim: To increase the market share in liability products of SBI. **Location: SBI Administrative Building, KG Road, and Sampige Road in Malleswaram.** Transaction Banking Hubs: It will offer services to corporate/non-corporate clients, from account opening to onboarding them on SBI's digital platforms

- 135. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** has launched a **Financial Inclusion Dashboard 'ANTARDRIHSTI'**.

Note: Aim: To provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters. It will enable the ability to gauge extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country. Presently, the dashboard is intended for internal use in the RBI. It will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach.

- 136. RBI** has set up a committee for **Review of Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities**

Note: Chairman of the committee: **BP Kanungo.** The operations of accounts should not be stopped pending periodic KYC updates. The committee has also suggested measures for the benefit of pensioners. There should be a time limit for the return of property documents to borrowers after the closure of the loan account, failing which a penalty should be imposed on the lender.

- 137. Bank of Baroda** has launched **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility**, in which a customer can withdraw cash using UPI from the bank's ATM.

Note: It would be the **first public sector bank** to launch this service. BoB customers as well as customers of other participating issuer banks that use BHIM UPI, Bob World UPI, or any other UPI application enabled for ICCW on their mobile phone can withdraw cash from a Bank of Baroda ATM without using their debit card.

- 138. BSE and NSE** exchange have introduced an **enhanced surveillance mechanism (ESM) for**

companies that have a market cap of less than ₹500 crore, which came into force on June 5.

Note: SEBI and exchanges in a joint meeting have decided to **introduce the ESM framework for "micro-small" companies.** Aim: To curb volatility in small-cap counters. The parameters for shortlisting the securities under the ESM framework include high-low price variation and close-to-close price variation.

- 139. According to the World Bank's** latest report, **6.3%** would be **India's growth outlook in FY2023/24.**

Note: The bank has **also raised the 2023 global growth forecast**, highlighting that the U.S. and other major economies have proven more resilient than forecast. The global Real GDP would climb 2.1% in 2023, up from a 1.7% forecast issued in January 2023 but below 3.1% (2022 growth rate).

- 140. Wipro** has collaborated with **Microsoft** to launch the **Wipro Industry Innovation Experience for Financial Services.**

Note: It will feature a new suite of banking and financial services solutions **built on Microsoft Cloud.** Aim: To help financial services clients accelerate growth and deepen client relationships. It would bring together Microsoft Cloud capabilities with Wipro FullStride Cloud, as well as leverage Wipro's and Capco's deep domain expertise in financial services

- 141. Kotak Private Banking** unveiled a Savings Programme named '**Réserve**', **curated exclusively for UHNIs and HNIs.**

Note: This by-invite program extends beyond banking services, offering a range of exclusive amenities to provide clients with an unparalleled luxury banking experience. **Aim:** To deliver a premium banking experience by offering exclusive lifestyle benefits

- 142. YES SECURITIES** has partnered with **WatchYourHealth** to provide investment solutions to healthcare professionals through the '**Wellth- Where Investments and Health Unite**' program.

Note: Aim: To help the healthcare community start their investment journey for successful wealth creation and achieving long-term financial goals. It will also provide **free-of-cost demat and trading accounts**, monthly stock research recommendations, and tailor-made product offerings based on needs.

- 143. HDFC Bank** has introduced a new **credit card 'Millennia'**, that comes with contactless technology allowing customers to 'tap and pay' via POS machine.

Note: It **offers cashback and reward points** on Amazon, Flipkart, and other e-commerce platforms. It also offers 1% cash back on offline purchases, smart EMI, and lounge access for free. It is applicable to both self-employed and salaried persons. People earning a maximum of ₹35,000 gross salary can apply for the card.

- 144. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee** in its **second bi-monthly monetary policy FY24** has kept the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.**

Note: Aim: Focus remains on withdrawal of accommodation. The RBI also retained FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5%, while expects FY24 **CPI inflation to be at 5.1% (from 5.2%)**. Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 6.25%; Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%; Bank Rate: 6.75%; Foreign exchange reserves(as on June 2): \$595.1 billion

145. The World Bank and Bangladesh signed two financing agreements totaling **USD 858 million to enhance climate-resilient agricultural growth, and improve road safety.**

Note: The World Bank will provide USD 500 million to Bangladesh for Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, and Resilience. USD 358 million will be provided to Bangladesh for Road Safety Project, a first dedicated road safety project in South Asia supported by the World Bank

146. SIDBI has signed an MoU with **HDFC Bank** for providing financial solutions to **MSMEs.**

Note: Under the MoU, SIDBI and HDFC Bank will work together to provide complete financial product and services to the customers under MSMEs. Aim: To facilitate providing complete financial solutions to MSMEs in a seamless manner. This arrangement will enable MSMEs to avail financial products and services of both the banks.

147. Federal Bank bank has launched a campaign named '**I am Adyar, Adyar is me**'.

Note: Aim: To celebrate people and their culture by transforming an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories. The campaign has handpicked 40 compelling stories of individuals, which are showcased in an exclusive exhibition at the Adyar branch of Federal Bank. This art exhibition will run for two weeks. The campaign is a first-of-its-kind micro-marketing initiative in the banking industry.

148. According to the rating agency ICRA, bond issuances by **banks may fall below at Rs 90,000 crore** in FY24 due to **easing liquidity conditions.**

Note: Banks issued a **record Rs 1.1 trillion bonds in FY23.** Stronger foreign institutional investor (FII)/foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows, as seen recently, the derecognition of the Rs 2,000 note and an anticipated dividend by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could ease liquidity conditions in the interim.

149. According to the new rankings released by Brand Finance, **Tata Group** has retained its position as the **most valued brand in India.**

Note: With a value **growth of 10.3% in 2023** as compared to 2022. Notably, Tata Group is the only Indian brand to feature in the top 100 of the Brand Finance Global 500 2023. While Infosys retained the second spot in the rankings with a brand value of \$13 billion, followed by LIC with a value of \$9.7 billion.

150. RBI has notified **four key measures** to strengthen **1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** in the country.

Note: UCBs can now open new **branches up to 10%** of the number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation. UCBs have to get the policy approved by their board and comply with the Financially Sound and Well Managed Norms. The **deadline to achieve PSL target of 60%** also extended to March 31, 2024.

151. According to the MyGovIndia govt data, **India** has topped the **global rankings in digital payments** for the year 2022.

Note: During the year under review, there were **5 million digital transactions** in the country. India accounted for 46% of the global real-time payments in 2022, which was more than the combined digital payments the next four top countries. This shows the robustness of India's payment ecosystem as well as the country's acceptance of the digital.

152. State Bank of India (SBI) has received board approval to **raise ₹50,000 crore through debt instruments.**

Note: These debt instruments could **include long-term bonds, Long Term Bonds, Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 Bonds and Basel III compliant Tier 2 Bonds.** The resources will be raised through private placement mode to Indian and/or overseas investors during FY24, subject to the government's approval wherever required.

153. The central government and ADB signed a loan agreement worth **\$130 million to boost agricultural productivity and horticulture agribusinesses.**

Note: The deal aims to increase farmers' income and improve access to **irrigation in Himachal Pradesh.** The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts in the state: Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.

154. Axis Bank in partnership with **NGO Dhruvansh** has organised a lake cleaning drive, '**Cleanathon**', in **Hyderabad.**

Note: This initiative was recorded in the **Asia Book of Record** as it was the largest cleaning drive conducted across the country. In Hyderabad, over 100 volunteers participated in cleaning Mushki Cheruvu and Neknampur Lake to restore these water bodies. The campaign aligned with the United Nations' theme for World Environment Day 2023, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

155. Go Digit has received the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's **approval to commence life insurance operations.**

Note: In 2022, **HDFC Bank and Axis Bank announced that they will both acquire up to 9.94% stake each in Go Digit-Life Insurance** through the investment of ₹50-70 crore, possibly in tranches, subject to executive

of certain terms and agreements. Digit Insurance already has general insurance operations through Go Digit General Insurance.

156. Indian Overseas Bank has launched a Unique feature named '**My Account My Name**' for IOB SB HNI and IOB SB MAX account holders.

Note: This feature **allows customers to choose any name as their account number**. The account name can only be a numeric, alphabetic, or alphanumeric combination of seven characters. For example, a customer's account number can be 'Jackson' or '1234567' or 'Jack123.

157. RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 60.20 lakh on **Bihar State Co-operative Bank Limited, Patna** for a slew of shortcomings and violations.

Note: A statutory inspection of the Patna-based bank by Nabard after FY20 revealed that it failed to put in robust software for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions and submit statutory returns within prescribed timelines. The RBI also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Jowai Cooperative Urban Bank Limited, Meghalaya.

158. MRF became **the first Indian stock to touch the rupee one lakh** per share mark on June 13, 2023.

Note: The stock opened at ₹99,500 on BSE against the previous close of ₹98,939.70 and touched an all-time high of ₹1,00,300 in morning trade. The stock has witnessed strong gains in the last one year. It is up 45% in the last one year against a 19% gain in the benchmark Sensex. MRF shares hit their 52-week low of ₹65,900.05 on BSE on June 17, 2022.

159. Equitas Holdings has surrendered its **NBFC licence** and accordingly, its **registration has been cancelled**.

Note: The RBI, in the exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has therefore cancelled its CoR (certificate of registration). Reason: The company does not hold public funds. Therefore, it may have voluntarily surrendered its certificate of registration.

160. Hubble has **joined hands with Fino Payments Bank** for introducing **India's first spending account**.

Note: Depositors can save money in the account and earn up to 10% cash back on all purchases they make from the account. They can track expenses over 50 partnered brands and potentially save up to Rs. 20,000 annually. Users earn an interest rate of 2.75% annually on their parked funds. It will be integrated with Fino Payments Bank's digital savings account.

161. SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for **online investment platforms** that facilitate investments in commission-free **Mutual fund** schemes.

Note: It also addresses investor concerns about associated risks and introduces a grievance redressal mechanism. Platforms providing MF investment services in direct (commission-free) plans will have to apply for an 'execution only platform' licence through

Sebi or AMFI within three months of the regulation coming into force.

162. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a new **deposit scheme 'Vikas Ashadeep 400 days'**.

Note: The scheme is of a tenor of 400 days with an **interest rate of 7.5% for senior citizens** and 7% for the general public. Prospective customers of the scheme will earn higher interest for a shorter period (almost 13 months). Under the scheme, a minimum of Rs 10,000 and a maximum of Rs 2 crore can be deposited. KVGB chairman: Shreekant Bhandiwad

163. RING digital credit platform has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India** to add its newly launched UPI plug-in functionality to RING's pre-existing suite of digital services.

Note: Aim: To help RING offer 'scan & pay' options to its existing customers and acquire new customers who use UPI as a preferred mode of payment. It will become a one-stop integrated payment and credit solution where a customer can avail credit and pay merchants across the country.

164. Sberbank has launched Indian rupee accounts for individuals.

Note: Aim: To expand the range of foreign currencies available to reduce dependency on the U. S. dollar and euro. Sberbank has more than 100 million retail clients and already offers deposits in China's yuan and UAE dirhams. Rupee accounts would also be available to clients. Sberbank would also raise rates on dirham deposits by 100 basis points for a six-week period.

165. SBI Mutual Fund will acquire up to 10% of the total paid-up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase.

Note: The approval of IRDAI is valid for one year from the date of the Irdai approval letter. This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015.

166. Microfinance loan portfolio increased by **22%** to Rs 3. 48 lakh crore during 2022-23.

Note: Gross loan portfolio stood at Rs 2. 85 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022. Microfinance loan disbursements during FY 2022-23 improved by 23% to Rs 2,96,423 crores compared to Rs 2,39,433 crore in the previous financial year. About 7. 17 crore loans were disbursed during FY 22-23 as against 6. 30 crore in the previous year.

167. According to RBI data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew by **17%** at ₹96,847 crore in the year 2022-23.

Note: In the previous year, education loans were recorded at ₹82,723 crore. For the first time in five years, growth in education loans not only turned positive but also registered a 17% surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023. The NPA in education

advances stood at 7.82% of a total outstanding portfolio of ₹80,000 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY23.

168. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹20 lakh on Manappuram Finance.

Note: Reason: For non-compliance with certain provisions of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). RBI imposed this penalty as it did not classify certain gold loan accounts with overdues of more than 90 days as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). NBFC: It is a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, and acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/securities issued.

169. Paytm has introduced a UPI software development kit (SDK).

Note: Reason: For customers to make payments to online merchants without any failure of the system. UPI SDK has also assured fail-proof transactions. Paytm UPI SDK will let users pay directly from bank accounts through UPI PIN without having to jump between merchant and payment app. Along with Paytm UPI Lite, the company is enhancing two-sided payments, for both merchants and customers.

170. The World Bank has approved a \$150 million loan to support the Resilient program of Kerala.

Note: Reason: To continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks. Aim: To deepen the state's resilience in critical areas of coastal erosion and water resource management. This loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14 years, including a grace period of six years.

171. Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched its ActivMoney feature.

Note: It is an auto sweep feature that is offered by other banks, including Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank. Benefit: This feature gives customers the benefit of FD like interest up to 7% per annum, and the flexibility to access their funds at any time from the linked savings account. It allows a savings account holder to earn higher interest as offered in FDs while retaining the liquidity offered by a saving account.

172. SEBI has restricted online bond platform providers from offering products other than listed debt securities on their platforms.

Note: SEBI also allowed them to offer securities such as Government Securities, Treasury Bills, listed SBGs, listed municipal debt securities, and listed securitized debt instruments on their platforms. Under the rules, Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) need to register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange.

173. SEBI has banned India Infoline Ltd (IIFL) Securities from onboarding any new clients for two years.

Note: Reason: Mixing clients' funds with proprietary funds by routing transactions through common control

accounts; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of debit balance clients; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of proprietary trades

174. Union Bank of India has launched the Union Unnati account scheme.

Note: Recently, the Union Bank of India has launched four bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies. The bank has launched Union Unnati specifically designed for women entrepreneurs and professionals. This account offers free cancer care coverage and personal accident cover. Union Samriddhi has targeted women. The third product is Union Samman, a savings account aimed at pensioners.

175. Axis Bank has launched its latest feature 'One-View', on Axis Mobile Application.

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

176. Lloyds Banking Group would set up a technology center in Hyderabad.

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

177. Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) has partnered with Indian Bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customized banking products.

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

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

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

179. World Bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan to enhance the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India.

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

180. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) launched a new close-ended plan Dhan Vridhhi.

Note: It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life plan, offering a combination of protection and savings. This plan provides financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term. It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount on the date of maturity to the assured. Minimum assured sum: Rs 1,25,000

181. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State and provide them with vital financial support.

Note: TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with IOB. Aim: To streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the State

182. The Asian Development Bank has signed an agreement with **Bangladesh** to provide a 400 million US dollars loan for the construction of 102 km-long dual gauge railways between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar to promote trade, investment, and tourism.

Note: Aim: To transport 2.9 million passengers annually between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar by 2024. Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway is part of the Trans-Asia Railway network, an initiative led by the UN.

183. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launched 'Nishchit Pension Plan'.

Note: It is a non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan that enables the policyholders to plan for their retirement. Under this plan, the insurer provides accrued guaranteed additions during the policy term and loyalty addition at the end of the policy term. The policyholders will be able to accumulate a 100% guaranteed corpus at desired retirement age.

184. ICICI Lombard has launched three insurance products focusing on MSMEs — MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy, Property All Risk (PAR) Policy, and i-Select Liability.

Note: Aim: To make MSMEs more risk aware and provide them with the benefit of comprehensive coverage to safeguard their businesses. MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy protects MSMEs against loss or damage to property due to defined insured perils. PAR policy covers a range of properties against damage caused by accidents

185. S&P Global Ratings has retained India's GDP growth forecast at **6%** for 2023-24.

Note: Reason: The fastest growing economy among Asia Pacific nations. In its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P Global Ratings forecasted the same growth for Vietnam and the Philippines alongside India. In its latest report, S&P has kept the GDP growth forecast for India unchanged for the current and the next fiscal, FY25 partly on account of domestic resilience.

186. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of **Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad** and allowed function only as a non-banking institution.

Note: The cancellation of the license is with effect from the close of business on June 27, 2023. RBI has also been instructed to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.

187. According to the data released by the Reserve Bank, India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** has been narrowed to 1.3 billion dollars or 0.2% of GDP in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal.

Note: The decline was mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports. RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

188. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a total of \$391 million loan to **Assam and Tripura**.

Note: Aim: To improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities. Out of \$391 million, \$251 million was approved for the Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project. While \$140 million was approved for the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project.

189. Tata AIA has partnered with WhatsApp and PayU to make payments through Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI) for their consumers more efficient.

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

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

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

191. According to Bloomberg, after the tie-up of HDFC Bank Ltd and Housing Development Finance Corp, the

lender would rank at **fourth** place in equity market capitalization.

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

192. ICICI Lombard General Insurance and **ICICI Prudential** have jointly launched a combi product, 'iShield'.

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

194. 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.

195. 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.

196. **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.

197. 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.

198. 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.

199. 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.

200. 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

201. 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

202. 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.

203. 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.

204. 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.

205. 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.

206. **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.

207. 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%

208. **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.

209. **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.

210. 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.

211. **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.

212. 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).

213. **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.

214. 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.

215. 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.

216. 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.

217. 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%

218. 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.

219. 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.

220. **Manoj Ahuja (Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture)** launched a month-long campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund.

Note: Title of the campaign: BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation). Target: Rs 7,200 Crore. Aim: To promote Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for the creation of necessary infrastructure in the farm sector. The AIF is a financing facility launched on July 8, 2020.

221. 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%.

222. 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%.

223. **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.

224. **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.

225. 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.

226. 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.

227. 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.

228. 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

229. 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.

230. 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

231. The license of United India Co-operative Bank Limited has been revoked by the Reserve Bank of India, located in **Bijoor**.

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.

232. 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.

233. 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.

234. 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

235. 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.

236. 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.

237. 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.

238. 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.

239. 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.

240. **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.

241. **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.

242. 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

243. **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

244. **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.

245. 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.

246. **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.

247. **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.

248. **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.

249. **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 per cent 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.

- 250.** 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.
- 251.** **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.
- 252.** 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.
- 253.** **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) startup incubator Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship to promote tech.
Note: Aims: To promote Deep Tech and science-led Innovation by facilitating access to seed capital. Objective: To support startups with meritorious ideas and technologies important for India's goals for 2047 to become self-reliant.
- 254.** According to the data released by the **Ministry of Commerce**, India's eight core sectors have registered a growth of **8.2 percent** in June 2023.
Note: The growth rate of 8.2 percent in June for India's eight key infrastructure sectors, which include coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity. The core sector growth for May has been revised upward from 4.3 percent to 5.0 percent. The core sector growth in June 2022 was 13.1 percent.
- 255.** **Karnataka Bank** hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne', a fintech partnership event, in Bengaluru in July 2023.
Note: Objective: To develop innovative business models, provide a seamless banking experience and offer a complete product suite. The first edition of 'KBL - FinOne' featured over 30 speakers from various fintech, delving into some of the interesting and relevant topics such as emerging lending models, neo-banks.
- 256.** According to the finance ministry, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues for the month of July 2023 are **11%** higher than the GST revenues in the July 2022.
Note: It is for the fifth time since the rollout of the regime that the gross GST collection crossed the Rs 1.65 lakh crore mark. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of July 2023 after regular settlement was Rs 69,558 crore for CGST and Rs 70,811 crore for the SGST.
- 257.** According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, **28 percent** GST on casinos and online gaming is expected to be implemented from the 1st of October.
Note: 28% GST would be applicable on the amount being paid at the entry level for online gaming. GST Council recommended certain amendments in the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017, including amendment in Schedule III of CSGT Act, 2017, to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing and online gaming.
- 258.** **According to the S&P**, India's gross domestic product is expected to grow at a rate of **6.7%** per year from fiscal year 2024 to FY 2031.
Note: Growth is projected to elevate India's GDP from \$3.4 trillion in fiscal year 2023 to \$6.7 trillion. As per S&P Global, the rating agency, the per capita GDP is anticipated to increase to around \$4,500. The main factor driving Indian growth is capital accumulation. Investment as a proportion of GDP reached a 10-year high of 34% in fiscal 2023.
- 259.** Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India has canceled the registration of **Metals and Minerals Trading Corp of India (MMTC) Ltd** as a stock broker in August 2023.
Note: Reason: Its involvement in illegal "paired contracts" in a case pertaining to now defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) in Aug 2023. While cancelling the licence, Sebi directed MMTC to allow its existing clients to withdraw or transfer their securities or funds held by it within 15 days.
- 260.** The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1,09,947.86 crore in first week of Aug 2023.
Note: State Bank of India taking the biggest hit, with a weak trend in the stock market. The valuation of SBI tumbled Rs 38,197.34 crore to Rs 5,11,603.38 crore. First week of Aug 2023, the BSE benchmark fell by 438.95 points or 0.66 percent. Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Infosys observed an increase in their market capitalization.
- 261.** In the April-June quarter of 2023-24, the financial results of **State Bank of India** revealed a significant rise in quarterly profit to ₹16,884 crore, compared to ₹6,068 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

Note: Net income also more than doubled to ₹18,537 crore from ₹7,325 crore in 2022. Net interest income showed marginal deterioration while loan loss provisions more than doubled, leading to SBI shares tanking nearly 3 per cent on bourses.

262. PayPal has launched a US dollar stablecoin, becoming the first major financial technology firm.

Note: Aim: To embrace digital currencies for payments and transfers. Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency that typically track the value of a major currency such as the dollar one-for-one. They play a key role in connecting traditional and crypto markets, as traders use the coins like cash in order to move in and out of trades without paying high fees.

263. Postal Life Insurance has introduced the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' program in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles.

Note: Aim: To ensure that it receives its hard-earned commissions from the previous month directly to their Post Office Savings Bank accounts. Swift and Secure Transactions: Salesforce receives incentives directly in their POSB accounts. Convenience and Motivation: Salesforce can conveniently manage their funds, and immediate rewards drive optimal performance.

264. According to the SEBI report, Domestic companies raised **Rs 9. 8 lakh crore** from capital markets in the fiscal 2022-23, which was 4. 6 per cent higher than the amount raised in the fiscal 2022.

Note: The capital market regulator said that the funds were raised for the financing needs of the companies through various instruments such as equity, debt, AIFs, REITs, and InvITs. According to the SEBI its recovery from erring market participants for the year stood at Rs 6,031 crore

265. Banks have written off bad loans worth **Rs 14. 56 lakh crore** in the last nine financial years starting 2014-15 in Aug 2023.

Note: Out of the total Rs 14,56,226 crore, written off loans of large industries and services stood at Rs 7,40,968 crore. According to Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad Scheduled Commercial Banks have recovered an aggregate amount of Rs 2,04,668 crore in written-off loans, including corporate loans, since April, 2014 2022 and up to March, 2023.

266. Star Health and Allied Insurance jointly partnered with **Standard Chartered Bank** in August 2023 to enhance Star Health's distribution network.

Note: Objective: To serve as a convenient one-stop destination for its customers seeking comprehensive health insurance coverage. Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model where insurance companies partner with banks to sell policies. SCB currently has 100 branches spread across 42 cities.

267. Bandhan Bank partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to help them strengthen payment solutions for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

Note: The bank has provided Point of Sale machines to facilitate card payments by tourists. Prime locations include Puri, and Bhubaneswar, will be covered under this tie-up. The PoS machines will hasten tourist payment collections, bringing convenience to both the tourists and OTDC officials.

268. ICICI Lombard General Insurance and **Bajaj Finance** have joined forces to offer car and two-wheeler insurance plans.

Note: Customers can easily purchase these policies on the platform, enjoying a fully digital and smooth customer experience. The ICICI Lombard Car and Two-wheeler Insurance policies offer comprehensive damage coverage, including third-party cover and various add-on benefits to vehicle owners.

269. As per the information shared by the FM in the Rajya Sabha, Public Sector Banks and 5 major private sector banks collected over **₹35,000 crore** in charges since 2018 on account of non-maintenance of minimum balance, additional ATM transactions, and SMS Services.

Note: Breakdown of Charges: ₹21,000 crore on account of non-maintenance of minimum balance. Over ₹8,000 crore was collected for transactions through ATM beyond free numbers and SMS charges gave over ₹6,000 crore.

270. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy, released in August 2023, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at **6. 5 percent**.

Note: Other Highlights: The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6. 25%. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6. 75%. RBI has revised the CPI inflation target for the current fiscal to 5. 4%. Projected real GDP growth for 2023-24: 6. 5%

271. RBI has imposed ₹1. 50 lakh penalty on **Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank** for contravention of provisions of Maintenance of Deposit Accounts.

Note: Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank was also penalized of ₹20,000 for non-compliance with specific directions under Supervisory Action Framework and KYC directions. Further, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1. 00 lakh on Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd and ₹1. 50 lakh on Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad.

272. Airtel Payments Bank has become the first Indian bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account in Aug 2023.

Note: The debit cards will be made from certified eco-friendly r-PVC (recycled polyvinyl chloride) material, which is environmentally safe. Producing the r-PVC cards will lead to a 43 percent reduction in hydrocarbon usage, effectively decreasing petroleum consumption during the manufacturing process.

- 273. AU Small Finance Bank Limited** has become the first financial services provider in India to launch a 24x7 live video banking service in August 2023.
Note: Aims: To provide a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real time via video calls, like video conferencing. Objectives: To extend the reach of banking services to areas with limited infrastructure and resources, offering a convenient and personalized banking experience.
- 274.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features on **UPI** interface in August 2023.
Note: Aims: To enable digital payments through voice commands. The concept, known as “Conversational Payments,” introduces a dynamic and user-friendly approach to transactions. Objectives: To allow users to initiate payments seamlessly within chat or messaging conversations, transforming routine interactions into instant financial exchanges
- 275.** The gross direct tax collection has registered a growth of around **16%** to RS 653,000 crore compared to the same period in 2022 in Aug 2023.
Note: Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at RS 584,000 crore, which is over 17 % higher than the net collections for the same period 2022. The collection is over 32% of the total Budget estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24. Refunds amounting to Rs 69,000 crore has issued, which is 3. 73% more compared to year 2022
- 276. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the 3rd edition of the UPI Safety Awareness Campaign, “UPI Chalega” in August 2023.
Note: Aim: To promote UPI’s brand awareness, amplify understanding of its features, and encourage wider adoption among new users. It also educates users about various features such as UPI LITE, which enables swift low-value transactions; UPI AUTOPAY, which allows secure and convenient recurring payments using any UPI application
- 277. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), a small savings scheme for women and girls in August 2023.
Note: MSSC is a 2-year deposit scheme, which offers an interest rate of 7. 5% per annum. Objective: To promote financial inclusion and empower women, including girls. It is a one-time program that runs from April 2023 to March 2025. Banks Include: Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of India
- 278.** The wholesale price-based inflation remained in the negative territory for the fourth straight month in July 2023 at **(-)1. 36 percent** on easing prices of fuel, even though food articles turned costlier.
Note: The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-)4. 12 percent in June. In July last year, it was 14. 07 percent. Inflation in food articles skyrocketed 14. 25 percent in July against 1. 32 percent in June 2023
- 279.** RBI has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and **Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India** to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions.
Note: RBI is looking to AI and machine learning to analyze its huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks, NBFCs to ensure that the benefits of advanced analytics can accrue to the Department of Supervision in the central bank.
- 280. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI has launched the Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit.
Note:Aim: To enable delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating a seamless flow of required digital information to lenders.Objectives: To encourages various stakeholders, including banks, non-banking financial companies, FinTech firms, and startups, and other financial services
- 281. Zerodha** has received final approval from the regulator Sebi to launch the mutual fund product.
Note:The motivation to launch the mutual fund business was two-fold -- the shallow participation in Indian markets wherein lies the challenge and an opportunity and creating simple products for investors.Zerodha started its journey in 2010 as a ‘Rs 20 per order broker’ and gained popularity as a no-frills, low-cost player among traders.
- 282. Asian Development Bank** has approved a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in Meghalaya.
Note:The Meghalaya government is contributing USD 15.27 million to the project.Aims: To improve access to nurturing care, including a component of maternal mental health care to enable the inclusion of fathers in caregiving.Objective: To strengthen home-based childcare and center-based childcare through daycare centers
- 283. Canara Bank** has introduced Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners, and prospective pensioners.
Note:The primary benefit of this account for senior citizens is that it is a zero-balance savings account. With this savings account, senior citizens do not have to maintain a minimum balance and there are no maintenance charges.The interest rate per annum is 4% for deposits for senior citizens holding the Canara Jeevan Dhara Savings account.
- 284. Wipro** introduced the launch of a new Center of Excellence on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in partnership with IIT Delhi.
Note:Aim: To foster accelerated innovation in some of the most exciting emerging areas of technology.Objective: To enhance our research & development capabilities in emerging regions, such as

generative AI.Teams will jointly work on building innovative solutions using AI, ML, and other technologies.

285. The Reserve Bank of India launched a centralized Web portal, UDGAM (**Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information**), for searching unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.

Note:Aim: To identify their unclaimed deposits and accounts and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operational at their respective banks.The 7 banks include State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, South Indian Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank

286. **BAA3** has been affirmed by the rating agency Moody's on India and maintained a 'stable' outlook on the Indian economy.

Note:The Baa3 rating and stable outlook also take into account a curtailment of civil society and political dissent, compounded by rising domestic political risk.India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured rating remain at Baa3.While the other short-term local-currency rating stands at P-3.

287. **Axis Bank** announced the launch of two lending products powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit, introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.

Note:Objective: To offer Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans to customers powered by the platform. KCC will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and will be available to customers for up to Rs 1.6 Lakh to start with. MSME loans will be available across the country and will offer loans upto Rs. 10 Lakh

288. The National Health Authority (NHA) and **IRDAI** jointly organized an exclusive three-day Accelerator Workshop.

Note: Aim: To help insurance companies complete their Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) integration and to facilitate adoption of Health Claims Exchange (HCX) specifications. IRDAI also issued a circular advising the insurers and providers get on-boarded to the National Health Claims Exchange (NHCE).

289. **YES BANK** has introduced its mobile banking app, iris by YES BANK, which aims to reform India's digital banking landscape.

Note:The app allows flexibility and personalization, enabling customers to access over 100 features on a single platform.It also ensures the utmost safety of the customers' financial data by incorporating safety features like Biometric Authentication, Sim-Binding, and a 2-factor Verification.Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK is Prashant Kumar.

290. **Indian Bank** became the First Public Sector Bank to extend facility of execution of on-line locker agreement through Digital Document Execution (DDE) Platform of National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).

Note:On-line locker agreement, which is available round the clock will enhance customer convenience and will reduce the turn-around time of the agreement execution.DDE is a fully automated contract execution platform with paperless e-stamp and e-Sign facility.

291. **HDFC Group** launched new life insurance and asset management services at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.

Note:Aim: To offer services to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and the global Indian diaspora.HDFC Life unveils HDFC International Life and Re, and HDFC AMC International (IFSC) Ltd to cater to the financial needs of the worldwide Indian community to make world-class foreign currency denominated insurance solutions available for NRIs.

292. **Canara Bank** launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application.

Note: It becomes the first bank in both the public and commercial sectors to offer this feature via its CBDC mobile app called the Canara Digital Rupee. Aim: To empower merchants to accept digital currency payments using their existing UPI QR codes in addition to UPI-based payments without the requirement of a separate onboarding process for CBDC. CEO of Canara Bank is K. Satyanarayana Raju

293. **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has acquired a 6.66 per cent stake in Jio Financial Services owing to the de-merger action by Reliance Industries.

Note: According to the LIC the cost of acquisition is equivalent to 4.68 per cent of the pre de-merged cost of Reliance Industries. The country's largest insurer held a 6.49 per cent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023. JFS shares hit its lower circuit limits for the second straight session on August 21.

294. **HDFC Bank** has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy **HDFC Bank** Credit Card.

Note: This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country. This card brings together the strengths of these two prominent brands, presenting consumers with an unparalleled selection of travel benefits.

295. **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as CBI.

Note: The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by former CVC Suresh N Patel. There are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years.

296. **DBS** has partnered with commodities trader Maptrusco, and announced the completion of the first "live" transaction of electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) for shipments between Singapore and India.

Note: This landmark first shipment marks a pivotal moment for businesses operating in both Singapore and India. It grants them the opportunity to engage with the TradeTrust network through their preferred TradeTrust-enabled platforms.

297. India in partnership with **Asian Development Bank** to open a climate change and health hub in Delhi.

Note: Objective: To facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries. Climate change affects all of us and this centre will give us the opportunity to have different partners discussing this important issue and learning from each other.

298. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of **Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank** with the Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank.

Note: Aim: To streamline operations and services for customers under a unified entity. The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches would operate as branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank. The merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was also given the go-ahead by the central bank

299. **Airtel Payments Bank** has joined hands with the Frontier Markets, and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth have announced the launch of 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam', a first-of-its-kind initiative.

Note: Aim: To elevate women-owned small businesses(WOSB) with resources, tools, and opportunities to grow and diversify their incomes. Objective: To bring together the private sector, and social enterprise, to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to unlock ways for WOSB to increase their incomes.

300. RBI has announced to enhance transaction limits for small value digital payments in offline mode to **₹500** from the earlier cap of ₹200.

Note: Aim: To enable faster, more reliable, and contactless payments for everyday small value purchases, transit payments, and so on by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for small value transactions. This effectively means that transacting

parties can carry out digital transactions amounting to ₹500 each in the offline mode.

301. **Yes Bank** has launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card in collaboration with the spend management platform Zaggle to provide businesses with direct control over company expenditures.

Note: Objective: To empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures. This includes the ability to set individual spending limits, apply merchant category restrictions, and implement diverse controls.

302. **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has recently tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai.

Note: Saraswat Cooperative Bank is the India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank. Citizens in general and customers of Saraswat Bank, in particular, will now have the opportunity to fulfill their life insurance protection needs through the Bank itself by purchasing insurance products LIC.

303. **Asian Development Bank** has joined hands with the Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Rs to construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant.

Note: Aim: To increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers. The power plant, located in Tamil Nadu in India, is expected to generate about 50.7 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and will directly sell power to commercial and industrial users.

304. **Axis Bank** launched a new savings account variant - 'Infinity Savings Account' to cater to digitally savvy customers who are frequent adopters of subscription-based models.

Note: Objective: To offer Axis Bank's customers exclusive privileges, such as waived Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement, complimentary debit cards, and waiver of all the domestic charges against a small monthly recurring fee of Rs 150 or annual fee of Rs 1,650.

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** - Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** - Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** - Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** - Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** - Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA** - Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** - Core Banking System

15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** - Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** - Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** - Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** - Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** - Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** - Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV** - Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** - Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** - National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** - National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** - National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** - Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** - Over the Counter
59. **PIN** - Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** - Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** - Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** - Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund
98. **NSC** - National Savings Certificate
99. **CbC** - Country-by-Country
100. **WEF** - World Economic Forum
101. **MPI** - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
103. **UPI** - Unified Payments Interface
104. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India
105. **CII** - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. **NBCC** - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. **NSSO** - National Sample Survey Office
108. **EMV** - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. **FATF** - Financial Action Task Force

Books and Authors

December 2022

1. A book titled, 'The Chipko Movement: A People's History' has won 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize. **Shekhar Pathak** is the writer of this book.
Note: This book was translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry and published by Permanent Black & Ashoka University. Prize: Rs 15 lakh, a trophy and citation. The fifth edition of this award was instituted by the New India Foundation in 2018 to recognise powerful works of non-fiction about contemporary India.
2. 'Miracles of Face Yoga' book has been released recently, this book is authored by **Mansi Gulati (Founder of Manasvani)**.
Note: This book was appreciated by the President of India Droupadi Murmu. Mansi Gulati, an international Yogi, celebrated author, and thought leader, devoted her efforts to learning everything possible about yoga practices and philosophy.
3. **Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.)** has launched his book 'Fit At Any Age' at India International Centre, New Delhi.
Note: He has penned his journey to fitness in the book and shared anecdotes from his life to explain how he became motivated to work out daily. The book, published by Bloomsbury India.
4. A book titled "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond" has been authored by former governor of RBI **C Rangarajan**.
Note: It was published by the Penguin Business (Penguin Group). The book is the memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The book is divided into 3 parts. Part 1- 'RBI and Planning Commission', Part 2- 'Governor of RBI' and Part 3- 'Beyond RBI'

November 2022

1. **Rene Naba (French)** is an author of book "De la Nucléarisation de l'Asie" (Nuclearization of Asia).
Note: The book is bilingual book, and will be available in both French and English. The book discusses the nuclear emergency and threat posed by the nexus of Pakistan and China. The book was published by Golias.
2. **Nirmala James** has authored the new book title "E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions".
Note: The book was published by Enview Research and Development. It was released during the event organised on the 125th birth anniversary of E. K. Janaki Ammal. She was born on 4th November 1897 in Thalassery, Kerala. E. K. Janaki Ammal is the India's first woman botanist.
3. **Subodh** first edition was launched by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) vigilance department.
Note: Aim: To reinforce the NMDC's commitment to fostering honesty and transparency among all stakeholders. The magazine was released by NMDC CMD, Sumit Deb. It was released in the presence of Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Production) Dilip Kumar Mohanty.
4. **Simon Sebag Montefiore** is the author of the book titled, 'The World: A Family History'.
Note: The book will be published by Hachette India. This book tells the story of humanity from prehistory to the present day. Through this book, the author takes the readers on an epic journey through the families that have shaped the world, including the Caesars, Medicis, Incas, Ottomans, Mughals, Bonapartes.
5. The book titled "**The Light We Carry**" is authored by Michelle Obama, was released in November 2022.
Note: This book is a collection of practices and perspectives to deal with challenging times. The book will be published simultaneously in 14 languages and 27 countries around the world. Her memoir, "Becoming" was one of the best-selling books of all time, that was released in 2018.
6. **Gautam Borah** is the author of the book titled, 'Nalanada – Until we meet again'.
Note: It was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond. The book is a gripping story of romance, vengeance, and an age-old mystery.
7. Dharmendra Pradhan (Union Education & Skill Development Minister) has released the new book title, 'India: The Mother of Democracy', this book was published by **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**.
Note: The event was also attended by Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, (Chairperson, ICHR) and Prof. Umesh Ashok Kadam (Member Secretary, ICHR). The book is an attempt to showcase the democratic ethos ingrained in India since the dawn of civilisation.

October 2022

1. Tagore & Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together has won the best books of the year at the 2022 'Valley of Words Book Awards', was written by **Rudrangshu Mukherjee**.

- Note:** Anees Salim's 'The Odd Book of Baby Names' and Neelakshi Singh's 'Khela' were adjudged the best in English and Hindi, respectively, in the fiction category. The PFC-VoW Book Awards is considered one of the most comprehensive independent literary award programmes in India.
- The book titled "The Last Heroes" that is scheduled to release on November 21, 2022, has been authored by **P Sainath**.
Note: The book has been published by the Penguin Random House India (PRHI). This book is an attempt to recognition those freedom fighter stories, who are truly deserve, but were never granted. He is also an author of the acclaimed book, 'Everybody Loves a Good Drought'. P Sainath was awarded the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
 - External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar has participated in the Kiwi Indian Hall of Fame Awards 2022, where he launched the book **Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery** in Auckland.
Note: The event was also attended by the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern. The event felicitated members of the Indian community in New Zealand for their exceptional achievements and contributions. The book originally launched on 11th May 2022.
 - Odisha CM, Naveen Patnaik** has released a book titled 'Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha's Lessons in Governance'.
Note: This book was written by Rajya Sabha MP, Amar Patnaik. The book is a collection of the various essays on pertinent contemporary issues that emerged in India during the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-2022. The book also highlights the achievements of Odisha's 5-T framework of governance. 5-T: Team work, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit
 - A book titled 'The Philosophy of Modern Song', written by **Bob Dylan**.
Note: The book will be published by Simon and Schuster. This book is a collection of essays, is his first book of new writing since 2004, when he released 'Chronicles, Volume One.' He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016 for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.
 - A new book "The Corbett Papers" has been co-edited by educator Akshay Shah and **Stephen Alter**.
Note: This book was published by Hachette India. This book has brought together lesser known parts of Jim Corbett's life through unpublished letters, documents and a privately-published book

September 2022

- Saumya Saxena** is the writer of the book 'Divorce and Democracy: A History of Personal Law in Post-Independence India'.
Note: A new book on divorce laws and various religions in the post-colonial era was released at the India International Centre. She is a British Academy Fellow at the faculty of History, University of Cambridge, the book talks about the Indian state's difficult dialogue with divorce, which reconciles largely through religion.
- Dr Munjpara Mahendra bhai Kalubhai** is the writer of book titled "Science Behind Surya Namaskar".
Note: The book is a collection of evidence-based research on one of the most well-known Yoga asanas at the AIIA. The book was released during the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme 2022 organised by the departments of Swasthavritta, Panchakarma, and Darvyaguna in association with Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV), New Delhi.
- A book titled, 'Forging Mettle: Nrupender Rao and the Pennar Story' has been authored by **Pavan C. Lall**.
Note: In this book, the senior journalist Pavan C. Lall tells the story of Nrupender Rao and his entrepreneurial journey. It is a unique story of how a business built with ethics, social and environmental concern at the core of its values can indeed be profitable and sustainable. This book was published by Harper Business.
- Sjoerd Marijne** has authored "Will Power" in which writer shares the inside story of the team's incredible turnaround at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
Note: The book will be published by HarperCollins India and released on September 21. Marijne was appointed as the chief coach of the women's team in 2017. He has played for The Netherlands, and guided the Dutch Under-21 women's side to a World Cup title.
- Former President Ram Nath Kovind** has released a book titled "Ambedkar and Modi: Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation" in New Delhi.
Note: It illustrates life, works and achievements of Dr. B.R Ambedkar and presents a convergence between the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar and New India's development journey. It has been compiled in 12 chapters by Bluekraft Digital Foundation and has a foreword by music composer and Rajya Sabha member Ilaiyaraaja.
- Noted Film Actor, Manoj Bajpayee has released a book titled 'Muskurate Chand Lamhe aur Kuchh Khamoshiyan', was authored by **Jiwesh Nandan**.
Note: The book has been released in presence of Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra in New Delhi. The book offers a collection of poems. The book has been published by Shobit Arya,

- the founder and publisher of Wisdom Tree, an Indian publishing organisation.
- The book titled, She Is–Women in STEAM, has been unveiled by Prof. Ajay Sood (Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI) and Alex Ellis (British High Commissioner), was compiled by **ElsaMarie D'Silva**.
Note: The book has honoured 75 women in STEAM (fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) celebrating gender, leadership, and sustainable development in the fields of STEAM. The book has been illustrated by Supreet K Singh.
 - Former VP, Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas” at Akashvani Bhawan in New Delhi.
Note: The book was released in the presence of Kerala Governor, Arif Mohammad Khan at an event, organised by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The book is a collection of PM Modi selected speeches between May 2019 and May 2020. The book focuses on 86 speeches of PM on various subjects. The book was published in Hindi and English.
 - Ira Pande** has translated the award-winning book “Lata: Sur-Gatha” in English that will be released in January 2023.
Note: The announcement has been made by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). This book was originally written in Hindi by writer-poet, Yatindra Mishra. The book has also won the 64th National Film Award and the MAMI Award for Best Writing on Cinema (2016–17).

Agreement & Deals

(1st -31st December 2023)

- Cyprus, India inks 3 agreement while S. Jaishankar visits Nicosia**
Note: At a joint news conference held in Nicosia, Cyprus, Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed three important agreements. The two ministers had fruitful conversations during Jaishankar’s first official visit to Cyprus about bilateral relations, multilateral cooperation, geopolitical and regional problems, the Indo-Pacific issue, the Middle East, Europe, and India’s relationship with the European Union.
- Tata Steel, TuTr Hyperloop collaborate for developing hyperloop technology**
Note: In December 2022, Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at IIT Madras to collaborate on the development and wide-scale use of Hyperloop technology. The primary study topics will concentrate on the most important design and material selection problems. A high-speed, affordable, sustainable option for transportation of both people and goods is the hyperloop. Key components of the hyperloop system include tubes, capsules, propulsion systems, and track. Levitated autonomous pods move through a system of evacuated tubes. It promises to be 10 times more energy-efficient than rail and road transportation, utilise 2-3 times less area, and offer quicker journey times than flight.
- Power ministry, DRDO Ink Pact to Install Early Warning Systems for Power Stations**
Note: The Ministry of Power announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to implement an early warning system for vulnerable hydro projects and power stations in hilly regions. The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar, Secretary at the Ministry of Power, and Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman of DRDO.
- Zeliangrong United Front Signs a Peace Agreement with Central and Manipur Government**
Note: The Centre signed a peace agreement with a Manipur insurgent group, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) rebel group which mostly operated in Manipur. The agreement was signed by senior home ministry officials and the government of Manipur and the representatives of ZUF in presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.
- NTPC and Tecnimont Signed MOU for Green Methanol Project**
Note: NTPC signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tecnimont Private Limited, the Indian subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy. NTPC is India’s largest power generation company. The objective of the MoU is to jointly evaluate and explore the possibility to develop a commercial-scale Green Methanol production facility at the NTPC project in India.

The Green Methanol Project involves capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into green fuel. Green Methanol has a wide range of applications including serving as a base material for the Chemical industry, storing renewable electricity, and transportation fuel.

6. **Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) Signs Agreements with MSMEs**

Note: Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) signed agreements with MSMEs for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products. The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten conversion of products from research labs to the market. The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality) such as access to safe drinking water, and growth of potential import substitutes for advanced and affordable healthcare in the country. The technologies include Alkaline Water Electrolyser for Green Hydrogen production, DC Accelerator for Wastewater Treatment, novel Gamma Monitoring, and X-Band LINAC-based X-ray source for radiotherapy machines.

7. **Airbnb Signs MoU with Goa Govt to Promote Inclusive Tourism**

Note: Airbnb signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, to jointly promote Goa as one of the most sought-after high potential tourism destinations in India and around the world. This partnership is aimed at encouraging travel to unique destinations that are lesser-known and enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism in the state. On the sidelines of the official launch of 'Rediscover Goa', a week-long celebration of Goa's vast cultural diversity beyond its beaches and dazzling nightlife, **Airbnb and Goa Tourism Department** have joined hands to scale homestay capacity across the state, and provide support to Goan homestay Hosts in delivering quality tourism experiences to guests, both domestic and international.

8. **AIIA Inks Agreements with International Institutions for Promoting Ayurveda**

Note: In a bid to promote Ayurveda across continents, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Medical Sciences, Cuba, and extended the agreement with Rosenberg European Academy

of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany, for five more years to take forward collaborative programmes. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the **9th World Ayurveda Congress** and Arogya Expo. The MoU with **Havana-based University of Medical Sciences** was signed between Cuban Ambassador to India Alejandro Simancas Marin and Dr Tanuja M Nesari, the director of AIIA.

9. **IIT Ropar, Army Training Command sign MoU to set up Centre of Excellence**

Note: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) of the Indian Army has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a centre of excellence for studies and applied research in defence and security at the premier institute. The MoU was signed by **Rajeev Ahuja, director, IIT Ropar** and **Lt Gen SS Mahal, General Officer Commanding -in-Chief of the ARTRAC**. IIT Ropar will also **curate training programmes** as exchange of information on educational programmes for security practitioners of the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces, intelligence agencies and state police forces run by it as part of its on-campus and off-campus programmes on research and innovation

10. **NSIC Signs MoU with Walmart**

Note: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and Walmart Global Sourcing India Private Limited, to facilitate services to MSMEs in Walmart Vriddhi program. Through this MoU, NSIC will be able to extend the NSIC schemes and other services to MSMEs which would participate in various Vriddhi programs. Moreover, the MSMEs would get the exposure to various advantages of gaining working capital, bulk procurement support etc. under various opportunities offered by NSIC.

11. **Airtel and Meta collaborate to accelerate India's digital ecosystem**

Note: The telecom major Airtel has announced that it has collaborated with Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta) to support the growth of India's digital ecosystem. The announcement comes on the back of telecom operators' demand to share revenue with service providers to build networks. Airtel is currently conducting trials for 4G and 5G Open RAN solutions on select sites in the state of Haryana and will commercially deploy the solution across several locations in India over the next few quarters. Airtel will share its learnings with wider ecosystem partners within the TIP community, including Meta,

to help accelerate the deployment of Open RAN based networks across the world.

12. India, Germany sign Migration and Mobility Agreement

Note: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Germany's foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock signed a comprehensive migration and mobility partnership, which will facilitate easier access for people to study, research and work in both countries. The deal which aims at facilitating two-way movement of students, professionals and researchers, is also set to address the challenges of illegal migration. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock is in India on a two-

days visit, during which she will discuss the cooperation on the transition to renewable energy and India's relationship with Russia and China

13. BIS signed MoU with top six Engineering Institutes of India

Note: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the top six engineering institutes of India for introducing Indian standards as an integral part of the curriculum. This initiative is towards institutionalizing engagement of BIS with eminent institutes to secure active participation of academia.

November 2022

1. India and EU Sign Agreement for Cooperation in High-Performance Computing

Note: India's Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT), European Commission signed an "Intent of Cooperation on High Performance Computing (HPC), Weather Extremes & Climate Modeling and Quantum Technologies". The agreement builds on commitments by both sides for deepening technological cooperation on quantum and high-performance computing during the India-EU leaders meeting on May 8. "Moreover, the signing of the agreement assumes significance in the context of the decision to set up EU India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)" on April 25.

2. National Museum and Kolding Museum signs Memorandum of Understanding

Note: Museum Kolding and the National Museum in New Delhi will open the joint exhibition "Silver treasures from Denmark and India" at the beginning of March 2023. An MoU of the exhibition was signed and exchanged between the National Museum, New Delhi, India, and the Museum Kolding, Kolding, in New Delhi. The exhibition will showcase the finest of the silver collection from the Museum Kolding and the National Museum in New Delhi in March 2023. The collaboration and exhibition are under the recently agreed cultural exchange program between India and Denmark for the years 2022 to 2026.

3. Bharat Electronics, DMRC Inks MoU to Jointly Develop i-CBTC

Note: Bharat Electronics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for jointly developing the Indigenous Communication-based Train Control

System (i-CBTC), an important milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance in Rail and Metro operations. i-CBTC, being indigenously developed for the first time in India, will enable unmanned operations of metro and trains. It is a big leap forward in the field of metro and rail automation and will give a boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission of the Government of India. The project is being carried out under the ambit of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India. The MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and DMRC.

4. Bihar Govt Signed Agreement with ICCR to Showcase Its Soft Power to World

Note: The Bihar government will sign an MoU with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to help artists from the state, handicrafts and several other ethnic arts to get international exposure. The **Art and Culture Department of the state government** will sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)** in this regard. The department is now preparing a **calendar of live art and heritage performances** to be held worldwide in the coming months after this MoU.

5. India and Finland Agrees to Enhance Cooperation in Digital Partnership

Note: India And Finland agree to carry mutual cooperation between the two countries to a new level and enhance partnership in areas such as digital partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education. The decision was taken during a meeting between Finland's Minister of Education and Culture Petri Honkonen and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh at North Block in New Delhi. He was accompanied by a high level

delegation which later held a separate meeting with the Indian delegation in the presence of the two Ministers. Honkonen's visit comes in the wake of the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin during a Summit meeting on 16 March last year.

6. Bihar Govt Signed Agreement with ICCR to Showcase Its Soft Power to World

Note: The Bihar government will sign an MoU with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to help artists from the state, handicrafts and several other ethnic arts to get international exposure. The Art and Culture Department of the state government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) in this regard. The department is now preparing a calendar of live art and heritage performances to be held worldwide in the coming months after this MoU

7. India and Finland Agrees to Enhance Cooperation in Digital Partnership

Note: India And Finland agree to carry mutual cooperation between the two countries to a new level and enhance partnership in areas such as digital partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education. The decision was taken during a meeting between Finland's Minister of Education and Culture Petri Honkonen and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh at North Block in New Delhi. He was accompanied by a high level delegation which later held a separate meeting with the Indian delegation in the presence of the two Ministers.

8. Centre Approves BSNL Rs 26,821 Crore 4G Deal with TCS

Note: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) received a nod from Central Government to go ahead with Rs 26,821 crore deal with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) paving its way to launch 4G services in India. TCS is ready to set up the 4G lines and maintain the network for nine years. BSNL will give Rs 10,000 crore worth of purchase orders to TCS soon. The state-run telco will aim to launch its 4G services by December 2022 or January 2023.

9. MoRD signs MoU with Veddis Foundation under DAY- NRLM

Note: The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed an MoU with Veddis Foundation to support the setting up of effective governance systems under the DAY-NRLM. The DAY-NRLM stands for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission. The partnership with MoRD and Veddis Foundation for three years is non-financial in nature.

10. NIIFL Signed An Agreement with JBIC to Boost Japanese Investments in India

Note: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to promote and enhance Japanese investments into India. The MoU outlines a partnership framework between **NIIFL and JBIC** which is considering the establishment of a bilateral **India-Japan Fund (IJF)**. JBIC and the Government of India will invest in the India-Japan Fund, which will make equity investments in environmental preservation and low carbon emission strategies,"

11. TATA Power and the Indian Army collaborate to install EV charging stations

Note: TATA Power and the Indian Army collaborate: The Indian Army collaborated with Tata Powers to install 16 EV charging stations, in accordance with its "Go Green Initiative." In several areas of Delhi Cantonment, charging stations have been installed. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding Delhi Area, officially opened the installation of charging stations in cooperation with the nation's largest integrated utility in the presence of army authorities and senior TATA Power and TATA Motors executives.

12. Dharmendra Pradhan signs MoU with FIFA and AIFF for Football4Schools

Note: Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurial Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signed an MoU with FIFA and the All India Football Federation for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India. FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino, and President, of All India Football Federation, Shri Kalyan Chaubey signed MoU on behalf of the respective organizations.

October 2022

1. Retail jewellery major Malabar becomes 1st Indian jeweller to import 25 kg gold from UAE

Note: Retail jewellery major **Malabar Gold and Diamonds** has become the first jeweller in India to import 25 kg gold under the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between

India and the UAE. The gold has been imported through ICICI Bank with one per cent duty rebate under the agreement. The group has effectively utilised the duty benefits of the agreement both in import and export for the first time in India. The Company has also been among the first few jewellers to receive permission to

export jewellery to the UAE with tax concessions under this agreement in May 2022.

2. Google partners with Assam Government to power digitalised learning

Note: Google partners with Assam Government: In order to help and expedite the Assam government's objective to foster digital growth and development in the State, Google inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As part of this new initiative, Google will work with the **Assam Government's Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department (SEED)** to strengthen school digitization efforts with digital tools and solutions to support teaching and learning, as well as to promote the fundamentals of online safety and digital citizenship to schoolchildren through the "Be Internet Awesome" programme.

3. Arya.ag and FWWB India partner with UNDP to implement Project Excel

Note: Arya.ag and FWWB India partner with UNDP: Project Excel is being implemented in the Gujarati districts of Jamnagar and Dwaraka Devbhumi by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the integrated grain commerce platform Arya.ag and Friends of Women's World Banking India (FWWB India). It aims to increase the incomes of 10,000 farmer households through the promotion of small businesses, intervention in the agri-value chain, and skill development in the agricultural industry.

4. ICC tie-up with UNICEF to promote gender equality

Note: The International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF have launched a global partnership to empower women and girls and promote inclusion and gender equality through cricket. The initiatives to drive greater gender equity along with advocacy campaigns involving some of the world's best players will form the basis of the partnership, which aims to mobilise the "power of cricket to driving positive social change".

5. BHEL signed an MoU with CIL & NLCIL for Coal Gasification

Note: Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) signed MoU with Coal India (CIL) and NLC India for setting up Coal Gasification based plants. BHEL rose 2.56% to Rs 62.20 after the company clarified it has entered into a non-binding MoU with CIL and NLCIL. With this, the company aims to set up a Coal Ammonium Nitrate Project with CIL based on the Gasification of high-ash Indian coal, and a lignite-based gasification pilot plant with NLCIL for power generation. The state-run BHEL is engaged

in designing, engineering, constructing, Testing, commissioning, and servicing a wide range of products and services to the core sector of the economy.

6. Tata Power partnered with 75F Smart Innovations for energy-efficiency solutions

Note: Tata Power Trading Company (TPTCL) has signed an agreement with 75F Smart Innovation India to jointly promote automation and energy efficiency solutions in the commercial building space. This will include industry verticals like IT/ITeS, BFSI hospitality, healthcare, education, government, and retail. The collaboration of TPTCL and 75F will offer solutions in the space of HVAC optimization and smart building automation powered by the finest technology like cloud, IoT, and AI.

7. Ashok Leyland, IIT Madras tie up to develop hybrid EVS Using Turbine Tech

Note: Ashok Leyland has joined hands with researchers at the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) for the development and commercialization of a 'swirl mesh lean direct injection (LDI) system' for developing hybrid electrical vehicles using turbine technology. Ashok Leyland is a flagship company of the Hinduja group and a leading commercial vehicle manufacturer. NCCRD is an arm of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

8. Haryana Govt and Dubai ink an MoU for Economic Cooperation

Note: Haryana Govt and Dubai ink an MoU: The government of Dubai has sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Govt. of Haryana for collaboration in a variety of economic activities for the Haryana Govt. Under the terms of the MoU, the Government of Dubai shall identify a suitable entity to assist with identifying the potential areas of collaboration.

9. India-US Announce Launch of New Energy Storage Task Force

Note: India and US announced the launch of a new energy task force to support the large-scale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition. The announcement will strengthen the India-US partnership in the critical energy sector to new levels. There was also a bilateral meeting between Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, after which the announcement was made.

10. India and Japan signed an MoU to develop scientific collaboration for Indian Ayurveda

Note: India and Japan signed an MoU: The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan, and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU aims to increase academic institutions' technical capabilities and capacities.

11. NSIC and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank signs MoU

Note: NSIC and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank signs MoU: The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of MSME, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. This Memorandum of Understanding with the banks intends to assist MSMEs with their lending needs.

12. India-New Zealand Navies sign pact on White Shipping Information Exchange

Note: India-New Zealand Navies sign pact: The Royal New Zealand navy and the Indian navy have signed a contract on the exchange of White Shipping

Information Exchange. Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar and New Zealand Navy Chief Rear Admiral David Proctor signed the contract. In order to encourage more openness in the Maritime Domain, the agreement was signed.

13. Historic MoU Signed to launch India's Rupay debit card in Oman

Note: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and **Central Financial institution Of Oman** signed a historic MoU to launch the Rupay debit card in Oman, paving the best way for a brand new period of monetary connectivity.

14. India signed an agreement with Armenia to export missiles, rockets & ammunition

Note: India will export missiles, rockets, and ammunition to Armenia after the recent clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The missiles will also include Indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher. India has signed this deal with Armenia to help them to depend on the country against their neighboring country Azerbaijan.

September 2022

1. Air India Signs Agreement With Willis Lease For Aircraft Engines

Note: Air India announced that it has signed a definitive sale and lease back agreement with **Nasdaq-listed Willis Lease Finance Corporation** for 34 CFM56-5B engines installed on its **Airbus A320 family fleet**. According to the company statement, the engines will be covered under Willis Lease's ConstantThrust, which will deliver significant reliability and cost savings over a traditional **MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations)** shop visit programme.

2. Royal Society of Chemistry and CSIR collaborate for chemistry in Indian schools

Note: Royal Society of Chemistry and CSIR collaborate: A initiative to promote chemical sciences in schools and universities is being supported by a partnership between the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Council for Industry and Scientific Research (CSIR). Throughout 30 CSIR laboratories hosted the RSC's Global Coin experiment, which involved about 2000 students from all over the nation.

3. ESSCI partnered with Samsung India to train Indian youth

Note: **The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Samsung India** to empower the youth with

industry-relevant skills. It will be a part of the government's '**Skill India**' initiative that aims to empower the youth with industry-relevant skills in emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, Big Data and Coding & Programming, in a bid to enhance their employability. The MoU was exchanged by Ken Kang, President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia, and Abhilasha Gaur, COO, ESSCI.

4. Hero MotoCorp tie-up with HPCL to set up EV charging infrastructure

Note: Hero MotoCorp has joined hands with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd to set up charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers in the country. As a part of the initiative, the two companies will first establish charging infrastructure at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's (HPCL) existing network of stations, with the likelihood of subsequently broadening the collaboration for supplementary business opportunities.

5. India, Egypt sign MoU to bolster defence cooperation in mutual interest sectors

Note: India and Egypt have signed an MoU to bolster defense cooperation and decided to enhance joint military exercises, training, co-production, and maintenance of equipment. The MoU was signed

by Defence Ministry of India Rajnath Singh and General Mohamed Zaki from Egypt at a meeting in Cairo.

6. Indian Navy signed an MoU with Amity University for Academic Cooperation

Note: Amity University Uttar Pradesh signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to form a long-term

7. IBM and IIT Madras collaborate to promote quantum computing in India

Note: IBM and IIT Madras collaborate: Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras) and International Business Machines (IBM) have cooperated to improve quantum computing research and talent development in India. IIT Madras joins the IBM Quantum Network's global membership of over 180 organisations through this agreement. IIT Madras also joins the global network of Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, academic institutions, and research labs using IBM Quantum technology to enhance quantum computing and investigate business application cases as the "first Indian university."

8. MeitY Startup Hub and Meta Collaborate to speed up XR technology startups in India

Note: MeitY Startup Hub and Meta Collaborate: In association with Meta, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) will introduce a programme to help and accelerate XR technology entrepreneurs in India. The program's announcement is scheduled for September 13, 2022. At the event will be Joel Kaplan, Vice President, Global Policy, Meta, and Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

9. Vedanta And Foxconn to Invest 1.54 Lakh Crore In Gujrat For Chip Manufacturing

Note: The Anil Agarwal-led-Vedanta Limited and Foxconn Group will invest more than Rs 1.54 lakh crore to set up an semiconductor ecosystem in Gujarat. The oil-to-metals conglomerate said Vedanta Displays Limited will set up a Display Fab Unit with an investment of Rs 94500 crore and Vedanta Semiconductors Limited will set up an integrated Semiconductor Fab Unit and OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility with investment of Rs 60000 crore.

10. NIESBUD, IIE and ISB Signs MoU to offer Entrepreneurial Programmes to India's Youth

Note: The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) individually with the Indian School of Business (ISB), which is a top-ranking global business school, to offer world-class management

relationship for Academic cooperation. The MoU between Amity University and Indian Navy will enhance the educational qualifications improving the prospect for 'in-service' appropriate nautical assignment and better placements in superannuation from the Indian Navy.

education through entrepreneurial programs targeted towards youth and job seeking entrepreneurs.

11. India-Bangla Trade Now Set For CEPA Boost

Note: Following a meeting with the visiting Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India and Bangladesh will soon commence negotiations on a Bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). "We both believe that by taking lessons from the Covid pandemic and recent global developments, we need to make our economies stronger,"

12. BEL tie-up with Smiths Detection to manufacture scanning systems

Note: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Smiths Detection, a global leader in threat detection and security inspection technologies, for offering advanced, high-energy scanning systems to the Indian market. The MoU, signed for a period of five years and can be extended further by mutual consent, will leverage the high-end, technological capabilities of both firms to meet India's domestic security needs.

13. Adobe and AICTE collaborate to promote digital literacy in India

Note: Adobe and AICTE collaborate: The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in order to advance digital creativity capabilities throughout the nation, has struck a partnership deal with Adobe. According to a release, under the terms of the agreement, Adobe will provide training for educators, provide courses, and incorporate digital creativity into the curriculum to give kids the fundamental creative and digital literacy skills they need to succeed in today's digital-first society.

14. Tata Steel and Punjab govt inked an MoU to establish steel facility in Ludhiana

Note: Tata Steel and Punjab Govt signs an MoU: The Tata steel company and the Punjabi government have agreed to establish a 0.75 million tonne per year (MnTPA) long products steel facility with an electric arc furnace (EAF) powered by scrap. Tata Steel's decision to build the greenfield facility at Kadiana Khurd in Ludhiana's Hitech Valley is a part of the company's commitment to investing in a circular economy and switching to low-carbon steel making through steel recycling.

15. Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Parley for the Oceans

Note: Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the 'Parley for the Oceans', a U.S.-based company that works for plastic-waste management. The minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD)

Audimulapa Suresh, MAUD Principal Secretary, Y.Sri Lakshmi, and Founder of Parley for the Oceans, Cyrill Gutsch. The MoU was signed under the presence of Chief Minister of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and an event was held at the AU Convention Centre in Vishakhapatnam.

Obituaries

August 2023

1. Noted **author Sara Thomas** passed away at 88 due to age-related ailments.
Note: She is a two-time recipient of the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi award**. Her noted work 'Narmadipudava' won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1979. She was also awarded the academy's award in 2010 for her overall contribution to Malayalam literature. Her second novel 'Muripadukal' was made into a movie titled 'Manimuzhakkam' in 1976, which won several national and state awards.
2. Former India **all-rounder Salim Durani** passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
Note: He played 29 Tests for India from 1960 to 1973, scoring 1,202 runs at an average of 25.04, with one century (104 against West Indies in 1962) and seven fifties. He was a left-arm spinner and claimed 75 wickets at 35.42 apiece. In first-class cricket, he **played for Saurashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan**. He was born in Kabul (Afghanistan) in 1934 and was raised in Jamnagar.
3. **Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Thottathil B Radhakrishnan** passed away in Kochi at the age of 63.
Note: He also served as the **Chief Justice of Telangana and Chattisgarh HC** and was a judge of the Kerala HC. He was an expert in civil, constitutional, and administrative matters. He also chaired the expert committee formed by the Kerala Forest Department to record details of houses and commercial establishments that surround wildlife sanctuaries.
4. **Veteran composer and green activist Ryuichi Sakamoto** passed away at the age of 71 due to cancer.
Note: He was a **Japanese composer**, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO). As a film-score composer, he won an Oscar, a BAFTA, a Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards. He won an Academy Award with his score for the 1987 period epic "The Last Emperor".
5. **Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto** passed away at 56 in Chennai.
Note: He was the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in the Giridih district, Jharkhand. He was also known as **Tiger Mahto or Tiger Jagarnath Da**. He was born on January 1, 1967, in the Alargo village of Bokaro District in Jharkhand and dropped out of high school and attended Nehru High School in 1995 before leaving his studies to pursue a career in politics.
6. **Legendary theatre actor & co-founder of Akshara Theatre, Jalabala Vaidya** passes away at 86 in New Delhi.
Note: She was the daughter of Indian author and freedom fighter Suresh Vaidya and English classical singer Madge Franckeiss. She was **awarded the Delhi government's Varisht Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award**, Delhi Natya Sangh Award, the Andhra Pradesh Natya Akademi Honor, and Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore, USA.
7. **A former IAS officer and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Naresh Gupta** passed away at 72 after a prolonged illness.
Note: He was a native of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was the CEO during the DMK regime between 1998 and 2000. Subsequently, late chief minister J Jayalalithaa appointed him as home secretary. He was again posted as the CEO between 2005 and 2010 and held the post during the 2006 assembly election and 2009 general elections.
8. **The former chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra Group of companies, Keshub Mahindra** passed away at 99 in Mumbai.
Note: He served as chairman of the conglomerate from 1963 to 2012. He joined the Board of the company in 1948 and was elected chairman in 1963. He was awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur by the French Government in 1987. He re-entered the **Forbes list of India's Richest Billionaires for 2023** with a net worth of \$1.2 billion.
9. **Veteran Liberation Warfighter and legendary public health activist Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury** passed away at 81 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Note: He was a **vascular surgeon and a pioneer in public health**. He won the **Ramon Magsaysay**

- Award** in the Community Leadership category in 1985 and the Right Livelihood Prize in 1992 for his outstanding work in the public health sector. In 1971, he left his medical studies in the UK to join the liberation war of Bangladesh.
- 10. Veteran film and television actress Uttara Baokar** passed away at 79 in Pune, Maharashtra.
Note: In 1984, she won India's **National Academy for Acting, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**. She also appeared in Marathi films like Doghi (1995) with Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Renuka Daftardar, Uttarayan (2005), Shevri (2006), and Restaurant (2006), with Sonali Kulkarni. She has played various roles in different plays such as Padmavati in Mukyhamantri and Mena in Mena Gurjari.
- 11.** An actor and comedian Allu Ramesh passed away due to cardiac arrest in Visakhapatnam, was associated with **Telugu**.
Note: Allu Ramesh started off his career as an actor by doing theatre performances. He made his debut in Tollywood with Tarun's Chirujallu and starred in almost 50 films. Allu Ramesh acted in movies like Napoleon, Tholubommalata, Madhura Wines, and Ravana Desam.
- 12.** Sidharth Rao, who passed away, was a co-founder and former CEO of **Webchutney**.
Note: In 1999, he founded India's first and top digital agency WebChutney. In July 2021, Rao was chosen to serve as the global CEO of Dentsu McGarrybowen. In 2022, he stepped down as group CEO of dentsuMB India and joined hands and launched a new venture in the marketing technology (MarTech) space, called Punt Partners along with serial entrepreneur Madhu Sudan.
- 13.** Trilochan Kanungo, who passed away in Bhubaneswar, was a **Politician**.
Note: Kanungo was elected to the assembly in 1971, 1974, and 1985. In 1999, he was elected from the Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seat on a BJD ticket. He was a former chairman of Cuttack Municipality and ex-chairperson of the state finance commission. He was
- born on November 24, 1940, in Badamulei village in Cuttack district, Odisha.
- 14.** Tarek Fatah, who passed away, was associated with **Journalist**.
Note: He was emigrating to Canada from Pakistan in 1987. He worked as a political activist, journalist, and television host. He also authored several books including, 'Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State' and 'The Jew is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism.' He won various awards such as the Donner Prize, and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award.
- 15.** Parkash Singh Badal, who passed away, was CM of **Punjab** state.
Note: He became the CM of Punjab for the first time in 1970. Later, he became the chief minister four times, from 1977 to 1980, 1997 to 2002, 2007 to 2012, and from 2012 to 2017. He briefly joined Morarji Desai's government as the Agriculture minister at the Centre in 1977. He was awarded the second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- 16.** Mamukkoya, who passed away, was a veteran actor-comedian of **Malayalam**.
Note: He started his acting career by doing theatre in 1979, then he went on to become an actor by doing comic roles and was popular for playing characters that spoke Malabar accent. He acted in around 500 films, including comedies like Sandesam, Nadodikkattu, Innathe Chintha Vishayam, and Varavelpu. He won several awards and honours for his various roles during his extensive career.
- 17.** Dr. N Gopalakrishnan, who passed away, was a veteran **Scientists**.
Note: He was a scientist at Advanced Seismic Testing and Research Laboratory (ASTaR) of CSIR-SERC. He had served as a design engineer at TATA Consulting Engineers, Bengaluru and later joined as scientist in the Structural Dynamics and Machine Foundation division of CSIR-SERC. He was the co-author of 61 national and international journal articles and filed for five Indian patents.

July 2023

- 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.

June 2023

1. **Dr. Ved Kumari Ghai**, who passed away at 91, was a noted scholar in **Sanskrit**.

Note: She was an Indian Sanskrit scholar from Jammu City, J&K, and was head of the Sanskrit department at Jammu University. She was awarded the Padma Shri (India's fourth highest civilian award), a Certificate for her scholarship in Sanskrit, and President's Award for Sanskrit. She was also awarded Gold Medal by Jammu and Kashmir Government for social work and the Dogra Ratan award.

2. Amir Raza Husain, who passed away at 66, was a veteran **Actor**.

Note: He was known for his large outdoor stage productions such as "The Fifty Day War" based on the Kargil War and "The Legend of Ram". He was also the Creative Director of the Stagedoor Theatre Company, established in 1974, which has presented over 91 productions and more than 1,100 performances. He

was honoured with the Padma Shri (2001) by the government for his contribution to theatre.

3. **Sulochana**, who passed away at 94, was veteran **Actor (female)**.

Note: She was featured in more than 250 Hindi and 50 Marathi films. She started her career with Marathi films in the early 1940s and soon moved to Hindi films, where she portrayed several mother roles in movies like Shammi Kapoor's Dil Dekhe Dekho, Dilip Kumar's Aadmi, Dev Anand's Jhonny Mera Naam, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Himmatwala, and Andar Baahar. She was honoured with Padma Shri in 1999.

4. **Gitanjali Aiyar**, who passed away, was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note: Aiyar joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four times. She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989. She was a diploma holder from the National School of Drama (NSD). She had also been a

- popular face in several print advertisements and even acted in Sridhar Kshirsagar's TV drama "Khandaan".
- Silvio Berlusconi**, who passed away at 86, was a former PM of **Italy**.
Note: Berlusconi founded Forza Italia, a center-right party, in 1994 with the aim of defeating the 'communists'. His party introduced a populist style of politics in Italy, propelling him to the upper ranks of the political establishment. He was also known as 'Il Cavaliere' (The Knight) and remained a flamboyant and influential figure in Italian politics.
 - Cormac McCarthy** passed away at 89 in the USA, was a veteran **Novelist**.
Note: "All the Pretty Horses," "The Road" and "No Country for Old Men" were among his acclaimed books that explore a bleak world of violence and outsiders. He was awarded the National Book Award in 1992 for his novel 'All the Pretty Horses'. He also won a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for 'The Road'. Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men.
 - Dr. M. A. Kuttappan, who passed away, was associated with **Politics**.
Note: He began his career as a doctor at Alappuzha Medical College and Cochin Port Trust Hospital. Later he became a four-time MLA in the Kerala assembly and was a member of the AK Antony ministry in 2001 as minister for the welfare of backward classes and SC/ST. He was elected to the state assembly from Wandoor, Chelakkara, and twice from Njarakkal constituencies. Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men.
 - Sylvester daCunha, the man behind the iconic Amul Girl 'utterly butterly' campaign, passed away, was a veteran **Advertiser**.
Note: He conceived the 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul, the brand owned by Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), in 1966. In 1969, daCunha solidified his legacy by establishing daCunha Communications. The 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.
 - Co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries, John Bannister Goodenough passed away at 101, was honoured with the Nobel Prize in **2019**.
Note: He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize with Stan Whittingham, a British-American scientist, for discovering that lithium may be held within sheets of titanium sulphide. He was also instrumental in the invention of computer RAM (Random Access Memory). He also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Oxford University.

June 2023

- Robert E. Lucas Jr.** passed away at 85, was a veteran **Economist**.
Note: He was **honoured with the Nobel Prize in Economics** for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations, and thereby having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy in **1995**. He was well known for his investigations into the implications of the assumption of the rational expectations theory.
- Ambala MP Rattan Lal Kataria** passed away at 71, was a **Politician**.
Note: He has served as minister of state in the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from May 2019 till July 2021. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Ambala in 1999, 2014, and 2019. He also served as the party's Haryana unit chief from 2000 to 2003. He was also a minister in the Haryana government.
- Srichand Parmanand Hinduja**, passed away in London, was a noted **Businessman**.
Note: He was a chairman of the **Hinduja Group**. He was a British billionaire businessman, investor, and philanthropist. As of August 2022, together with his brother Gopichand, he was the UK's richest man. In 1952, he joined his father PD Hinduja (founder of Hinduja Group) in the family business. Subsidiaries of Hinduja Group: Ashok Leyland, IndusInd Bank, Gulf Oil International Ltd, Quaker-Houghton, etc.
- Martin Amis** passed at 73 in Florida, was a veteran **British novelist**.
Note: He was a prolific writer and published 15 novels during his career. He was best known for his works "**Money: A Suicide Note**" and "**London Fields**." He was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his memoir "Experience." His novels "Time's Arrow" and "Yellow Dog" were recognized with nominations for the Booker Prize.
- Sarath Babu**, who passed away at 71 from Multi-Organ failure, was veteran **Actor**.
Note: He has primarily worked in **Tamil and Telugu films** and was known for his roles in 'Annamalai' and 'Muthu'. He has appeared in more than 200 films, including Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi films. He started his career in 1973 through a Telugu film and later became popular through the Tamil film 'Nizhal Nijamagiradhu', directed by K Balachander. He was honored with eight state Nandi Awards.
- Tina Turner**, who passed away, was a **Singer**.

Note: She started her career with Ike Turner's Kings of Rhythm in 1957. Under the name Little Ann, she appeared on her first record, "Boxtop", in 1958. She received **12 Grammy Awards**, including eight competitive awards, three Grammy Hall of Fame awards, and Lifetime Achievement Award. She was the first black artist and woman on the cover of Rolling Stone.

7. **Govindaray H Nayak**, who passed away, was a **Writer**.

Note: He won the **Kendra Sahitya Academy Award for his work 'Uttarardha' in 2014**. He was also awarded the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award for

'Nirapeksha' and V M Inamdhar Memorial Award for 'Nijadani'. He had also been the recipient of the prestigious Pampa Award. His works include Samakaalina and Anivaarya

8. **Balu alias Suresh Dhanorkar** passed away, was a **Politician**.

Note: Dhanorkar was born in Yavatmal district on June 4, 1975. In 2014, he was elected as an MLA of Shiv Sena, winning the Warora-Bhadrawati Assembly seat. He resigned from the Shiv Sena in 2019 and was elected as a Congress MP from Chandrapur Vani Arni Lok Sabha constituency. His wife Pratibha Dhanorkar is also a Congress MLA from the Varora constituency.

National and International Appointment

August 2023

1. **Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi** has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors and a Constituency Director at

BRICS' New Development Bank.

Note: With her appointment at the multilateral bank, She become the first Emirati and Arab woman to assume a Director's position. She will contribute to the UAE's financial interests on a global scale and in various financial sectors.

2. **Puneet Chandok** was appointed as the Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia by the company in Aug 2023.

Note: He will be responsible for the seamless integration of Microsoft's operations across South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. His focus will be on key industries, employing a customer-centric approach empowered by generative AI technology. He was a Partner at McKinsey in India and Asia.

3. Cabinet Secretary, **Rajiv Gauba** tenure has been extended by 1-year.

Note: This marks his third extension in the same position. He is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand and former Union home secretary, in 2019. He received a one-year extension in 2021, and subsequently, another extension in August of the preceding year.

4. Tesla appointed Indian-origin **Vaibhav Taneja** as Chief Financial Officer of the company replacing Kirkhorn.

Note: He initially assumed the role of Corporate Controller in May 2018, and his commitment and competence led to his elevation to the position of CAO

in March 2019. His portfolio encompassed the critical domains of financial reporting, tax compliance, and internal controls, underscoring his pivotal role in upholding Tesla's fiscal integrity.

5. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for re-employment on a contract basis of **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya** as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited for a period of one year.

Note: This is one of the very rare occasions when a director on the board of a PSU has been given an extension of service beyond his retirement age. No chairman of a Maharatna PSU has been given an extension beyond 60 years.

6. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given its official approval and appointed **Amit Jhingran** as the managing director & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Company in Aug 2023.

Note: He had a successful career with the State Bank of India spanning over 30 years. Currently, he serves as the chief general manager of the Hyderabad Circle. He started as a probationary officer in August 1991 and has held various positions in international banking.

7. International Gemological Institute (IGI), a Blackstone portfolio company, has appointed **Tehmasp Printer** as Global CEO of IGI, effective October 1, 2023.

- Note:** He would replace current CEO Roland Lorie, who will step down after spending nearly five decades. Tehmasp Printer has more than 30 years of experience in managing and leading businesses. He has been with IGI for 24 years, most recently as Managing Director of IGI India.
8. PayPal appointed **Alex Chriss** as CEO, replaced its longest-serving chief executive officer Dan Schulman in August 2023.
Note: He currently serves as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Intuit's Small Business and Self-Employed Group. The change of guard marks a watershed moment for digital payments giant PayPal, which has been looking to push deeper into the cryptocurrency payments space with the launch of a U.S. dollar stablecoin last week.
9. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Parminder Chopra** as the first full-time women Chairperson and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited.
Note: Presently, she is serving as Director (Finance) of the same Maharatna Power PSU. She has also been holding the addition charge of company's CMD post. She has more than 35 years of experience in power sector, serving in key power sector organizations like NHPC and Power Grid.
10. The Reserve Bank of India appointed **PR Seshadri** as MD & CEO of South Indian Bank and he will serve for a period of three years.
Note: He is currently mentoring businesses both at an operating level as well as at the board level at various companies. He has served as Managing Director & CEO of the Karur Vysya Bank Limited. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering and a PG Diploma in Management from the IIM Bangalore.
11. The government has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and **Amarjeet Singh** as SEBI Whole-Time Members.
Note: Kamlesh Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry. Amarjeet Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Both have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders.
12. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has appointed **Rahul Dravid** as BPCL latest brand ambassador.
Note: He will represent BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and its range of MAK lubricants. BPCL operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai. It was ranked 309th on the 2020 Fortune list of the world's biggest Public sector undertakings in India.
13. Viacom18 has appointed **Kiran Mani** as CEO overseeing digital business operations in August 2023.
Note: Currently, he holds the position of General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region at Google. He has been associated with the company for over 13 years now. Mani, in his role as the head of the digital business, will have the responsibility of leading the expansion of JioCinema, according to the sources.
14. **Srettha Thavisin** has become Thailand's prime minister after clinching parliamentary support.
Note: He co-founded Sansiri in 1988, which later became one of Thailand's largest real estate developers, leading Srettha to become a property tycoon. He was the former chief executive and president of Sansiri. Srettha will lead an alliance of 11 parties that includes two pro-military parties affiliated with outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.
15. **Emmerson Mnangagwa** has been re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe, for a second and final five-year term in August 2023.
Note: His victory over his closest competitor, Nelson Chamisa after his first full term in office, strengthened ZANU-PF 's grip on power. Zimbabwe has over the past two decades suffered under disastrous economic policies that have led to soaring prices, high unemployment, and a medical system lacking basic drugs and equipment.
16. The Finance Industry Development Council has appointed **Umesh Revankar** as its new chairman.
Note: He currently holds the position of executive vice chairman for Shriram Finance and have decades of experience and expertise in the financial services industry. He has risen through the ranks, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles in business operations. He played a pivotal role in making Shriram Transport Finance Company the largest commercial vehicle financier in India.
17. The IndianOil has been appointed **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor** as the brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.
Note: This announcement was made at the prestigious Indane XtraTej Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru. The event witnessed the unveiling of the new XTRATEJ TV commercial featuring Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, who commended IndianOil's commitment to culinary innovation and efficiency. Indian Oil Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

- 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).
- 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.
- 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.

June 2023

- 1. Ashwani Kumar** has been appointed as **MD and CEO of UCO Bank**.
Note: He has replaced **Soma Sankara Prasad**, who superannuated on May 31, 2023. Prior to this, he served as an Executive Director at Indian Bank. He would lead the public sector bank for a period of three years from June 1, 2023. He would also be eligible for an extension of the term of office, after a review of his performance.
- 2. Ajay Yadav** has been appointed as the **Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)**.
Note: He is a 2005 batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre. SECI is a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). It was incorporated in the year 2011. It is the primary implementing agency of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for Renewable Energy schemes/projects towards the fulfillment of India's international commitments.
- 3. INAS, P Upadhyay** assumed charge as **Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)** on June 1, 2023.
Note: He has replaced **KSC Iyer**, who superannuated on 31 May 2023. He is an alumnus of the Naval Defence College of NDC-53. He belongs to the 1987 batch of the Indian Naval Armament Service. He joined the Naval Armament

Organization of the Indian Navy in 1989. He is specialized in Missile and Torpedo Maintenance besides having vast knowledge of the disposal of ammunition.

- 4. Amarendu Prakash** has taken charge as a **Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** on May 31, 2023.
Note: Prior to this, he was Director in charge at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL). He is a metallurgical engineer from BIT Sindhri and joined SAIL in 1991 as a Management Trainee (Technical). He also took on additional charge as Director In-Charge of the Rourkela Steel Plant, IISCO, and Durgapur Steel Plant.
- 5. Recep Tayyip Erdogan** will be sworn in as the **President of Turkish**.
Note: Ambassador Virander Paul will be representing India at the ceremony. The inauguration ceremony in Parliament will be followed by an elaborate ceremony at Erdogan's palace in Ankara. He won the presidential run-off election by securing 52.18% of the vote, defeating his opponent Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who received 47.82% votes.
- 6. Abdulla Al Mandous** has been elected as the new **President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** for a 4-year term from 2023 to 2027.

- Note:** He emerged as the official candidate of the UAE and secured 95 votes out of the representatives from WMO's 193 member states and territories. He succeeded Prof Gerhard Adrian. WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, environment, etc.
7. **Ajay Banga** has assumed charge as the **President of the World Bank**, after replacing David Malpass, who stepped down on June 1, 2023.
Note: He has been appointed as the **14th President of the World Bank** for a five-year term. In February 2023, US President Joe Biden nominated Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank. He has become the first-ever Indian-American to head the World Bank. Prior to this role, he served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic.
8. **TransUnion CIBIL** has appointed **V Anantharaman** as a new **non-executive chairman**.
Note: He **replaced M V Nair**, who has stepped down from his post, after eleven years. He has worked in the banking industry to lead corporate and investment banking teams in Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Bank of America. He also served on the boards of The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Axis Asset Management Company, IIFL Home Finance Ltd and Ecom Express Ltd.
9. **Amit Agrawal** has been appointed as the new **CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
Note: While Subodh Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Testing Agency. Both Agrawal and Singh are Indian Administrative Service officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre. Rashmi Chowdhary, additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been appointed as secretary in the Central Information Commission.
10. **Nitin Agarwal** has been appointed as the new director general of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
Note: This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position. Presently, he is serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the CRPF in Delhi. The additional charge of the BSF has been held by Sujoy Lal Thaosan, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
11. The government of India has appointed **Pankaj Agrawal** as the new **Power Secretary**.
Note: He would **replace present Secretary Alok Kumar**, who will retire on June 30. While Rajat Mishra will be the new Fertiliser Secretary, and Chanchal Kumar to join the Civil Aviation Ministry as Secretary. Sudhansh Pant will move from the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry to Health Ministry. Subhas Chandra Lal Das will move to the Ministry of MSME as Secretary.
12. **Philip Green** has been appointed as Australia's next High Commissioner to India.
Note: He would succeed incumbent Barry O'Farrell, who served as Australian high commissioner to India since 2020. Presently, he is serving as Australia's ambassador to Germany. Previously, he has also served as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, South Africa, and Kenya. Hilary McGeachy has been appointed as Australia's first Consul-General in Bengaluru
13. **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal** has assumed charge as the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL).
Note: He has replaced Sanjay Kumar, who has taken over as Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India) Ltd. Prior to this role, he was working as an executive director and head of zonal marketing of GAIL in Jaipur, Rajasthan. IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) with the Delhi government holding 5% stake.
14. **Jane Marriott** has been appointed as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan.
Note: She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019. She also becomes the first female British envoy to Islamabad. Prior to this role, she was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019. She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.
15. **P Vasudevan** has been appointed as MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank.
Note: He has been reappointed for a period of 3 years, from July 23, 2023, to July 23, 2026. Headquarters of Equitas SFB: Chennai. After receiving license from RBI on 30 June 2016, Equitas Small Finance bank began banking on 5 September 2016 and with effect from 4 February 2017, Equitas became a scheduled bank.
16. Axis Bank has appointed **NS Vishwanathan** as the non-executive chairman for three years.
Note: His appointment will be effective from October 27, 2023, or the date of approval of his appointment by the RBI. NS Vishwanathan was a seasoned banker, who handled critical areas like regulation. He has also served as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 2016 and 2020.
17. **Ravi Sinha** has been appointed as the new head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) for a tenure of two years.
Note: He would succeed Samant Goel, who completes his four-year tenure on June 30, 2023. Ravi Sinha is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service

- (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre. At present, he is serving as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat. Earlier, Sinha served in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and foreign countries.
- 18. Swaminathan Janakiraman** has been appointed as the deputy governor of Reserve Bank India for three years.
Note: He would succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was serving as a deputy governor since 2018, is set to retire. Prior to this role, he held various assignments across Corporate and International Banking, Retail and Digital Banking, Finance, and Assurance functions with SBI. He also served as a Nominee Director of SBI on the Boards of Yes Bank and Jio Payments Bank.
- 19. Hasmukh Adhia** has been appointed as chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City.
Note: In addition to this role, he was also appointed as the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC). He replaced Sudhir Mankad, to take the helm of GIFT City. He has also served as the Principal advisor to Narendra Modi when he was CM of Gujarat.
- 20. Umesh Kumar** was appointed the chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), by the President of India.
Note: President Droupadi Murmu has exercised the powers conferred by Section 45(b) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, read with subsection 2 of Section 84 of the Electricity Act, 2003. He served as the justice of Allahabad High Court till July 2022.
- 21. Finland's parliament elected Petteri Orpo** as prime minister at the head of a four-party coalition.
Note: Parliament voted in favor of Orpo, who won the April elections. He was formally appointed as prime minister by President Sauli Niinisto. He took over from Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats finished third behind Orpo's National Coalition Party and the Finns Party. The new coalition is made up of the smaller Swedish People's Party and Christian Democrats.
- 22. Eddie Wu** will take over as the chief executive of the Alibaba Group.
Note: He is one of the co-founders of Alibaba, who first served it as a technology director back in 1999. While Joe Tsai will take over as chairman on September 10th, 2023. He was appointed as the company's CFO until 2013. The present CEO and Chairman Daniel Zhang is planning to step down this year.
- 23. WHO has appointed Health Dr Vanessa Kerry** as the first-ever WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and.
Note: She is a renowned global health expert and medical doctor and CEO of Seed Global Health. She will play a pivotal role in amplifying WHO's climate and health messaging and undertake high-level advocacy. Climate change is emerging as the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, impacting various aspects of human well-being.
- 24. DBS Bank India has appointed Rajat Verma** as managing director and head of institutional banking.
Note: He will succeed Niraj Mittal, who will be taking up a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia. Rajat Verma was formerly with HSBC as the MD and country head of Commercial Banking in India. He will lead the growth of the institutional banking franchise for DBS Bank in India given the significantly expanded footprint of the lender.
- 25. Kyriakos Mitsotakis** has been sworn in as the PM of Greece for a second term, after winning the Prime Minister election.
Note: He took the oath of office in the presidential palace at a ceremony. In the election, he bagged 40.55% of the votes, more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84%. He vowed to accelerate institutional and economic reforms. He became the PM for the first time in 2019 when his party defeated Syriza in an election.
- 26. The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the Federal Bank for the appointment of AP Hota** as part-time chairman, with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026.
Note: In 2018, he was appointed as an Independent Director of Federal Bank Limited. He has also worked at RBI as a nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and Andhra Bank. He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009-2017.
- 27. Rohit Jawa** has assumed charge as the Managing Director and CEO of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL).
Note: He has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired after the company's annual general meeting. Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, 2023. Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London. He started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988.
- 28. Ajay Bhatnagar** has been appointed as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effective until his superannuation on November 20, 2024.

Note: At present, he is serving as Additional Director in the agency. While Anurag and Manoj Sashidhar have been promoted to the position of Additional Director. The government has also extended the tenure of Sharad Agarwal as Joint Director.

29. Audi has appointed **Gernot Dollner** as Chairman of the Board of Management, effective September 1, 2023.

May 2023

1. **Santiago Peña (Colorado Party)** has won the **presidential election of Paraguay**, defeating Efraín Alegre, the candidate of the Concertación Nacional coalition.

Note: He got more than 42% votes, while his **opponent Efraín Alegre** received nearly 28%. The Colorado Party has dominated the political scene in Paraguay's landlocked South American nation for more than 70 years. Paraguay's economy is expected to grow by more than 4% this year.

2. **Vanessa Hudson** has been appointed as the new **chief executive officer** of Australia's flagship carrier, **Qantas**.

Note: She will **succeed Alan Joyce**, who will retire in November 2023. She has been market-facing as CFO since October 2019. She had held several senior roles there, including chief customer officer and senior vice president for the Americas and New Zealand.

3. The government of India has cleared the appointment of **Justice T. S. Sivagnana as the Chief Justice of Calcutta**.

Note: Presently, he is serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. On 25 October 2021, he took oath as a Judge of Calcutta High Court. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court and later he was appointed Permanent Judge on 29 March 2011.

4. **T. S. Sivagnana** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of **Coal India Limited**.

Note: He is currently **posted as CMD of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Ranchi**. In 2015, he joined NTPC as Executive Director (Coal Mining) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) in 2018 as Director of Technical (P&P). In 2019, he was also appointed as CMD of BCCL. The Union coal ministry has set a target for Coal India Limited to produce 1012 MT of coal by 2023-24

5. **Ajay Banga** has been appointed as the **new president of the World Bank**, effective June 2, 2023.

Note: He was **nominated by US President Joe Biden** in February 2023. Presently, he is serving as

Note: He will take over Markus Duesmann. Gernot Dollner joined Volkswagen as a Ph. D. candidate in 1993 and subsequently served in a number of management roles at Porsche, including as head of Concept Development and head of the Panamera Series.

the vice chairman at US investment firm General Atlantic LP. Before that, he worked as president and CEO of Mastercard. In 2016, he was awarded the fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri.

6. **Charles III** has taken his oath and been **crowned King** in a ceremony in London witnessed by over two thousand guests and dignitaries in Westminster Abbey.

Note: The Archbishop of Canterbury placed the St Edward's Crown on the King's head during a ceremony at Westminster Abbey and after the King was crowned, his wife Camilla was crowned as the Queen. King had taken the solemn oath to govern the United Kingdom people with justice and mercy.

7. Accenture board has appointed **Ajay Vij** as the **MD of Accenture India, succeeded Rekha M. Menon**, who retired after 20 years.

Note: He will be responsible for expanding his current responsibilities as Corporate Services & Sustainability lead to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making. While Sandeep Dutta will lead the company's Market Unit. He will serve as the company's India business lead and drive business and operations.

8. **Margherita Della Valle** has been **interim CEO of Vodafone Group**.

Note: She has **replaced Nick Read**, who stepped down in December 2022. Della Valle's career at Vodafone has included marketing, operational, commercial, and financial positions. Vodafone Group is a British multinational telecommunications company headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

18. **Neera Tanden** has been appointed as **US President's Domestic Policy Advisor** to help him craft and implement his domestic policy agenda.

Note: She has **replaced Susan Rice** as Biden's Domestic Policy Advisor. She served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks. Tanden previously served as senior advisor for health reform at the Department of Health and Human Services.

19. The Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) has recommended **Parminder Chopra** as a new **Chairman and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**.
Note: She will be the **first woman** to be appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Maharatna company. She has been working with the company since 2005. **Power Finance Corporation:** It is India's largest NBFC by net worth (all reserves). It was incorporated on July 16th, 1986. Registered office: New Delhi
20. **Larsen & Toubro** board has appointed **S N Subrahmanyam** as Chairman and MD, with effect from October 1, 2023.
Note: He will **succeed A M Naik**, who steps down as Non-Executive Chairman of the L&T Group at the end of his tenure on 30 September 2023. Currently, S N Subrahmanyam is serving as the CEO and MD of L&T. He has also worked as Deputy MD & President leading L&T's infrastructure business to its position as the country's largest construction organization.
21. **Geeta Rao Gupta** has been confirmed by the **US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues** in the State Department.
Note: She was **confirmed by the US Senate** by 51 to 47 votes. Prior to this, she has worked as the Executive Director of the UN Foundation's 3D Programme for Girls and Women. She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of InterAction and the Moriah Fund.
22. **Praveen Sood** was appointed as the **new CBI director** for a period of two years.
Note: He would **replace current CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal**, who will retire on May 25, 2023. He started his career in Mysore as Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1989. Later, he served as Superintendent of Police, Bellary, and Raichur before being posted in Bengaluru as Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).
23. **Linda Yaccarino** has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter**.
Note: Prior to this, she was serving as the head of advertising at NBCUniversal. She had served 19 years at Turner Entertainment and has been credited with dragging the network's ad sales operation into the digital future. She is an alumna of Penn State University, having studied liberal arts and telecommunications. In October 2022, Elon Musk completed \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter.
24. **Manoj Soni** has taken oath as **the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** on May 16, 2023.
Note: He administered the oath of office and secrecy as chairman of UPSC by Smita Nagaraj, a senior member of the Commission. He joined the Commission as a member on June 28, 2017, and has been performing the duties of the UPSC chairman since April 5, 2022. He served as VC at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (Gujarat), and Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.
25. **Ravneet Kaur** has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for five years**.
Note: She has **replaced CCI Member Sangeeta Verma**, who has been serving as an acting Chairperson since October 2022. There has been no full-time Chairperson for the competition regulator since Ashok Kumar Gupta was demitted from office. The Chairperson will get a consolidated salary of Rs 4,50,000 per month without a house and car.
26. **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took over as the **Deputy Chief of the Air Staff**.
Note: He is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, with over 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer, and transport aircraft. He participated in the operations 'Safed Sagar' and 'Rakshak'. He is an alumnus of NDA and was commissioned in the fighter stream in 1986. He is a graduate of the Staff Course (Bangladesh), and National Defence College (New Delhi).
27. **Anil Kumar Jain** has been appointed as the new **chairman of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board**.
Note: He has been appointed for **five years** (from the date assumption of charge) or attaining 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He is a 1986-batch IAS officer from the MP cadre. PNGRB was constituted under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
28. **Economist Ludovit Odor** was appointed as the **interim prime minister of Slovakia**, who will lead the country until early elections.
Note: He is a politically independent economist who comes to the job straight from the board of the country's central bank. Odor and his caretaker cabinet were picked by President Zuzana Caputova. Slovakia is a member of the European Union, the Euro Zone, and NATO. Slovakia is struggling with high inflation due to war in neighboring Ukraine.
29. **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has been appointed as the **new union law minister**.
Note: He is a retired IAS officer, social worker, and farmer, who later turned politician from Rajasthan. Currently, he is serving as the MoS for Parliamentary Affairs and MoS for Culture. He has also served as the Union Minister of State, and Ministry of Finance from 2016 to 2017. He has **replaced Kiren Rijiju**, who will now handle the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

- 30. Bhavesh Gupta** has been appointed as the **president and chief operating officer (COO) of Paytm**.
Note: He has served as the CEO of Clix Capital (formerly known as GE Capital) and head of SME & business banking at IDFC Bank. He will be responsible to lead verticals of lending, insurance, payments – online and offline, consumer payments, and drive key initiatives including user growth, operations risk, fraud risk, and compliance.
- 31. CJI DY Chandrachud** has administered the oath of office to **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **Senior advocate Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan** as judges of the Supreme Court.
Note: Current sanctioned strength: 34 Justice KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice V Ramasubramanian will retire in June 2023. Currently, Justice PK Mishra is serving the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. **KV Viswanathan is a senior advocate and a former Additional Solicitor General.**
- 32. Siddaramaiah** took oath as the **24th Chief Minister of Karnataka** for the second time.
Note: Apart from him, **DK Shivakumar** was sworn in as the cabinet minister and has been designated as the **sole deputy chief minister of Karnataka**. Karnataka has a parliamentary system of government with Legislative Assembly, and Legislative Council. Capital of Karnataka: Bangalore.
- 33. Paytm Payments Bank** for the **re-appointment of Vijay Shekhar Sharma** as part-time **chairman** for a year, effective from May 23, 2023.
Note: At present, One97 Communications owns a 49% stake in Paytm Payments Bank and Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds the remaining stakes in the entity. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the **promoter of Paytm Payments Bank**. Paytm Payments Bank: It was founded in 2017 and is headquartered in Noida
- 34. The World Health Organization (WHO)** has appointed **Renée Fleming** and **Pretty Yende** as the **Goodwill Ambassadors for Arts and Health**.
Note: Renée Fleming is one of the most celebrated singers and Pretty Yende is an extraordinary soprano known for her dazzling performances. They would join other distinguished WHO Goodwill Ambassadors such as Alisson, Natalia Becker, Didier Drogba, Michael Bloomberg, Cynthia Germanotta, Gordon Brown, and James Chau, among others.
- 35. Co-founder, and CEO of Dream Sports, Harsh Jain** has been elected the **chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for 2023-25**.
Note: He has **replaced Sanjay Gupta**, vice president, and country manager of Google India.
- Rajesh Magow (co-founder and group CEO of MakeMyTrip) was elected as vice chairman, while Satyan Ganjwani (vice chairman of Times Internet) as the treasurer of the association. The IAMAI governing council election is held every two years.
- 36. Karnataka Bank** has appointed **Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma** as the new **managing director and chief executive officer** of the bank for three years.
Note: The appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing AGM or within a period of 3 months from the date of assuming charge whichever is earlier. His expertise and leadership would drive the bank toward continued growth and success. He has worked at HDFC Bank Limited, Yes Bank, and Jio Payments Bank.
- 37. The Central government** has notified the appointment of **Justice MS Ramachandra Rao** as the **Chief Justice (CJ) of Himachal Pradesh HC**.
Note: He has succeeded CJ Amjad Sayed, who retired in January 2023. In addition, Justice SV Gangapurwala was appointed as the CJ of Madras HC. Presently, Justice S Vaidyanathan has been serving as the Acting CJ of Madras High Court. Justice Ramesh Dhanuka has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay HC with a tenure of four days.
- 38. The National Council of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **R Dinesh** as the **president of CII for 2023-24**.
Note: He is an executive vice-chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions. He has **replaced Sanjiv Bajaj**, the chairman and managing director, Bajaj Finserv Limited. Sanjiv Puri (chairman and managing director of ITC Ltd) has taken over as president-designate of CII for the year 2023-24. Rajiv Memani has taken over as vice-president of CII for the year 2023-24.
- 39. Mukesh Ambani** has been named as a **member of the international advisory committee** that will provide guidance and counsel to the presidency of the **28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28), UAE**.
Note: He is among 31 international experts named on the panel. The panel will inspire collaborative and transformative action across adaptation, mitigation, damage, food, and nature-based solutions.
- 40. Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has won the **presidential election in Turkiye**, extending his rule to a third decade.
Note: He **defeated opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu** in a runoff vote. Out of 99.43% of the votes, Erdogan got 52.14% of the votes and Kilicdaroglu received 47.86%. The vote seals Erdogan's place in history as he extends his 20-year

rule for a further five years. Türkiye capital: Ankara and Currency: Turkish lira

41. **CAG Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-elected as the **External Auditor of the World Health Organisation (WHO)** for a four-year term (2024-2027).

Note: The CAG is already holding this position in the WHO for a four-year term (2019-2023). In the election held at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, the CAG was re-elected with a majority of 114 out of 156 votes. Earlier, the CAG was selected as an External Auditor of the ILO.

42. The **Maharashtra** govt has named **Sachin Tendulkar** as '**Smile Ambassador**' under the state medical education & drug department's 'Swachh Mukh Abhiyan.

Note: Aim: To spread awareness about oral health and hygiene. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis signed an MoU with Sachin Tendulkar. Deputy CM has informed that he has offered his association free of cost, and for the entire duration the government wishes to run the program.

43. The Central Government has notified the appointment of **Justice Nitin Jamdar** as **Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court**.

Note: He has succeeded **Chief Justice RD Dhanuka**, who demitted office on May 30. He is from Solapur and is the third generation to pursue law. He practiced at the Bombay High Court in diverse fields, primarily in administrative and constitutional law. He represented various public bodies and was also Senior Standing Counsel for the Union of India.

April 2023

1. **Amit Kshatriya**, an Indian-American software and robotics engineer was appointed as the **first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme**, with immediate effect.

Note: The new office aims to carry out the agency's human exploration activities on the Moon and Mars for the benefit of humanity. He will be responsible for planning and executing human missions to these celestial bodies for the betterment of humanity. **NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson**

2. Adani Group has appointed the **former envoy of Israel to India, Ron Malka** as the **Executive Chairman of the Haifa Port Company**.

Note: He served as the **ambassador of Israel to India from 2018-2021**. It is the second-largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers. The Adani Group officially took over this port in January 2023. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Israel's Gadot Group won the tender in July 2022 to privatize the Port of Haifa for USD 1.18 billion.

3. Vice Admiral, **Sanjay Jasjit Singh** assumed the charge of the **vice chief of naval staff** on April 2, 2023.

Note: He succeeded **Vice Admiral SN Ghormade** who retired after over 39 years of service. He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and was commissioned in 1986 in the executive branch of the Indian Navy. In his career, he has served on most classes of ships of the Indian Navy and has held a range of command, training, and staff appointments.

4. The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Neeraj Nigam** as **executive director (ED)** who will look

after four departments, including consumer education and protection.

Note: Before being promoted to ED, he was heading the Bhopal regional office of the RBI as director. During his long career, he served in Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts, and other areas in the Reserve Bank.

5. The American Space Agency, NASA has selected the **first woman astronaut, Christina Koch** for its **Artemis II mission**.

Note: Other crew members: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10-day journey back to Earth. It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.

6. Chennai-based **Sudha Shivkumar** has assumed the charge as the **40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** at the 39th annual session.

Note: FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia. She is a lawyer and investment banker by profession and presently serving as a director at auto ancillaries. She was the Chairperson of the FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17. **FLO is the women's wing of the FICCI**.

7. The board of members of **Suzlon Energy** has appointed **J P Chalasani** as the **new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company with immediate effect, i.e. from 5th April 2023.

Note: He has replaced **Ashwani Kumar**, who resigned from the post on account of personal

- reasons. He had been Group CEO of Suzlon from April 2016 to July 2020 and continued as Strategic Advisor to the Suzlon Group thereafter. He was also the Group CEO and Managing Director of Punj Lloyd.
8. The Ministry of Law and Justice has notified the elevation of **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** as **Chief Justice of Tripura High Court**.
Note: He was appointed as an **Additional Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand** on 24th January 2012 and confirmed as a permanent Judge on 16th January 2014. He has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court from the 20th of December, 2022 to the 19th of February, 2023.
 9. RBI has approved the **reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal** as Managing Director (MD) & **CEO of AU Small Finance Bank (SFB)** for the next three years, till 2026.
Note: He was first appointed as MD of AU Financiers on 14 February 2008. Later, he became the Managing Director & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank. Meanwhile, RBI has also approved the **appointment of Uttam Tibrewal** as **Whole Time Director of AU SFB**. Uttam Tibrewal joined the board of AU Small Finance Bank in 2005.
 10. **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has appointed **Ratnakar Patnaik** as the **new Chief Investment Officer**.
Note: He has **replaced PR Mishra**, who stepped down from the role on April 10, 2023. Additionally, PC Paikray has been named the new Chief Risk Officer, taking over from Tablesh Pandey on the same date. Patnaik has begun his career at LIC as a Direct Recruit Officer in September 1990.
 11. The **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA)** has appointed **Anshuman Singhania** as the new chairman.
Note: He is currently serving as the Managing Director of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd. While **Arnab Banerjee**, Managing Director & **CEO of CEAT Ltd** has taken over as the **Vice-Chairman**. ATMA was formed in 1975 in India to represent the interests of tyre manufacturers.
 12. **Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India** has appointed **Tsutsumu Otani** as the new **President, CEO & Managing Director**.
Note: He is **currently the Vice President at Honda Motor Co.**, Japan. He will **take over from Atsushi Ogata**, who will be relocating to Shanghai, China, to serve as the Executive General Manager at Shanghai Branch, Honda Motor (China) Investment Co. Ltd.
 13. **Kenichi Umeda** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.**
 - Note:** He **takes over from Satoshi Uchida**, who has completed his term as Managing Director. He has an experience of more than 27 years of industry experience across various global markets and will be responsible for growing and strengthening Suzuki Motorcycle India's position in the Indian and overseas markets.
 14. The **Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Rajasthan** has appointed **Dr. Sheenu Jhawar** as the **new President** for a term of two years (2023 to 2025).
Note: She becomes **the first woman** to hold this position in the 21-year history of TiE Rajasthan. She **takes over from Dr. Ravi Modani**, who had been leading the chapter effectively since 2021.
 15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sekhar Rao as interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Karnataka Bank** with effect from April 15, 2023.
Note: He has been appointed for a period of three months or till the appointment of regular MD and CEO whichever is earlier. He has replaced Mahabaleshwara M S, whose term ended on April 14, 2023. Prior to this role, he was serving as an executive director of the bank.
 16. **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** has assumed charge as Controller of Personnel Services on April 17, 2023.
Note: He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, and is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare. Earlier, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command, Flag Officer Defence Advisory Group, and Flag Officer Sea Training. He was the second Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
 17. **Judge Rowan Wilson** has been confirmed as the new chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.
Note: He is also New York's first Black chief judge. He was appointed by the 57th governor of New York, Kathy Hochul. Since 2017, he has been an associate judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court. He studied at Harvard College, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1984.
 18. Miguel Diaz-Canel has become the president of **Cuba** for second term.
Note: His bid was confirmed by 97.66% of votes cast in the Communist Party of Cuba-aligned National Assembly. He took over the reins in 2018 as the first civilian leader of Cuba. His first five years in office were marked by the worst economic crisis in three decades. Cuba Capital: Havana; Currency: Cuban Peso
 19. Tata Group has appointed **Dr. Randhir Thakur** as the CEO and managing director of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL).

- Note:** Before this, he was associated with the global electronic chip and circuits manufacturing giant Intel. He has also held leadership and technical positions at Applied Materials Inc., SanDisk Corp, and Micron Technology Inc. TEPL was founded in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata Group with expertise in manufacturing precision components.
- 20. Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand influencer of HSBC India.
Note: HSBC India is also set to launch a multimedia campaign featuring Kohli, aimed at re-establishing the value proposition of banking with the company. Virat Kohli will help to amplify HSBC's purpose of opening up a world of opportunity as it strives to support the ambitions of an aspirational India going global.
- 21.** In the exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti as Acting Chief Justice of **Kerala High Court**.
Note: He would replace the current Chief Justice S Manikumar, who will retire on the aforementioned date. He served as a Judge from the Andhra Pradesh High Court and is presently working as the senior-most judge of the Kerala High Court.
- 22. Oliver Dowden** has been named the new deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom.
Note: He has replaced current Dy PM and Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, who has resigned. Before this role, he had been serving as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Office secretary, under the present UK government. He will continue in the roles alongside his new responsibilities. While Alex Chalk becomes the 10th justice secretary in 10 years.
- 23. Rajesh Kumar Singh** has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, and Industry.
Note: He is an IAS officer of the 1989 Batch from the Kerala cadre. Before this, he served as Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. He has replaced Anurag Jain, who was appointed secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- 24. Microsoft India President, Anant Maheshwari** has been appointed as the chairperson of Nasscom for 2023-24.
Note: Earlier, he served as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom'. He has succeeded the president of business and technology services at TCS, Krishnan Ramanujam. Meanwhile, Nasscom has also appointed chairman and managing director of Cognizant India, Rajesh Nambiar as its vice-chairperson for 2023-24. Nasscom refers to National Association of Software and Service Companies
- 25. Shreekanth M Bhandiwad** has taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB).
Note: KVGB is an Indian RRB sponsored by Canara Bank headquartered in Dharwad, Karnataka. He has replaced the current chairman P Gopikrishna, who was repatriated to Canara Bank as Circle Head, Bengaluru, in Karnataka. He has an experience of 29 years in Canara Bank, having worked across India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka) in various capacities.
- 26.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **N Kamakodi** as Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank.
Note: The tenure of his re-appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from May 1, 2023. He joined the bank as deputy general manager in 2003 and was elevated to general manager in 2005. In 2006, he was appointed as executive director. From May 2011, he was serving the bank as its managing director and chief executive officer.
- 27. Hari Hara Mishra** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
Note: He has started his career with the State Bank of India in 1982 and worked there until 2004. He is an experienced professional in the field of asset reconstruction. The ARCs are the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies in India. Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- 28.** The government has confirmed the appointment of **Debadatta Chand** as a Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of Baroda for three years.
Note: Currently, he is serving as Executive Director of the bank. He has succeeded Sanjiv Chadha, whose term was extended for five months till June 30 by the government. In January 2023, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Debadatta Chand as MD & CEO of the Bank of Baroda.
- 29. Ajit Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.
Note: He has replaced K N Vyas. He was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019. In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School.

Important Days

August 2023

1. World Wide Web Day is a day dedicated to web browsing and is celebrated on **August 1**.
Note: Aims: To highlight the importance of the web in improving people's lives by facilitating communication, access to information and resources, education and empowerment. The World Wide Web was created between 1989 and 1993 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee when he was employed at CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research).
2. Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on **August 1** to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.
Note: The central gov enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offense. The government has strengthened the self-reliance, self-respect and self-confidence of the Muslim women of the country and protected constitutional, fundamental and democratic rights by bringing the law against the triple talaq.
3. National Handloom Day is observed on **August 7**.
Note: Goal: To pay tribute to the huge handloom community in the country for their contribution to carrying on the traditional heritage and ensuring financial stability. Aims: To preserve India's handloom tradition and to provide more prospects for the people associated with the handloom industry. This Day in India celebrates the Swadeshi Movement that began in Bengal to rely on Indian-made goods and boycott foreign goods.
4. **World Breastfeeding Week** commenced on August 1 while it concludes on August 7.
Note: Aim: To emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies. Breastfeeding is extremely crucial for the healthy growth and development of an infant. 2023 theme: Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!
5. **Tamil Nadu** Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku.
Note: It is an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil. Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi.
6. World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on **August 1** and it has been celebrated on the same date since 2012.
Note: It was first marked to raise awareness around the deadly disease and encourage more research on it to break the stigma around the disease. The campaign for World Lung Cancer Day was recognized in the year 2012 though the momentum was set in the preceding years.
7. World Lion Day is observed every year on **August 10** to highlight the importance of these majestic creatures and to garner support for their conservation.
Note: This day is also an opportunity to learn about the importance of lions in the natural world and the potential impacts of their extinction on humanity. The IUCN has designated the Asiatic Lion as an endangered species because of its limited population and constrained habitat.
8. International Youth Day is commemorated every year on **12 August**.
Note: The theme of International Youth Day 2023 is Green Skills For Youth: Towards A Sustainable World. Aims: To encourage youth around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country. Objective: Bringing youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrating the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.
9. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on **August 13**.
Note: Aim: To spread awareness around the importance of organ donation and bust myths around it. Theme for 2023: "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae". Organ donation means when a person allows to surgically remove their organ and transplant it to another person. This is done with the content of the donor when they are alive or that of their kin when they are no more.
10. International Left-Handers Day is celebrated every year on **August 13**.
Note: Aims: To raise awareness about the challenges and of left-handers, understanding in a predominantly right-handed world. Goal: To work on the challenges left-handers face and cater to their unique needs. Theme for 2023: "Left-Handers in Sports." Objective: To recognize and appreciate the diversity of skills, talents, and perspectives that left-handers bring to various fields and activities.
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that August 14, will be remembered as '**Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas**' or **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**.
Note: Reason: In memory of the struggles and sacrifices during the partition in 1947. Aim: To keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social

divisions, and disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the event on this date in 2021.

- 12.** India is celebrating its **77th** Independence Day on August 15, 2023.

Note: PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi and unfurled the national flag. This year, the theme is 'Nation First, Always First' under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration. This year, around 1,800 special guests from various sections of society were invited to witness the ceremony. The G20 logo made from flowers is displayed on the ground.

- 13.** Navroz observed on August 16, 2023, is a new year of **Parsi** community.

Note: This day marks the beginning of the Zoroastrian calendar. The Parsi New Year, also known as the festival of Navroz or Nowruz, falls between July and August in India. Derived from the Persian words 'Nav' and 'Roz' which literally translates to 'new day', the tradition of celebrating Parsi New Year is believed to have been observed by Iranians and Zoroastrians for the past 3,000 years.

- 14.** Chingam 1 is the first day of the new year of the traditional Malayalam calendar used in **Kerala**.

Note: In 2023, it's being celebrated on August 17. Chingam 1 is also known as Chingam Month or Chingam Masam and it's followed by the Onam festival. The Malayam Calendar is based on the solar calendar system and every year, the date of Chingam 1 varies. Chingam 1 marks the beginning of the harvest season in Kerala and is considered an auspicious day.

- 15.** World Humanitarian Day is observed on **19th August**.

Note: Aim: To bring partners from across the humanitarian system together and work collectively for survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises. World Humanitarian Day 2023 theme is: NoMatterWhat. It is the day when 22 colleagues were killed at the United Nations Office in Baghdad. It is an opportunity to pay tribute to colleagues who have lost their lives in humanitarian service

- 16.** The World Mosquito Day is commemorated on **August 20** globally.

Note: Aim: To mark the importance of protecting ourselves and our communities from the potentially

deadly diseases transmitted by the insects that are commonly seen in homes across the world. Theme for World Mosquito Day 2023 is "Fighting the World's Deadliest killer -the Mosquito". The mosquitoes are responsible for the spread of diseases like malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, and West Nile virus.

- 17.** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on **August 23**.

Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the horrifying nature of the slave trade and remind people about the transatlantic slave trade and its implications. Theme of international Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023 is "Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education"

- 18.** The Prime Minister announced **August 23** will be celebrated as the National Space Day.

Note: It was on this day that the ISRO Chandrayaan mission made history by landing near the south pole of the moon. On this day our Scientific and technological progress will be celebrated. He suggested that a National Hackathon must be organized by the Central and State Governments and Universities on ideas that will ensure good governance and find solutions to problems.

- 19.** Women's Equality Day is celebrated on **26th August**.

Note: This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights. The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is "Embrace Equity." Aim: To commemorate the Nineteenth Amendment being adopted in the 1920s in the United States. This act stopped the federal government and states from preventing people from the right to vote based on their gender.

- 20.** The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on **29 August** every year.

Note: It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh. The day also serves as a reminder for all of us to recall the contributions, determination and extraordinary achievements of the athletes and their influence in shaping societies. The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

July 2023

- 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.

June 2023

1. **World Bicycle Day 2023** is observed every year on **3rd June**.

Note: Aim: To promote the importance of bicycles as a means of transportation, fostering sustainability, health, and well-being. The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 to recognize the uniqueness, versatility and sustainability of the bicycle and its positive impact on society. The initiative to establish this Day was led by Turkmenistan, with the support of numerous other countries.

2. **World Environment Day** is observed annually on **June 5** to create awareness about the protection of the environment and the earth's well-being.

Note: The theme for World Environment Day 2023 is '**Solutions to plastic pollution**', under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. The day is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands. This year marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, which will focus on solutions to plastic pollution.

3. **The fifth World Food Safety Day** is celebrated on **7 June 2023** to draw attention to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, agriculture, and sustainable development.

Note: 2023 theme: **Food Standards Save Live**; The 2023 theme emphasizes that how important food standards are to protecting public health. This day was established by the WHO and FAO in 2018. On June 7, 2019, the first World Food Safety Day was observed.

4. The **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** was observed every year on **June 4**.

Note: Aim: To bring attention to children who experience various forms of aggression; It serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering endured by countless children globally, regardless of the specific type of abuse they endure.

5. **International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** is celebrated on **June 5** every year.

Note: The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 to raise awareness of the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is a major threat to global fish stocks and the marine environment.

6. **World Milk Day** is observed every year on **1st June**.

Note: This day was created in the year 2001 by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). Aim: To promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world. The goal of this day is to provide us with a chance to raise awareness of and support in any manner possible initiatives related to the dairy industry. For 2023, the theme for World Milk Day will focus on the importance of dairy in the reduction of carbon footprints as well as providing nutritious foods and livelihoods.

7. The **Global Day of Parents** is observed every year on **June 1** to recognize the critical role parents play in the lives of their children and the well-being of society as a whole.

Note: This day serves as an opportunity to honor and appreciate the dedication, love, and sacrifices of parents worldwide. The day emphasizes the importance of parental guidance in shaping the lives of children and promoting their overall well-being.

8. **World Oceans Day** is observed every year on **8 June** to create awareness about the significance of oceans, and importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources.

Note: 2023 theme: **Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing**; The concept was originally proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit

in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

9. **World Brain Tumor Day** is celebrated annually on **June 8** for creating awareness about brain tumors.

Note: Theme 2023: Protect yourself – keep away from stress; Brain tumor is characterised by abnormal growth of cells in the brain, it can be grown in any part of the brain or skull including the underside of the brain, brainstem and nasal cavity among others. Researchers have identified more than 120 types of brain tumors which are based on the brain tissue that it impacts

10. **World Accreditation Day** is an annual global observance held on **June 9** to recognize and promote the role of accreditation across various sectors.

Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the value and benefits of accreditation in ensuring competence, reliability, and credibility in industries such as healthcare, laboratories, certification bodies, and conformity assessment services. **2023 theme: Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade**

11. The **World Day against Child Labour** is observed annually on **June 12** to support the expanding anti-child labour movement.

Note: ILO declared June 12 to be the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to raise awareness of this problem. **"Week of Action against Child Labour" is the theme** for the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour. The ILO intends to start a week-long campaign to raise public awareness of the injustice of child labour and inspire people to take action.

12. **International Albinism Awareness Day** is observed annually on **June 13** to ensure the inclusion of the voices of persons with albinism in all sectors of life.

Note: 2023 theme: Inclusion is Strength; Albinism is a genetic condition that can lead to the absence of melanin production in the human body. In 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Commission passed a resolution called Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

13. **World Blood Donor Day** is celebrated every year on **June 14** to raise awareness for the necessity of blood donation and thank the altruistic acts of selflessness of voluntary blood donors and celebrate life and humanity.

Note: 2023 theme: Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often; This day was first distinguished by the WHO in 2004. At the 58th World Health Assembly (2005), it was declared an annual global event on June 14 (the birthday of Karl Landsteiner).

14. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on **June 15** to raise awareness about the abuse experienced by older adults.

Note: 2023 theme: Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy,

Law and Evidence-based Responses. In 2006, this day was started by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). In 2011, the United Nations adopted it as a designated day for the prevention of abuse of older people.

15. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on **June 17th** to raise awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promote efforts to combat these challenges.

Note: 2023 theme: Her land. Her rights. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was established in 1994 following a convention held at the United Nations General Assembly. The inaugural observance took place in 1995.

16. The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is observed on **June 18**, every year to address the pressing global problem of hate speech.

Note: This day holds great importance as it calls for collective action to counter the spread of divisive rhetoric and promote understanding, respect, and inclusivity. The Day marked by UNGA recognized the devastating consequences of hate speech and reaffirms the commitment to human rights and equality.

17. World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on **June 19th** each year to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD).

Note: 2023 theme: Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening, and knowing your sickle cell disease status. It is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that take on a crescent or sickle shape. These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels.

18. World Refugee Day is commemorated every year on **20th June** to serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence.

Note: 2023 theme: Hope Away from Home. This year's theme highlighted the resilience and challenges faced by refugees, who lost everything. On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established this day through Resolution 55/76.

19. The International Day of Yoga is observed every year on **June 21** since 2015.

Note: This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". This year's theme highlighted beautifully encapsulates collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future. On 11 December 2014, the UN proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India.

20. World Music Day is an annual event that is observed on **June 21** every year to celebrate the global language of music.

Note: The theme for World Music Day 2023 is "Music on the Intersections". Aim: To promote peace and bring together people of different nationalities, cultures, races and ethnicity together through the power of music. World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

21. International Widows Day is observed annually on **June 23** to spread awareness about the plight of millions of widows facing poverty.

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

22. International Women in Engineering Day is observed every year on **June 23** for improving the participation of young girls in the field of engineering.

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

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

Note: Various campaigns, rallies, and awareness programs are held worldwide on this day. This is observed to honour Lin Zexu, who played a key role in the demolition of the opium trade in the Guangdong

region of China. 2023 theme: People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention

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

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

25. India observed National Statistics Day on **June 29** every year, to celebrate the birth anniversary of statistician P. C. Mahalanobis.

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

26. International Asteroid Day is observed annually on **30 June** to raise awareness about the potential hazards posed by asteroid impacts.

Note: It also aims to educate people about the global crisis communication measures to be taken in the event of a credible near-Earth object threat. In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution (A/RES/71/90) establishing June 30th as International Asteroid Day. World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

May 2023

1. The states of **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra** commemorated their **63rd Foundation Day on 1st May 2023**.

Note: Gujarat celebrates its 63rd foundation day as Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Maharashtra are also celebrated as 'Maharashtra Din'. During the event, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects in Jamnagar worth Rs. 300 crore. Gujarat was carved out of the Bombay State on May 1, 1960, after the **Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960**.

2. **World Press Freedom Day** is observed annually on **May 3** to raise awareness about the importance of freedom of the press.

Note: This year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day. **Theme 2023: Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.** This day was first proclaimed by

UNESCO in 1991 in response to the increasing number of attacks on journalists around the world.

3. **World Athletics Day 2023** is observed every year on **May 7** to mark the importance of athletes and sportspersons globally.

Note: The theme for World Athletics Day 2023 is '**Athletics for All – A New Beginning**'. This day was established by the late Primo Nebiolo, the then-president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). The first World Athletics Day was held on May 15, 1996.

4. **World Laughter Day** is celebrated on **First Sunday** of May.

Note: In 2023, World Laughter Day falls on 7th May 2023. The theme for this year's celebration is "**World Peace Through Laughter**." The day was first observed in 1998 by Dr Madan Kataria, who founded the Laughter Yoga movement.

5. **World Asthma Day** is held on the **first Tuesday in May**, every year.
Note: This year, this day falls on May 2. This day was organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). 2023 theme: Asthma care for All
6. **International Firefighters' Day** is observed every year on **May 4**.
Note: Aim: To remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. In 1999, this day was established to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices made by firefighters worldwide.
21. **World Red Cross Day** is celebrated on **May 8** every year to honor the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who founded the Red Cross.
Note: World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day. The theme of World Red Cross Day 2023 is '**Everything we do comes #fromtheheart**'. This day recognizes the significant contributions of the International Red Cross toward providing humanitarian services to individuals regardless of their race, religion, or political beliefs.
22. **World Thalassaemia Day** is celebrated every year on **May 8** to create awareness about the disorder and explore treatment options.
Note: 2023 theme: **Be aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap**. This day was created by Panos Englezos (President and Founder of the Thalassaemia International Federation) in 1994. Thalassaemia is a genetic blood disorder that is inherited by children from their parents.
23. **National Technology Day** is observed every year on **May 11** across the nation to commemorate India's nuclear test success that was conducted on May 11th, 1998, at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
Note: 2023 theme: **School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate**. This term was coined by former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee to recognize the contributions of Indian scientists. On May 11, 1998, India successfully fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at an Army test range in Rajasthan's Pokhran.
24. **International Nurses Day** is observed every year on **12th May** to recognize the efforts of nurses for their dedication, compassion, and expertise in delivering quality healthcare services.
Note: 2023 Theme: **Our Nurses. Our Future**. This day commemorates the birth of Florence Nightingale (founder of modern nursing), who was born on May 12, 1820, in Italy. She was a nurse, statistician, and social reformer. She gained prominence during the Crimean War in the 1850s.
25. **World Migratory Bird Day** is observed **twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October**.
Note: Aim: To promote the conservation of migratory birds and raise awareness about their significance. In 2023, May 13 marks the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. 2023 theme: Water and its importance for Migratory Bird. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held on 13 May and 14 October. It is a worldwide initiative launched in 2006 by the AEWA and CMS Secretariats.
26. **7th edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week** is being observed from 15-21 May 2023.
Note: Aim: To raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents. **2023 slogan: #RethinkMobility**. The week is organized by the WHO and the UN regional commissions and supported by governments, NGOs, and individuals. The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 reflects an ambitious target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030.
27. **International Day of Families** is celebrated on **May 15** to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society.
Note: **2023 theme: Demographic Trends and Families**. The UN adopted a resolution in 1994 establishing the International Day of Families to celebrate the institution of family and to raise awareness regarding the issues faced by families. It acknowledges the role of families in promoting social and economic development.
28. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** is celebrated annually on **May 17**.
Note: Aim: To raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other ICT. **2023 theme: Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies**. The first World Telecommunication Day was celebrated on May 17, 1969, to mark the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
29. **World Hypertension Day** is observed on **May 17** every year to raise awareness about hypertension or high blood pressure, its consequences, and preventive measures.
Note: It was established in 2005 by the World Hypertension League (WHL). **2023 theme: Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer**. According to the WHO, hypertension affects around one billion people worldwide, with complications resulting in over 7.5 million deaths annually.
30. **International Museum Day** is observed annually on **May 18** in order to recognize the vital role that museums play in fostering cultural exchange.
Note: **2023 theme: Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being**. This theme highlights the crucial role that museums can assume in advancing the concepts of well-being and sustainability. This day was first

celebrated four decades ago in 1977 by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

31. **National Endangered Species Day** is observed annually on **Third Friday of May** each year to raise awareness about endangered species and the need for their conservation.

Note: In 2023, this day is celebrated on May 19. **2023 theme: Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.** In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed, which is designed to protect endangered and threatened species in the USA. In India, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, was enacted.

32. The world observed the **International Day for Biological Diversity** on **May 22** to increase understanding and encourage the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems.

Note: 2023 theme: From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity. The origins of the International Day for Biological Diversity can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, commonly referred to as the Earth Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

33. The non-profit organization, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) celebrates **World Turtle Day** on **May 23** every year.

Note: Reason: To raise public awareness regarding the need to protect turtles, tortoises, and their rapidly diminishing habitat. **2023 theme: I love Turtles**. The theme highlights the critical need to conserve these species and their future in the face of dwindling habitats. According to ATR, around 61% of turtles worldwide are threatened or already extinct.

34. **Commonwealth Day** is celebrated every year on March 13, across the world, while **India and some other countries observe** it on **May 24**.

Note: 2023 theme: Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future. Aim: To unite 2.5 billion

Commonwealth citizens in celebration of their shared values and principles and pursue a common future, centered on sustainability and peace. It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of the accomplishments of 54 Commonwealth countries in various areas

35. **Menstrual Hygiene Day** is observed annually on **May 28** to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene and break stigma around menstruation.

Note: The **theme for 2023 is 'Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030**. This day was selected because the menstrual cycle averages 28 days in length and people on average menstruate for five days each month. This day was started by Germany-based NGO WASH United in 2013 and it was observed for the first time on May 28, 2014.

36. **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** is celebrated every year across the globe on **May 29** to highlight the efforts of the UN peacekeepers work to establish and maintain peace in conflict areas.

Note: 2023 theme: Peace Begins With Me. The first UN peacekeeping effort commenced in the Middle East in 1948 and this year (2023) marks the 75th year of operation of UN peacekeeping. The Dag Hammarskjold medal was posthumously awarded to peacekeepers who passed away in 2022.

37. **World No Tobacco Day**, also known as Anti-Tobacco Day, has been observed every year on **May 31**.

Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. This global initiative was led by the World Health Organization. **2023 theme: We need food, not tobacco.** The 2023 theme highlights alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourages them to grow sustainable crops

April 2023

1. **World Autism day** is observed annually on **April 2** to promote awareness and advocacy for the rights of people with autism.

Note: This year marks the 16th anniversary of the day. This year the **theme is "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."** In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day, following a proposal put forward by the State of Qatar.

2. **International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed every year on **April 4** to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication.

Note: Theme 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait. The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads the mine action community, which plays an important role in achieving the goals of mine action. On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April to observe as this day.

3. **India observed the 60th National Maritime Day on April 5, 2023**, to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty.

Note: The ship sailed from Mumbai to London. This day was started by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways in 1964. **The theme for 2023 has not yet been announced.** The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'. World Maritime Day is observed on 28 September.

4. The **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)** takes place on **April 6** to celebrate the role of sports and physical activity in our lives across the globe.
Note: 2023 **theme: Scoring for People and the Planet.** On August 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 67/296 to proclaim April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. This day was supported by the International Olympic Committee.
5. **World Health Day** is celebrated every year on **April 7** to spread awareness about health-related issues that affect people all over the world.
Note: On this day, World Health Organisation (WHO) was founded in 1948 and this year marks the 75th founding anniversary of WHO. This year, **the theme for World Health Day is 'Health for All'**. The theme highlights an opportunity for the world to look back at public health successes that have helped improve the quality of life.
6. **International Conscience Day** is celebrated on **April 5** to promote peace.
Note: Conscience is the ability of a person to distinguish between what's right and what's wrong. It allows people to have a moral backbone and to protect those who are weak.
7. The Indian Government organized the **Prevention of Blindness Week from April 1-7 every year.**
Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness. The annual event aims to support individuals with visual impairments and to promote access to eye care services.
8. **World Chagas Disease Day** is observed every year on **April 14th** to raise awareness about a life-threatening illness that can cause severe heart and digestive problems.
Note: It is also known as American trypanosomiasis, silent disease, or silenced disease. It is more common in Central America, Mexico, and South America. **The theme for 2023 is Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary health care.** World Chagas Disease Day was established in 2020.
9. **World Homeopathy Day** is celebrated every year on **April 10th** to honor the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.
Note: Samuel Hahnemann is the founder of homeopathy and a German physician. This year (2023) marks the 268th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann. **The theme for 2023 is 'One Health, One Family'**.
10. **India** has commemorated the **132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** on April 14, 2023, as Ambedkar Jayanti.
Note: This day has been declared a public holiday by the central government. He is widely recognized as the "father of the Indian Constitution. He was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
11. **India** marked the **104th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.**
Note: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab. The incident continues to remind us of the brutalities inflicted upon the Indian people during British colonial rule. To commemorate the spirit of revolutionaries and those who lost their lives in the brutal massacre, the government set up a memorial in 1951 at Jallianwala Bagh.
12. The **International Day of Human Space Flight** is observed annually on **April 12th** to commemorate the beginning of human space exploration.
Note: It also acknowledges the significant contribution of space science and technology in achieving the peaceful use of outer space. This day is dedicated to honoring the first human to orbit the Earth, a Russian cosmonaut, on April 12th, 1961. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, completing a full orbit around the Earth.
13. **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed every year on **April 11** for promoting the well-being and safety of mothers and expectant mothers by increasing awareness of proper healthcare.
Note: It was launched by the Indian government to decrease the number of maternal and neonatal deaths. In the past, India was recognized as one of the most perilous countries to give birth to, responsible for 15% of all maternal fatalities worldwide. This date also marks the anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi.
14. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is celebrating the National Panchayat Awards Week from **17th – 21st April 2023** as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2.0.
Note: The ministry has conceptualized a series of Thematic Conferences for the National Panchayat Awards Week on the theme "Panchayaton ke Sankalpon ki Siddhi ka Utsav". Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh has released a booklet on 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats'.
15. **World Hemophilia Day** is celebrated every year on **April 17th** to honor the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, who established the World Federation of Hemophilia.
Note: Aim: To raise awareness and provide information about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. It is a rare medical condition where the blood fails to clot correctly due to the lack of specific clotting factors. Theme 2023: Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care
16. **World Heritage Day** (or International Day for Monuments and Sites) is celebrated on **April 18** to raise awareness about the importance of cultural

heritage and the need to preserve it for future generations.

Note: Theme 2023: Heritage Changes. It was established by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and was approved by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983. UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India (As of April 18, 2023): 40

17. World Liver Day is observed annually on **April 19** to raise awareness about liver-related diseases.

Note: Theme 2023: Be vigilant, do a regular liver check-up, fatty liver can affect anyone. This day educates the public on lifestyle modifications that can help prevent liver diseases, such as maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly, and getting vaccinated against hepatitis. As per the WHO, liver ailments amount to the 10th most common reason for death in India.

18. India has observed National Civil Services Day every year on **April 21** to honour the contributions of the officers who work for the nation's numerous public service departments.

Note: On this day, the PM will award the officers from the central and state governments for their outstanding contributions to public administration. On April 21, 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel (Home Minister) gave a speech to the first group of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House.

19. Earth Day is being celebrated every year on **22nd April** to honor the environmental movement and raise awareness to protect natural resources.

Note: Theme for Earth Day 2023: "Invest in Our Planet". American senator Gaylord Nelson founded the Earth Day for environmental education in 1970. Generally, Earth Day is either celebrated on 22nd April or on the day when the spring equinox occurs around the world.

20. World Malaria Day is observed every year on **April 25** to commemorate the recognition of global efforts to control malaria.

Note: WHO Member States instituted this day during the World Health Assembly of 2007. Theme 2023: Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement. Malaria is a disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. India has registered over 85% decline in malaria cases from 2015 to 2022

21. The world commemorates World Intellectual Property Day on **April 26** for promoting awareness of intellectual property and its safeguarding.

Note: The theme for the 2023 celebration of World Intellectual Property Day is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity". This day was

initially proposed during the 33rd Assembly Session of the WIPO Member States in September 1988, and it was officially established on August 9th, 1999.

22. International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated annually on **Fourth Thursday** of April to encourage and empower girls and young women to explore and pursue careers in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Note: In 2023, it is being observed on April 27. 2023 theme: Digital Skills for Life. It raised awareness about the gender gap in the tech industry and inspires women to consider careers in ICT. This day was declared by ITU on April 8, 2011.

23. World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on **April 28** to promote safe and decent work environments across the globe.

Note: 2023 theme: A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work. It coincides with the anniversary of the 1971 adoption of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It was first observed in 2003 after the ILO declared it an annual international campaign.

24. World Veterinary Day is celebrated on **Last Saturday of April** to mark the importance of veterinary doctors who serve to protect animal's.

Note: In 2023, this day was observed on April 29. 2023 theme: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession. The World Veterinary Association (WVA) established World Veterinary Day in 2000 to recognize the role of veterinarians in safeguarding the health and well-being of animals, people, and the environment.

25. India observed Ayushman Bharat Diwas every year on **April 30** to promote the Ayushman Bharat Yojana values.

Note: In 2018, PM Modi announced the Ayushman Bharat Yojna to give healthcare coverage to all Indians who cannot afford basic medical services. This initiative was established along the lines of universal health care to satisfy one of the United Nations' SDGs - "leave no one behind." This scheme covers all expenses of patients.

26. India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day every year on **April 24** to commemorate the constitutional change that established the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Note: PRIs are considered the third tier of the government. It manages the local-level administration in rural areas. The first Panchayati Raj system was initiated in the year 1993. 2023 theme: Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages.

Important News – National (India)

August 2023

1. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will inaugurate the G20 EMPOWER Summit in **Gandhinagar**.
Note: Theme- 'Women-Led Development. Aims: To accelerate women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector across G20 countries. Objective: To ensure sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth. Highlights: G20 EMPOWER agenda including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform and the Best Practices Playbook
2. **Confederation of All India Traders** has introduced the creation of an online platform National Digital Nagrik Forum(NDNF) to advance the rights of traders and consumers and other sections of society and shape policy to boost the digital trade economy.
Note: NDNF will focus on five core themes. First, consumer protection and online safety with a core focus on efficient grievance redressal. Objectives: To conduct awareness camps, digital and physical dialogues and training
3. **Earth Action** has observed that Earth saw its first Plastic Overshoot Day which means the point at which the amount of plastics exceeds the global waste management capacity.
Note: India is among the 12 countries which are responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste. When it comes to plastic consumption on a per-person basis, the world's worst offender is Iceland. The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg
4. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.
Note: Objective: To reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with a focus on higher educational Institutions, university campuses & schools, reaching out & identifying dependent populations, focusing on counseling & treatment facilities in hospitals, and Capacity building programs for service providers.
5. The Government has launched a digital crop survey in **12 states** on a pilot basis from Kharif season of this year for better sowing data collection.
Note: Aims: To create a single and verified source of truth about the crop sown data which is useful for accurate crop area estimation and development of farmers' solutions. The 12 selected states are Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam and Telangana
6. According to data released by private forecaster Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the total unemployment rate fell to **7.95%** in July 2023, from 8.45% in June 2023.
Note: Rural unemployment rate fell to 7.89%, from 8.73% in June, while the urban unemployment rate ticked up, to 8.06% from 7.87% in the same period. Rural unemployment rate falls due to increased demand for laborers for farming work. Labour force rate in urban areas also fell, indicating a broader weakness in the economy.
7. The Government will launch the e-CARe (**e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains**) portal to facilitate the swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.
Note: Aims: To avoid delay during the transportation of the deceased human remains across international borders. According to Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, through this portal intimation will be sent through email, SMS, and WhatsApp to the Central International Health Division, Nodal Officer and the Airlines.
8. President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate the national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in **Bhopal**.
Note: Culture Department Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Ministry of Culture is organizing this event from 3rd to 5th August. The international literature festival Unmesh is Asia's largest literary convention. 15 countries will participate in the Unmesh festival.
9. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar jointly launched **Study in India (SII)** portal in New Delhi to simplify international students academic journey in India.
Note: Aim: To provide comprehensive information about Indian Higher Education Institutions and to provide an integrated one-stop solution for the student registration and visa application process. It will present information about the academic facilities, research support.
10. **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched the 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application.
Note: Aim: To create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users. The user-centric app marks a substantial advancement in providing travelers with comprehensive information about Indian National Highways. It provides real-time weather updates, timely broadcast notifications and details about nearby toll plazas, petrol stations and hospitals
11. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched Port Health Organisation (PHO) module under **Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine)** portal.
Note: Aim: To streamline operations, promoting Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and ensuring the health and

safety of citizens and port workers. It would conduct disease surveillance, health inspections, and quarantine measures, leveraging technology to modernize and digitize processes.

12. Along with 'ketoprofen', **aceclofenac** has been prohibited for the production, sale, and distribution.

Note: According to a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the production, sale, and distribution of 'ketoprofen' and 'aceclofenac', along with their formulations, for animal use are prohibited under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The recommendation for this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB). DTAB is the apex authority for making statutory decisions on technical drug-related matters in India.

13. **Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)** and Russian company Metrowagonmash is on course to manufacture and supply around 120 Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways, at a cost of ₹120 crore per train.

Note: The RVNL wants a larger share of 69%, leaving 26% for Metrowagonmash and 5% for a third partner, Locomotive Electronic Systems. Blue-and-white trains, with AC, are expected to be manufactured at a railway factory in Maharashtra.

14. Cabinet has approved an outlay of **₹1. 39 lakh crore** for BharatNet, the government's project for last-mile connectivity across 6. 4 lakh villages in the country in Aug 2023.

Note: It is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world, implemented in a phased manner to all 2. 5 lakh gram panchayats in the country for last-mile broadband connectivity. Cabinet has approved ₹1,39,579 crore fund for providing last-mile optical fiber-based connectivity to homes in all the villages

15. The Finance Ministry has imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on certain optical fibre imports from **China, South Korea and Indonesia.**

Note: Aim: To give some relief to the domestic optical fibre industry reeling under the adverse impact of low-price and low-quality imports. The anti-dumping duty ranges from \$122 per kfkkm to \$857. 23 per kfkkm, with the commodity being traded in fkm (fibre kilometres). Optical fibres are used to transmit data in the form of light pulses.

16. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" in August 2023.

Note: Objective: To provide the senior citizens, suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmity, with assisted living devices that can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Scheme: In the assessment camp, the ALIMCO identifies the beneficiaries, suffering from the age related disability, for required aids & appliances.

17. According to Minister of State for the Ministry Of Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti informed that the Centre owes **Rs 6,366 crore** in dues to states and Union

Territories under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Note: Central government owes the highest amount – Rs 2,770 crore – to West Bengal. MGNREGS aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to unskilled manual work.

18. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** has developed an application named MASI for real-time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions.

Note: MASI stands for Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection. The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application.

19. According to the Gov, a valid License for imports of laptops, tablets, and personal computers will be required from **1st November 2023.**

Note: The Centre has said that there is no ban on the import of IT Hardware as such devices can be imported after obtaining a valid license by companies or traders. Directorate General of Foreign Trade has prepared a portal, for getting a license by applying online. Gov has notified Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2. 0 for IT Hardware.

20. India is set to host its inaugural World Coffee Conference, organized by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), in **Bengaluru.**

Note: ICO serves as the chief intergovernmental organization aimed at advancing coffee trade and encouraging collaboration among coffee-producing and consuming countries. K G Jagadeesha, CEO, and Secretary of Coffee Board of India, revealed that tennis player Rohan Bopanna would endorse the event as its brand ambassador.

21. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** and Centre for Development of Telematics have signed MoU to establish the mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications.

Note: According to Secretary of the Department of Telecommunication T K Rajaraman, this partnership will open new horizons in policy research, regulatory studies, and knowledge dissemination of upcoming technologies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.

22. **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited** and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a MoU for 1,000 Divyangjans.

Note: Aim: To provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.

23. **Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES)** have signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level.

- Note:** SMSES would form a Subroto XI team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards. According to SMSES member Alok Sharma that the team will also participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season. Workshop will be held by AIFF for coaches to update and educate them.
- 24. Arunachal Pradesh** signed two MoUs with the union education ministry, under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya in New Delhi.
- Note:** The first MoU is for the implementation of the newly launched PM-USHA, signed on behalf of the state's higher & technical education directorate. The second one is the MoU for the launching of PM e-Vidya, signed on behalf of the State Council of Educational Research & Training.
- 25.** The Ministry of Railways and **IIT Madras** signed a MoU in Secunderabad to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET).
- Note:** Aim: To enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety. It would serve as a cutting-edge facility to conduct comprehensive trials of 5G-enabled applications tailored for Railway operations.
- 26.** The Bureau of Indian Standards signed an MoU with **35** prestigious institutions for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.
- Note:** The institutions included some prominent NITs, Government and Private Engineering colleges from different states nationwide. It will pave the way for the partner institutions to participate in standardization activities by associating with the technical committees of the Bureau at the national and international levels.
- 27.** India has handed over INR 450 million in advance to **Sri Lanka** to fund its unique digital identity project in Aug 2023.
- Note:** It is the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalization program being implemented through the Indian grant assistance. Aims: To collect biographic and biometric information which will be stored in a centralised system to issue identification cards as per the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- 28.** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for an archeological museum at Adichanallur, located in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Note:** Objective: To focus on establishing the significance of the archaeological sites identified as part of the cultural landscape of the Thamirabarani valley, not limiting to the site of Adichanallur. Adichanallur was one of the five archaeological sites declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21.
- 29.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched work on the redevelopment of **13** railway stations in the State under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.
- Note:** Out of 508, 13 stations are listed in Karnataka. Aims: To transform and modernize 1,309 railway stations across the nation and enhance the overall passenger experience and make them world-class travel hubs. Gov is working to transform the railway stations across the country in line with its vision of 'Naya Bharat'.
- 30. Meri Mati Mera Desh** campaign has been launched to pay tribute to the 'Veers' who laid down their lives for the country.
- Note:** AIM: It will include programs at the village, and block levels, by local urban bodies, as well as state and national level. During the campaign of "Meri Mati Mera Desh", an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out. It will start on 9th August, with scheduled programs until Independence Day 2023.
- 31.** According to the World Trade Statistical Review 2023, the annual flagship publication of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India ranked **18th** among the Leading exporters in world merchandise trade (2022).
- Note:** On a global scale, India holds the 9th spot in merchandise importing and ranks 7th in merchandise exporting (2022). The leading exporters in world merchandise trade for the year 2022 are China, the USA, and Germany, occupying the top three positions.
- 32.** India will contribute **700,000 USD** from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the Tuvalu project in August 2023.
- Note:** Aim: To store and supply clean water to students, teachers, and school staff, fostering good hygiene and lowering the incidence of water-borne illnesses. In May 2023, PM Narendra Modi announced the "Sagar Amrut Scholarship" scheme for the Pacific Island countries, at the Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation.
- 33.** After passing the IIM (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the ongoing Monsoon Session, in the Parliament, the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) would be officially renamed as **Indian Institute of Management, Mumbai (IIM Mumbai)**.
- Note:** With this, NITIE becomes the 21st IIM of India and second in Maharashtra, after IIM Nagpur. Presently, NITIE ranked 7th in the Management Category by National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2023.
- 34.** The Minister of Coal, Pralhad Joshi informed in Lok Sabha, Coal/Lignite PSUs have established **15** Eco-parks during the last 5 years.
- Note:** No fund has been allocated by the Government for Eco-parks. It was developed by Coal/Lignite PSUs for recreational purposes of nearby localities and no revenue earned from these Eco-parks is spent on the development of the mining areas. Kenapara Eco-Park, SECL, Chhattisgarh is run and maintained by local SHGs to promote mine tourism.
- 35. Air India** unveiled its mega brand makeover and new logo, which signifies "limitless possibilities" in August 2023.

- Note:** AI's new logo 'The Vista' includes a modern design with golden, red and purple colours. It is inspired by the peak of the gold window frame, signifying limitless possibilities, progressiveness, and the airline's bold, confident outlook for the future. It represents the spirit of a bold new India, marking a significant turning point in its Vihaan.
36. SEBI reduced the timeline for listing of securities after the closing of IPO (**Initial Public Offering**) to three days from the present requirement of six working days.
Note: The reduction in timelines will benefit both issuers as well as investors. Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business, and the investors will have opportunity for having early credit and liquidity of their investments
37. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the **Rs 500 crore** (amount) Chief Minister's Solar Mission for minimizing the power deficit in this northeastern hill state in August 2023.
Note: The mission will be a flagship Renewable Energy intervention committed to fostering green and clean energy transformation across the state. The mission will begin a new era of resilience, independence, and green progress for Meghalaya.
38. **National Company Law Tribunal** approved the merger scheme of India's homegrown entertainment company Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment in Aug 2023.
Note: Aim: To create a \$10-billion Indian media giant. ZEE will have 30 days to file with the registrar of companies, following which, the shares of the company will be de-listed from the stock exchanges and the merged company will get re-listed in another six weeks
39. **Niveshak Sarathi** was launched by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Anita Shah Akella.
Note: Theme: From Unawareness to Financial Independence. Aims: To disseminate crucial financial education and raise awareness against fraudulent schemes across the Delhi NCR region. These vans are equipped with a TV screen running "Hisab Ki Kitab," developed by IEPFA.
40. **Union Minister Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited Nano Urea Plant at Gandhidham in Kutch in August 2023.
Note: Aims: To fulfill 3 primary goals which include achieving self-sufficiency in food production and bringing prosperity to the farmers. This will reduce imports of fertilizers and make India self-reliant in the field of fertilizers and conserve the nutrients of the soil and ensure judicious use of fertilizers.
41. **Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the Direct Benefit Transfer in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in New Delhi in August 2023.
- Note:** The Scheme marks a stride towards transparency and efficiency as the skilled workforce is paramount, to encompass policy evolution. Objective: To focus on the vision of making skilling an apprenticeship aspirational as well as encouraging earning while learning as envisioned in the National Education Policy.
42. The Indian School of Business (ISB's) Bharti Institute of Public Policy signed an MoU with **Goa** to begin a knowledge partnership with a focus on evidence-based policy formulation and its impact in the State.
Note: Objectives: To improve the social and economic prosperity indicators through evidence-based public policy interventions, capacity-building workshops, and citizen-centric governance-based initiatives as a knowledge partner.
43. Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) signed a MoU with **YES BANK** to enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups.
Note: It will also identify newer investment and funding opportunities that can benefit startups. Under the partnership, YES BANK will offer banking facilities to Startups that are in a developmental phase at IIITD-IC under the Bank's YES Head Startup program.
44. The Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala has unveiled the '**A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)**' along with an Infertility Camp in Gujarat.
Note: Gov is leading these initiatives as part of the Pashudhan Jagrati Abhiyaan under Inclusive Development. Objective: To mark a significant stride towards empowering women, enhancing livestock productivity, and advancing the socio-economic landscape of the region.
45. Veteran actor Victor Banerjee and Amitabh Kant (India's G20 Sherpa) have inaugurated the G20 Film Festival, which was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: Aims: To celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema. It is organized by the India International Centre and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs. The event will continue till 2nd September.
46. The G20 4th Digital Economy Working Group and Digital Economy Ministerial meetings will be held in **Bengaluru** from August 16th to 19th.
Note: Aim: To discuss the various issues relating to digital information, service delivery to citizens and the growth of the digital economy. There would be the Digital Innovation Alliance summit on August 17 and 18th to recognize and support innovators from various G20 member countries and Guest countries.
47. The special scheme named **Vishwakarma scheme** would be launched by the government of India for traditional craftsmen and workers during Vishwakarma Jayanti.

- Note:** Objective: To benefit individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship, particularly from the OBC community. Weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and their families will be empowered through the Vishwakarma Yojana. The PM showcase the importance of capitalising on the demographic dividend and preparing a skilled workforce
48. The first-ever crude oil transaction under the newly implemented Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system took place between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited**.
Note: Both Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams were used for the transaction. India and UAE have a strong oil and gas relationship and the UAE is a key partner for India's energy security. UAE is the fourth largest source of crude oil and the second largest source of LNG and LPG for India. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) to improve road safety through raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to **3.5 tonnes** in India.
Note: Aim: To provide a tool to the car customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market. Under Bharat NCAP, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars for testing as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
49. India and **Trinidad and Tobago** have recently entered into a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the renowned INDIA STACK technology.
Note: This collection of open APIs and digital public goods, pioneered by India, is designed to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This move reflects India's commitment to aiding the digital transformation of nations through collaboration and technology sharing.
50. The union cabinet approved 'PM-eBus Sewa' for augmenting city bus operations under which **10,000** e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country.
Note: Aim: To improve public transport in cities and is also in line with India's objectives concerning climate change. Rs 57,613 crores will be spent on this project and around 10,000 new electric buses will be provided across the country. Under this scheme, priority will be given to cities not having organized bus services.
51. The finance ministry will organise a two-day Chintan Shivir in which Indian state starting from August 20 2023 held at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia, **Gujarat**.
Note: Aim: To discuss various issues including the roadmap for India to become a developed nation by 2047. Objective: To review the work of the Ministry and to evolve an action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047". FinMin Nirmala Sitaraman reviewed the progress of the G 20 Finance track.
52. **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh.
Note: Goal: To establish the world's highest motorable road, spanning an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held by Umling La Pass. The proposed road between Likaru-Migla-Fukche would provide an axis connecting Hanle to CDFD road at Fukche.
53. **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** partnered with the Jio Institute for a Faculty Development Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science.
Note: Aim: To empower academic leaders and senior Faculty members with a deep understanding of AI and Data Science while also emphasizing on the ethical considerations of utilizing AI tools for immersive learning. This is being initiated under AICTE's ATAL (AICTE Training and Learning) programme
54. **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the G20 India presidency announced a new Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) at the Health Minister's Meeting of the G20 Summit.
Note: The new GIDH initiative will operate as a WHO-managed network and platform to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025. WHO is committed to working with countries to strengthen their capacities and to improve access to quality-assured digital solutions.
55. **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh** launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur.
Note: Jitendra Singh focused on the role of Agri StartUps in India's economy and called for the adoption of new and AI-driven technologies in Agriculture. An increasing number of new Startups are venturing into the Agriculture sector, focussing on niche technology.
56. The 1st Foreign Office Consultations FOC between India and **Samoa** was held in Apia.
Note: Aim: To discuss their wide-ranging bilateral relations including their development partnership covering areas such as health, Information and Communications Technology ICT, Education, and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises SME. They also discussed follow-up on Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation FIPIC III Summit, as well as regional and global issues
57. The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin in **Varanasi** in August 2023.
Note: Aim: To arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making. G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth". will be launched in Varanasi as a part of the Culture Ministers' Meeting. The CWG will also release a special stamp to commemorate the Culture Unites All' campaign to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism.
58. **Sachin Tendulkar** has been appointed as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the election commission of India.

- Note:** MoU will be signed with Sachin for a period of three years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in New Delhi. Aim: To bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy.
- 59. Minister of Science Jitendra Singh** launched "NBRI Namoh 108", a unique variety of Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) with 108 petals, in Lucknow.
Note: It was developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow. He also introduced apparel made from lotus fibre and perfume 'Frotus'. The perfume is extracted from lotus flowers and was developed by NBRI, and the Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre.
- 60. Government e-Marketplace, GeM** has crossed **One lakh crore rupees** Gross Merchandise Value in the current financial year 23-24.
Note: The average GMV per day has also witnessed growth from INR 412 crore per day in FY 22-23 to INR 690 crore per day in FY 23-24. About GeM: It is an online platform for the procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies. It is working towards promoting the Make in India initiative.
- 61. The standard issued by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** to outline the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i. e. , from renewable sources.
Note: The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission of not more than 2 kg CO₂ equivalent/kg H₂.
- 62. India** has handed over the B20 presidency to **Brazil** to host G20 in 2024.
Note: According to B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran India's B20 Presidency under the its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future). Worked on 9 themes which included the empowerment of women and youth, the transition towards an Artificial Intelligence world, building a global resilient supply chain, and financing for the global economic recovery.
- 63. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** launched Tele-Law- 2. 0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance, and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law. The Minister called upon legal professionals to contribute pro bono services to ensure that no citizen is deprived of essential legal assistance.
- 64. The Ministry of Education and All India Council of Technical Education** have launched the sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2023.
Note: Aim: To showcase the growing culture of innovation in India's education sector. Objective: To bring together the creativity of India's young minds with real-world challenges faced by various government departments. It has become a global model for hackathons and innovation frameworks, reflecting its dynamic evolution over time.
- 65. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in partnership with **IIT Bombay** and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to enable innovation in green hydrogen.
Note: Aim: To provide a roadmap towards reducing carbon intensity in the economy and enable the creation of green job opportunities. Green hydrogen has a pivotal role to play as we counter climate change and work towards enabling a low-carbon and self-reliant economy
- 66. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainable mobility, and decrease the country's dependency on traditional fuel sources. According to Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with the implementation of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol, the country will save 35 thousand crore rupees annually as import bill.
- 67. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** will organize the first edition of the Global IndiaAI 2023 in October 2023.
Note: The leading AI players, researchers, startups, and investors in India and worldwide will participate in the event. Union MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar chairs the conference's steering committee which is entrusted with the task of shaping the contours of the Global IndiaAI 2023.
- 68. Two world-famous local specialty products of Jammu and Kashmir**, namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
Note: The process for GI Tagging of these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu. GI tagging will also promote the economic prosperity of locals in the geographical territory and will act as a tool for social economic growth of the producer.
- 69. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has signed a performance-based MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
Note: The Ministry of Finance outlines strategic targets that IREDA aims to achieve during the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category - I),

Government of India, enterprise. The Gov of India has set a Revenue from Operation target of Rs 4,350 crores for the FY 2023-24 and Rs 5,220 crores for 2024-25

- 70. NHPC** signed MoU with Rail India Technical and Economic Service to construct railway siding for a 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project.
Note: NHPC's total installed capacity is 7,097. 2 MW of renewable power (including wind and solar) through its 25 power stations, including 1,520 MW through its subsidiary. RITES will provide comprehensive and efficient solutions for developing rail infrastructure facilities for NHPC Dibang
- 71. Indian Coast Guard** has signed a MoU with the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To enhance bilateral maritime cooperation between the two nations for ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas in the region. Objective: To enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Search and Rescue, and Marine Pollution Response.
- 72. NHPC Limited** has signed an MoU with APGENCO for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in Andhra Pradesh.
Note: The MoU envisages the implementation of two identified Pumped Hydro Storage Projects with a total capacity of 1,950 MW. The projects will be implemented under Joint Venture mode. The MoU seeks to harness Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to achieve the national objective of clean and green energy.
- 73.** An MoU was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and **Numaligarh Refinery Limited** to use the National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
Note: Reason: For export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries in Guwahati. Aim: To fulfill the 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast' by enabling inland waterways transportation via NW2 and IBPR, unveiling a new chapter of EXIM trade for the Northeast region
- 74. NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme** signed an MoU to formalize a cooperative framework to fast-track India's pursuit to achieve its sustainable development goals (SDGs).
Note: Objective: To focus on the two organizations' cooperation in a range of areas, including SDG localization, and data-driven monitoring, among others. NITI Aayog is the nodal Institution for coordinating the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.
- 75. India and New Zealand** have signed a MoU to boost cooperation in civil aviation in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To cover the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement. The designated airlines of New Zealand may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft, with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to and from six points in India, namely New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.
- 76. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)** signed an MoU for **2023-25**.
Note: Aim: To enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, and their dependants focusing on empowering these marginalized communities across the nation. The MoU underscores the commitment to accelerate inclusive growth through the effective allocation and utilization of funds for targeted welfare programs.
- 77. South African President and BRICS Chair Cyril Ramaphosa** has announced that the group has invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to become full members of the bloc from **January 1, 2024**.
Note: Aim: To open the doors for numerous interested countries to align with a coalition committed to championing the interests of the "Global South". It can be an example of reforms in other global institutions that were established in the 20th century
- 78. 26th** edition of the National Conference on e-Governance is being organized in Indore to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens.
Note: Theme: 'Developed India: Empowering Citizens'. Aim: To focus on 11 subjects including district level initiatives, emerging technologies for providing citizen-centric facilities and data governance. Organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Ministry of Electronics in collaboration with Gov of MP
- 79. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** participated in the 15th BRICS Summit, which was held under chairship of **South Africa**.
Note: Aim: To discuss global economic recovery, partnership with Africa and the Global South, and review the progress made on the BRICS agenda so far. During his address, the PM called for a strengthened BRICS that is: B - Breaking barriers. R - Revitalising economies. I - Inspiring Innovation. C - Creating opportunities. S - Shaping the future
- 80. The B20 Summit India 2023** has been started in **New Delhi** on August 25th, 2023.
Note: The three-day Summit will be attended by Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 India Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Trade Ministers of various countries, and several business leaders. PM Narendra Modi will attend the special session on the 27th of August as Chief Guest. Theme of B20 India: R. A. I. S. E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.
- 81. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has inaugurated the scheme Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna means 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in Madhya Pradesh.

- Note:** The scheme has facilitated on-the-job training on the lines of 'learn and earn along with skill development, and has been started for the youth in the age group of 18 to 29 yrs. Under the scheme, the selected youth will be given training according to the requirements of the industries and also get an 8 to 10 thousand rupees stipend.
- 82. The cabinet approved the continuation of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved outlay of Rs. 8139.50 crore.**
Note: Objective: To support infrastructure development in identified sectors including connectivity in the North Eastern States. For the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, Cabinet approved two components: NESIDS-Road and NESIDS-Other Than Road Infrastructure. The scheme is a central sector scheme with 100% central funding.
- 83. State Bank of India** introduced a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by just furnishing an Aadhaar card.
Note: Aim: To make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler. Customers visiting CSPs will need only their Aadhaar cards to enrol in schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana.
- 84. Ministry of Jal Shakti** released the report on the sixth census on minor irrigation schemes.
Note: 23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes have been reported in the country, out of which 21.93 million are groundwater and 1.21 million are Surface Water schemes. UP has the largest number of MI schemes in the country followed by Maharashtra. For the first time, information about the gender of the owner of the MI scheme was also collected in case of individual ownership.
- 85. Madhya Pradesh** has raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month.
Note: He also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and provided gas cylinders for Rs 450. Under the programme, women between the ages of 23 and 60, who do not pay income taxes and whose families make less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually, receive Rs 1,000 every month.
- 86. Tamil Nadu** launched the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme at Thirukkuvalai.
- Note:** The scheme has been extended to 31,000 government schools across the state benefitting 17 lakh students. Initially, the scheme was devised to provide nutritious breakfast to 1,14,095 students of classes 1 to 5 studying in 1,545 government schools and an amount of Rs 33.56 crore was allocated for this scheme.
- 87. Government to launch a new scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-Med Sector with a total outlay of Five thousand crore rupees.**
Note: Objective: To transform the Indian Pharma Med Tech sector from cost-based competitiveness to innovation-based growth by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country. Aim: To promote the growth of the pharma industry in the country, enhance manufacturing of drugs and promote research and innovation in the sector.
- 88. Karnataka** launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru.
Note: Under this scheme, about 1.1 crore women heads of family will get ₹2,000 each at a function in Mysuru. 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the Karnataka Assembly election held in May. The government has earmarked ₹17,500 crore for 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.
- 89. The Textiles Ministry** released the guidelines of the GREAT scheme (**Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles**), under which they will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment.
Note: They would grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months. Additionally, they will provide 10% of the total grant-in-aid to incubators.
- 90. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** has inaugurated the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative.
Note: Aim: To educate grassroots workers and enable them to raise awareness about sickle cell anemia, particularly in tribal regions. The government aims to eradicate the disease by 2047, under its National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission targets. PM Narendra Modi formally launched the mission on July 1 in Shahdol district, MP.

July 2023

- 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 assesses 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 Balamapuram near Thiruvananthapuram. India's largest 12.75 km long railway tunnel (T-49) is built as part of the Udampur-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 NDDDB, 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 drugs-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. 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.

June 2023

1. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity)** has launched the **Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)** Pilot initiative.

Note: Aim: To validate certain transformational policy and process changes to make India the Repair Capital of the World. The pilot project is being conducted in Bengaluru and **will run for three months**. The government has supported this project to make India a world leader in a hitherto untapped domain.

2. **Ministry of Cooperation** will implement a pilot project of the **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector** in at least ten selected districts.

Note: The Cabinet has approved the constitution and empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the facilitation of the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector". This will be **done by the convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries**. Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least ten selected districts.

3. According to the Statistics Ministry's **provisional estimate, India's GDP** is pegged to grow at **7.2%** during the fiscal year 2022-23.

Note: The data is **20 basis points higher than the government's second advance estimate of 7%**. The GDP registered a growth of 6.1% in January-March 2023. Quarterly terms in 2022-23: 13.1% growth (Q1), 6.2% (Q2), and 4.5% (Q3). In the fourth quarter, the agricultural growth was estimated at 5.5% and Manufacturing growth at 4.5 %.

4. **Union health ministry** has amended the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004**, to mandate the display of **anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers on over-the-top (OTT) platforms**.

Note: India has become the first country to make it mandatory for OTT platforms. To display anti-tobacco health spots of a minimum of 30 seconds each at the beginning and middle of a program. An audio-visual disclaimer of a minimum of 20 seconds on the ill effects of tobacco use

5. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has introduced **31** Indian standards related to Ayush.

Note: It encompassing **30 herbs and one product**, the stainless steel neti pot. BIS has established an additional department with a dedicated focus on Ayush for strengthening its standardization framework. A Working Group on 'Traditional Medicine' established within the ISO/TC-215 'Health Informatics'. BIS also initiated efforts to formulate international standards in collaboration with ISO

6. **India** is set to remain **United Arab Emirates' (UAE) largest export destination by 2030**, according to a new report by Standard Chartered titled 'Future of Trade: New opportunities in high-growth corridors'.

Note: The report forecasts that the UAE's exports will reach **around USD 543 billion by 2030**, showcasing a robust annual growth rate of 5.5%. It also highlights that trade corridors anchored in Asia, Africa, Middle East are expected to outpace the global trade growth rate by 4%.

7. **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has released the **UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023** in New Delhi.

Note: These regulations will facilitate the creation of many more quality-focused deemed to be universities in an objective and transparent manner. It will encourage universities to focus on quality and excellence and strengthen the research ecosystem and have a long-term impact in transforming the higher education landscape.

8. **MV Empress, maiden International Cruise Vessel** was flagged off from **Chennai to Sri Lanka** in Chennai on June 5, 2023.

Note: It was **built at a cost of 17.21 crore rupees**. This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal in Chennai. For this cruise service, an MoU was signed in 2022 between Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd to start domestic and international cruise services.

9. **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** has released **NHAI's first 'Sustainability Report for FY2021-22'**.

Note: This report will cover **NHAI's governance structure, stakeholders, environment, and social responsibility initiatives**. From FY2019-20 to 2021-22, direct emissions were reduced by 18.44% and 9.49% due to less fuel consumption. Green House Gas Emissions saw a decline of 9.7% in FY2020-21 and 2% in FY2021-22.

Similarly in operations, energy intensity in Giga Joules/km reduced by 27% in FY2021-22

10. **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)** signed an MoU in Lucknow.

Note: Aim: To collaborate in the development of Renewable Energy Parks and Projects. Signed by: Mohit Bhargava (CEO, NGEL) and Nidhi Kumar Narang (Director (Finance) UPRVUNL). NTPC is India's largest Power Utility, with a total installed capacity of about 72 GW. UPRVUNL was constituted to set up and operate Power-generating stations in UP.

11. **IIT Kharagpur and HCLTech** signed an MoU for collaboration in the **field of petroleum engineering and earth sciences**.

Note: Aim: To develop innovative and sustainable solutions to address critical challenges of the petroleum industry, which include reduction of carbon footprint, and provide significant sustainable solutions towards net zero. HCLTech will provide opportunities to IIT-Kharagpur students and research scholars to undertake projects and internships at the company.

12. **NHPC Limited and Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal** signed an MoU in New Delhi for the development of the **Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal**.

Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of PM Modi and Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. The project will use the flow from the Karnali River for power generation and the generated power will be fed into the integrated power system of Nepal. The installed capacity of the project shall be 480 MW.

13. **Tata Group** has signed an MoU with **Gujarat government** to set up a **first-ever lithium-ion cell manufacturing gigafactory**.

Note: This MOU is an outcome of the newly formulated Electronics Policy. Estimated initial investment: 130 billion rupees. **Production capacity: 20 GWh**. The state government is committed to increasing carbon-free, energy-efficient, and clean energy production by boosting the production of electric vehicles and reducing carbon emissions.

14. The **India-EU Connectivity Conference** is being organized in **Meghalaya** on June 1, 2023.

Note: It is jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, EU Delegation to India, and the Asian Confluence. **Aim:** To explore possibilities of boosting connectivity investments in India's North Eastern States and with India's neighbours -- Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. It was inaugurated by Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, and MoS for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

15. **India G20 - South Centre Event on International Taxation** has been concluded successfully in **Nagpur**.

Note: It was a two-day event on International Taxation was organized on the 1st and 2nd June at the National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur in collaboration with

South Centre, a Geneva-based intergovernmental policy research think-tank of 55 developing countries, including India. It was an initiative of the Indian Presidency to bolster capacity building for Indian tax officials.

16. **UAE will host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** from October 10-21, 2025.

Note: WCC: It is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries. It is expected to bring an estimated 10,000-15,000 delegates from over 160 countries across the globe

17. The **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)** has been approved for **Four years (2023-2027)**.

Note: Conceived by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the French Development Agency, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs. **Funding:** A loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the EU.

18. **Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has launched the **Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan**.

Note: Aim: One-stop repository to assess investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at the pan India level and streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants. GOBARdhan refers to Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan. It is an **initiative of the Government of India**, that aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting a circular economy.

19. **Maharashtra government** has launched **Asia's largest, ambitious and historic cluster development scheme**.

Note: This scheme was conceptualized for the collective redevelopment of unauthorized and official dangerous buildings after the collapse of the **Sairaj Building in Thane**. The redeveloped township plan includes well-equipped health, educational, sports, recreational, parking, mandi, and civic facilities. The project will be executed by the CIDCO.

20. **PM Modi** has launched **two schemes 'Amrit Dharohar' and 'MISHTI'** to revive the country's **wetlands and mangroves**.

Note: Amrit Dharohar: To ensure the conservation of the existing Ramsar sites through public participation. These sites will become the center of eco-tourism and a source of green jobs for thousands of people. MISHTI: It refers to Mangrove Initiative for Shossreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes. It will help revive and protect the mangrove ecosystem in the country

21. The **Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** joined hands to launch a **National Mission titled MAHIR**.

Note: MAHIR refers to **Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research**. **Aim:** To quickly identify emerging

- technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India. Funded by: Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and CPSEs under the two Ministries. Tenure: Five years, 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- 22. Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** has unveiled the **5th State Food Safety Index** on the occasion of World Food Safety Day 2023.
Note: Among the larger states, **Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu**. Smaller states: Goa, Manipur and Sikkim; UTs: J&K, Delhi and Chandigarh; The index has evaluated the performance of states and UTs across six different aspects of food safety. He has also unveiled Rapid Food Testing Kit (RAFT) portal.
- 23.** Union Cabinet has approved the **third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of 89,047 crore rupees**, includes an allotment of 4G/5G spectrum through equity infusion.
Note: The authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from 1,50,000 crore rupees to 2,10,000 crore rupees. BSNL will emerge as a stable telecom service provider focused on providing connectivity to the remotest parts of India. First revival package approved in 2019, amounting to 69,000 crore rupees.
- 24.** The union cabinet has approved the continuation of the **Central Sector Scheme of "Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme"** with an estimated expenditure of **Rs. 2980 crore**.
Note: It has been approved with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26 co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle. Two broad stages conducted under this scheme: (i) Promotional (Regional) Exploration (Outlay: Rs.1650 crore), (ii) Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks (Outlay: Rs.1330 crore)
- 25. NTPC Kanti** has launched the **Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2023**, a four-week residential workshop program for 40 underprivileged rural girls.
Note: This is the first time NTPC Kanti is organizing the GEM program. The participants will receive academic training and development skill sets such as soft skills, life skill training, sports, meditation, yoga, self-defence, computer application, communication skills, and other extra-curricular activities.
- 26.** Researchers at **IIT Mandi** have developed smart biodegradable microgels.
Note: Aim: To make agricultural practices more sustainable and minimize the adverse impact caused by the use of insecticides and agrochemicals. The research has been published in the "Carbohydrate Polymers" journal. Modern agriculture relies heavily on the application of various agrochemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on crops to meet the demand for food for the growing population.
- 27.** According to data released by the **private economic think tank CMIE**, the **unemployment rate in India fell to 7.7%** in May due to a **decline in labor participation at 441.9 million**.
Note: The unemployment rate in India **among people aged 15 years and above fell to 7.7% in May 2023**, from 8.5% in the previous month. The urban labour market recorded a fall in the number of employed as well as unemployed people. The rural labour force reduced to 299.4 million in May.
- 28.** According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, the **index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased to 4.2%** on an annual basis in April 2023 from 1.1% in March 2023.
Note: Manufacturing sector output rose to 4.9% in April 2023 against 5.6% and Power generation declined by 1.1% in April 2023 against a growth of 11.8%. Mining output rose by 5.1% during the month under review compared to a growth of 8.4% in the year-ago period
- 29.** The Union Government has released the **third instalment of tax devolution to State governments** amounting to **1,18,280 crore rupees**, as against the **normal monthly devolution of 59,140 crores**.
Note: One advance instalment in addition to the regular instalment due in June is being released to States. Reason: To speed up capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditure. **UP received the highest share of Rs 21,218 crore and Goa the least at Rs 457 crore**
- 30. Vigyan -Vidushi – 2023** has been commenced at the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, in **Mumbai**.
Note: It is an initiative to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level. 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India have attended this program which gave them exposure to advanced physics courses. This program is an initiative of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), through its HBCSE.
- 31. Microsoft and AirJaldi network signed** a three-year MoU to provide internet access **for underserved communities in 12 states**.
Note: Aim: To advance access to high-speed internet and meaningful connectivity, build solutions for broadband adoption and digital transformation. The program will expand AirJaldi Networks into three new states namely, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, with an increase in the number of network locations from 40 to 62 in 12 states.
- 32. ICAR** has signed a MoU with **Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy** between the two organizations.
Note: Aim: To guide the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income. ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network. It will improve farmers'

livelihood and boost crop yield. This MoU will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India.

- 33. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed an MoU for academic and research collaboration.**

Note: Aim: To synergise the professional capabilities towards capacity building, education, research and consulting in the domain of Internal Security, Financial Crimes, Law Enforcement, Corporate Frauds and other subject matters common to their mandate and objectives. It provides for exchange of knowledge and resources

- 34. Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare signed an MoU with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited to generate employment.**

Note: Aim: To bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services. This partnership would bring in more visibility of our Ex-servicemen to the industry and corporates.

- 35. The Wholesale Price Index (Provisional) for the month of May 2023 was (-) 3.48%.**

Note: In April 2023, it was recorded (-) 0.92%. Reason: Fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, and chemical & chemical products. The food index has declined to 1.59%, while fuel and power fell to 9.17%. Manufactured product prices fell 2.97% in May 2023.

- 36. Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has flagged off the first Agri- SEZ project of Gabon from New Delhi.**

Note: This project will be implemented by the AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner. In the first phase 30 farmers and 20 B. Sc. /M. Sc. Agri and B. Tech/M. Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, Odisha will be traveling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

- 37. CBIC Chairman, Vivek Johri has released the National Time Release Study 2023 report.**

Note: Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool. Aim: To present quantitative measure of the cargo release time. Import Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the period between 'arrival of Goods' and the Customs'granting of 'Out of Charge'. Export Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the time between cargo's arrival at the port and its physical departure from the port/Customs station.

- 38. Google has joined hands with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to drive citizen awareness 'G20-Stay Safe Online' campaign on online cyber safety in the country.**

Note: Aim: To foster citizen awareness about online safety and security. Google will raise awareness on the

fundamentals of online safety through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme. Both are working to enhance user awareness on cyber fraud and helping people identify common types of online scams.

- 39. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has released National Working Plan Code-2023 for scientific management of forests.**

Note: It has evolved new approaches during the 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023. It will act as a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions.

- 40. Department of Legal Affairs has set up a panel to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act.**

Note: The committee would be led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan. Aim: To reduce the burden on courts. Other members: Rajiv Mani (Law Ministry additional secretary), some senior advocates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, NHAI, railways, and CPWD

- 41. PM Narendra Modi has collaborated with Falguni Shah to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger.**

Note: Title of the song track: Abundance in Millets. Falu was awarded the Grammy Award in 2022. The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's FAO Governing Bodies.

- 42. Union minister of heavy industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey has launched the "Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App" in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.**

Note: This mobile application was developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a CPSE Mini Ratna under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Aim: To bring about a significant transformation in the Indian dairy industry by addressing key challenges in the milk collection process.

- 43. Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (till now) have registered a growth of 12.73% to 4,19,338 crore rupees.**

Note: In the preceding financial year, the government recorded a growth of 3,71,982 crores rupees. Net collections are at three lakh 79 thousand 760 crores, showing a growth of 11.18%. The Gross collections include Corporation Tax at 1,87,311 crore and Personal Income Tax at two lakh 31 thousand 391 crore.

- 44. Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India.**

Note: The vaccine, 'GEMCOVAC-OM' is approved against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. GEMCOVAC-OM has demonstrated robust immune responses in phase 3

- clinical trials conducted at 20 centers across 13 cities in India. Presently approved vaccines are used as precautionary/ booster doses.
- 45. Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani** has donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
Note: Reason: Fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay. An MoU was signed between Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay. His contribution will catalyze philanthropic contributions toward advancing research and development at universities in India.
- 46.** The Indian cabinet has granted approval for **Micron Technology** to proceed with its \$2.7 billion plan for a semiconductor testing and packaging unit.
Note: It has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees for the plant in Gujarat. The necessary approval stems from the significant size of the incentive package. Micron Technology's venture coincides with the White House's efforts to encourage U.S. chip companies to invest in India.
- 47.** India will host the 2025 International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference in **Kochi, Kerala**.
Note: Theme: Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile. The hosting decision has been conveyed to the IIAS's Council of Administration via video conference. IIAS was established in 1930; HQ: Brussels. Aim: To elaborate the public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day
- 48.** The two-day conference of Science-20 under G-20 is being organized in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: The theme of the conference is "Connecting Science to Society and Culture". The conference will be chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). The conference will be attended by representatives of G-20 countries, invited states and international organisations.
- 49.** The concluding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting along with the Tourism Ministerial Meeting started in **Goa**.
Note: Union Minister For Culture, G Kishan Reddy has addressed the first session of "Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel". The minister highlighted that India is one of the potential cruise tourism destinations with many of its best tourist destinations yet to be disclosed to the world.
- 50. Tata Steel Limited** and Germany's SMS group have signed an MoU to collaborate on the decarbonization of steel making process. **Note:** Under this MoU, the companies shall undertake further technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt technology (developed by SMS group). The demonstration will be executed at 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO₂ emission.
- 51. NITI Aayog** and the United Nations, India has signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (GoI-UNSDC) Framework 2023-2027.
Note: This framework represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.
- 52. Intel** has signed an agreement with the German government for investing more than 30 billion euros in a chip manufacturing site in Magdeburg, Germany.
Note: An agreement was signed between German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger. Intel has acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November 2022 and is expected to start production in four or five years.
- 53. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has joined hands with India's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
Note: Reason: To empower women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship. The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expand their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as the care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging, and more
- 54.** The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission unanimously elected **India** as chair of the Standing Committee on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the biennium 2023-24.
Note: The APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for the management of fruit flies on mango has been scheduled from 19-23 June 2023 in Navi Mumbai. The Minister of State for Agriculture, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the workshop.
- 55.** Agriculture Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** has unveiled a new feature on the PM-Kisan mobile app.
Note: Farmers can be registered by scanning their faces without a one-time password or fingerprint, by using the "face authentication" feature on the mobile application. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.
- 56. IFFCO** has started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India to the US.
Note: An agreement to export Nano urea was signed between IFFCO and Kapoor Enterprises Inc of California. The nano urea is a revolution in the agriculture sector as it has the potential to reduce storage space and money. A

- 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid has the capacity to replace at least one bag of conventional Urea.
57. The first hydrogen-powered trains in India are expected to start from the Jind district of **Haryana** by the end of this year, 2023.
Note: The officials informed that the plant development has entered the final phase and hydrogen will be produced from water. The Hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environment-friendly. Presently, trains are being run on diesel and electricity. The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.
58. **REC Limited** has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).
Note: Reason: For establishment and development of Metro Lines under the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro. The Phase-II project of Namma Metro will enhance connectivity and ease traffic in the densely populated city of Bengaluru. REC is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power.
59. The Finance Ministry has approved an investment of worth Rs 56,415 crore in **16** states as part of the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme.
Note: Aim: To boost capital spending by states. The Departments of Expenditure has approved investment projects in several sectors including health, education, roads, and railways among others. It has also included the state share of two projects - Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
60. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala today launched **NANDI (NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System)**.
Note: This portal has been developed to pave the way to a resilient Animal Health Sector in India by streamlining and digitizing the regulatory approval process. Aim: To speed up the process to assess and examine the safety, efficacy, and essentiality of veterinary product proposals received in the Department
61. **Bangalore International Airport Limited** has created a personalised digital travel buddy named BLR Pulse to cater to the needs of flyers.
Note: It is an omnichannel platform, developed in collaboration with GrayMatter Software Services. It will allow passengers to navigate within the terminal buildings and provide essential information about the airport in real-time. The interactive chatbot feature in the app will enable a self-sufficient mode of finding answers.
62. Union Minister for Fisheries, **Parshottam Rupala** has launched the Report Fish Disease App.
Note: The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD). It is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. This app will help the farmers to report the incidences of diseases in finfish and shrimps on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts.
63. **8th** edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan has been started.
Note: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023. Swachh Survekshan 2023 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, Divyang-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management, and cleaning backlanes.
64. The Centre government has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to **30 September 2023** in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021.
Note: Aim: To boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange, and cut air pollution. The decision has been taken under the 'scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity'.
65. The CCEA has approved the fair and remunerative price of **Rs 315 per quintal** per quintal for sugarcane farmers for the season 2023-24.
Note: It will be applicable for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers by sugar mills from Oct 1, 2023. It will be applicable for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%. A premium of Rs. 3.07 per quintal will be provided for every 0.1% increase in recovery above 10.25%. Conversely, the FRP will be reduced by Rs 3.07 per quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.
66. The Centre has provided financial incentives of 66,000 crore rupees to **12** states to accelerate power sector reforms.
Note: These states include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur and Andhra Pradesh. The primary objectives of granting financial incentives for undertaking power sector reforms are to improve operational and economic efficiency within the sector and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption.
67. The Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the **National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023**, in parliament.
Note: Aim: To pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF.
68. **InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo)** has become India's leading airline to cross ₹1 trillion in market capitalization.
Note: The stock hit a 52-week high of ₹2,634.25 on the BSE, with a market value of ₹1.01 trillion. Shares of IndiGo settled 3.55% higher at ₹2,619.85 apiece on the BSE, compared to the previous close of ₹2,529.95. IndiGo

- placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft in the largest order in the history of commercial aviation.
- 69. Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi** has unveiled India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India.
Note: The report identifies 30 critical minerals essential for sectors including defense, agriculture, and telecom. This list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in mineral resources, aligning with the vision of achieving 'Net Zero' targets. Aim: To guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and investment decisions in this sector
- 70. Meta** declared a fresh Mixed Reality program in India that has an award of \$250,000 for homegrown new companies and developers to construct applications and experiences.
Note: They can assemble applications utilizing the expansive scope of machine perception, and AI capabilities for the Meta Quest Platform and Metaverse. Aim: To foster innovation and establish a national XR technology ecosystem. A selected group of 5 Indian developers and new companies will get a monetary grant
- 71. PM Modi** will inaugurate the **17th** edition of the Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on July 1st, 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
Note: The two days Indian Cooperative Congress would be organized by the National Cooperative Union of India. Theme 2023: Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India. Chaired by: HM Amit Shah. Aim: To discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, to showcase the best practices being adopted by the successful cooperatives
- 72. Indian Railways** has signed an MoU with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency.
Note: It was signed in the presence of the Chairman of the Railway Board, Anil Kumar Lahoti. As Indian Railways is proactively working towards the achievement of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030. As part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways is taking several initiatives.
- 73. India and UAE** formally inked an agreement on the sidelines of the 141st/142nd sessions of the World Customs Organization's Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels.
Note: Both countries have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators. Aim: To promote greater trade facilitation and ease of doing business. The agreement establishes a framework that enables the recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both countries.
- 74. India** has signed the Artemis Accords with the USA with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond.
Note: Artemis Accord is a US-led effort to send humans to the moon again by 2025. Aim: To build a permanent presence in lunar orbit and on the surface after the Apollo missions ended. It will boost the cooperation between the two nations and explore the domain beyond the boundaries of Earth. India has become the 27th signatory of the Artemis Accords.
- 75. Infosys** has bagged a \$454-million deal for the digital transformation of Denmark's Danske Bank.
Note: The deal is for a period of five years, which could be ramped up to \$900 million and also renewed for up to another three years. The collaboration with Infosys would help achieve its strategic priorities regarding customer experience and operational excellence. Infosys was selected to help with the bank's technology transformation, optimize access to talent and capabilities.
- 76. Ministry of Agriculture** has signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt Limited to develop various geospatial solutions pro bono for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem, with the help of Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.
Note: This project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites. It will develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.
- 77. The Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank** signed an MoU for the disbursement of financial assistance to veteran artists under the "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists".
Note: Ministry of Culture has administered a Scheme under which financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above 60 years. Eligibility: Contributed in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing
- 78. The Central government** has allocated **₹145 crore** for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland.
Note: Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings. The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls. The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.

May 2023

- 1. Australian High Commission** in India has announced its Government Grant for a Project in **Kargil** city.
Note: This was announced during a Special Meeting at Srinagar chaired by the Australian high commissioner to

- India, Barry O'Farrell. The **project "Return to Roots"** aims to integrate traditional knowledge with the current school science curriculum in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP).
2. **India's exports to UAE** are expected to **reach \$50 billion by 2026-27** from \$31.3 billion at present on the back of the free trade agreement between the countries.
Note: Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal has informed that the trade between India and the UAE has grown significantly after the implementation of the trade agreement on May 1, 2022. The **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** which was signed between the two nations on 18 February 2022.
 3. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the **unemployment rate of India** has surged to a four-month high of **8.11% in April**, compared to 7.14% in March 2023.
Note: The rise in the unemployment rate came on the back of **higher labor participation**, which has risen to 41.9% from 39.7% in March. Rural India: 20.3 million people entered the workforce and 95% of them got jobs. Urban India: 5.2 million people entered the workforce, but only half of them got jobs
 4. **India's domestic coal production** has increased by over **22%** during the last five years.
Note: The overall coal production has seen a quantum jump to 893.08 Million tonnes in 2022-23 from 728.72 Million tonnes in 2018-2019 with a growth of about 22.6%. The govt aims to enhance domestic coal production to reduce the dependence on substitutable coal imports. Several measures have been taken to ramp up domestic coal production to ensure adequate coal stocks at thermal Power Plants
 5. **REC Limited** has exclusively listed its recently issued **Green bonds worth \$750 million** at GIFT IFSC Stock Exchanges, under its Global Medium Term Programme of \$7 billion.
Note: The Green bond issuance by REC Limited reinforces its status as one of the most accomplished and frequent issuers in the international capital markets. International Financial Services Centres Authority **Chairman Injeti Srinivas** attended the ceremony as chief guest.
 6. **UGC Chairman, M Jagadesh Kumar** has launched the Central University Faculty recruitment **portal CU-Chayan**.
Note: It is a completely **user-friendly portal** and caters to the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process. Aim: To create an enabling environment for both, universities and the applicants with universities driving all the stages of the recruitment independently. It has been developed after consultations with all the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities.
 7. According to a National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, conducted by the Department of Science and Technology and UNIDO, **Karnataka** has **topped the ranking** of the most **innovative state in manufacturing**.
Note: Followed by Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Haryana. The survey also highlighted that Karnataka has the highest number of companies in manufacturing that carry out innovations. **Bottom: Northeastern states (excluding Assam), followed by Bihar.**
 8. **India** will launch its **own heat index in 2024** to quantify the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heatwave alerts for specific locations.
Note: IMD started issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country. It includes various parameters like wind, temperature, humidity, duration of exposure, etc. **Impact of Heat waves:** It has an immense impact on human health, causing cramps, exhaustion, stress, and heat stroke.
 9. **Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated National Conference on Agriculture for **Kharif Campaign 2023-24**.
Note: During the conference, he announced that the Ministry of Agriculture has set a target of a record 3,320 lakh tonnes (332 million tonnes) production of foodgrains for the year 2023-24. In 2022-23, 3,235 lakh tonnes were produced. The target for the production of Pulses is fixed at 292.5 lakh and for oilseeds at 440 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.
 10. India has operationalized the **Sittwe Port in Myanmar** with the departure of the inaugural shipment, the MV-ITT LION (V-273), from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata**.
Note: It is a **part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project**. IT carried 20,000 bags containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement and is expected to reach Sittwe Port on 9 May. It was built under a grant of assistance from the Indian government. Aim: To boost trade and commerce between the two countries
 11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the **National SC-ST Hub Scheme**, which **crossed over one lakh beneficiary** registrations.
Note: About National SC-ST Hub Scheme: It is an initiative of the Union MSME Ministry. Aim: To empower and promote entrepreneurs among SC, ST Communities. It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a public-sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.
 12. **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** will organize **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)** on 8th May in 200 districts across the country.
Note: PMNAM will witness the participation of many companies representing various sectors, providing relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth. Through this, participating organizations can connect with potential apprentices, while strengthening the livelihood opportunities of the youth.

13. **NMCG** and the National Institute of Urban Affairs jointly organized the **'River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities'** in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To provide a platform for officials of member cities and international stakeholders to discuss and learn good practices for managing urban rivers. This seminar has witnessed the participation from Embassies/High Commissions of selected countries and their respective river cities.
14. **NTPC** has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** to develop nuclear power projects.
Note: The JV company shall develop two pressurized heavy-water reactors (PHWR) projects, **Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project 2x700 MW** and **Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 4x700 MW**. Presently, NTPC has a total installed power generation capacity of 71.644 GW, of which 3.01 GW is renewable energy.
15. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and IHub-Data signed an MoU at **IIIT Hyderabad campus**.
Note: Aim: For cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IHub-Data to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities. IFSCA is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services. IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy.
16. Sri Lanka's mobile telecommunication firm, **Dialog Axiata**, and **India's Bharti Airtel** have signed a binding term sheet for the **merger of their Sri Lankan subsidiaries**.
Note: With this merger, Bharti Airtel will get access to a large customer base in Sri Lanka. Bharti Airtel started its operations in 2009 in Sri Lanka and has a customer base of 1 million in the country. Dialog Axiata is a subsidiary of Malaysian Axiata. Dialog accounts for 57% of the mobile market in Sri Lanka.
17. **India** and **Israel** have signed an MoU on **Industrial Research and Development Cooperation**.
Note: Aim: To collaborate in high technology areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, and semiconductors, synthetic biology, etc., The MoU was signed between CSIR and the DDR&D, Ministry of Defense of Israel. It enables cooperation in the industrial R&D programs in mutually agreeable industrial technology fields through the implementation of specific projects.
91. Union Minister Nityanand Rai has inaugurated the **Dawki Land Port in West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya**.
Note: Aim: To promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district. The Dawki Land port will facilitate the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border. It will also facilitate passenger movement across the border.
92. According to a report commissioned by the oil ministry, India should **ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers** in cities with **over 10 lakh population by 2027** and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles.
Note: The report of the **committee headed by former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor**. It has also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035. It help India to achieve the goal of cutting emissions to net zero by 2070
93. **Rajesh Bhushan**, Union Health Secretary has launched the **Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management (SAKSHAM)**.
Note: It is a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of MoHFW. Developed by: **National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)**, New Delhi. SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.
94. India has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) with **50%** of villages achieving **ODF Plus status under phase II of the Mission**.
Note: **Top performing states** (percentage of ODF Plus villages): Big States: Telangana (100%), Karnataka (99.5%), Tamil Nadu (97.8%) & Uttar Pradesh (95.2%); Small states: Goa (95.3%) and Sikkim (69.2%); UTs: A&N Islands, Dadra Nagar Havelli & Daman Diu and Lakshadweep (100%)
95. Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the **Green Port Guidelines 2023**, under the name of **'Harit Sagar'**.
Note: Aim: To promote environment-friendly practices across all our Ports, It provides a comprehensive action plan for achieving targeted outcomes in terms of quantified reduction in carbon emission over defined timelines and achieving SDG. It also aims to minimize waste through reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling to attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
96. Union Ministry of WCD has launched **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi for strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**.
Note: This unique initiative is aimed at ensuring that India has a high-quality preschool network. ECCE is a significant component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 and is envisaged under the NEP. The work will be taken by Anganwadis across the country for providing nutrition as well as better education to children.
97. The Union government has lowered the **threshold limit of e-invoicing from Rs 10 crore to Rs 5 crore**.
Note: It will be **mandatory for smaller businesses** to carry out business transactions via e-invoices from August 1, 2023. In the exercise of the powers of the

Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, the government has made the amendment in the notification on the recommendations of the Council. The threshold was lowered to Rs 10 crore on October 1, 2022.

98. India has extended a **\$ 1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka** by one year, a backup infusion of dollars for essential imports. Post-negotiations, the credit line was **extended till March 2024**.

Note: The credit line, part of about \$ 4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis early last year, which was scheduled to end in March. The situation has improved with Sri Lanka finalizing a nearly USD 3 billion bailout package from IMF.

99. The **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) division** of the commerce ministry has recommended imposing anti-dumping duties on imports of a specific type of optical fibre from **China, Korea, and Indonesia**.

Note: Reason: To protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments. The DGTR has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fiber' from these countries.

100. According to the Data Governance Quality Index for 2022-2023 Q3, conducted by DCEO, NITI Aayog, **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has secured the second position among 66 ministries.

Note: The Ministry has achieved an impressive score of 4.7 out of 5. **Aim of the survey:** To measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in the decision-making of various Ministries and Departments on the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

101. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** attended the 8th meeting of Agriculture Ministers of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** member countries through video conferencing.

Note: During the conference, he informed that India's exports of agricultural and allied products have crossed four lakh crore rupees. He has also highlighted India's performance in the agriculture sector and contribution to global food security with food grain production.

102. **Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated a **PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra** at Warasiguda in Secunderabad.

Note: Aim: To provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth. It was launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at a low cost. **PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana:** Launched by: Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. **Initially launched in 2008**

103. The **Ministry of Railways** and **MoHUA** jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail' (**Project-SMART**).

Note: Project-SMART envisages developing surrounding areas of **Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR) Stations**. This also aimed to enhance accessibility and convenience of commuters & other stakeholders and to promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.

104. India Post, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), and Tripta Technologies signed an MoU for **Bharat eMart portal**.

Note: This portal will provide the facility of pick-up of consignments from the premises of traders and ensure delivery at the doorsteps of the consignees across the country. In the recent past, India Post has entered into similar agreements with GeM, Regional Centers of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

105. **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS)** has collaborated with **World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO)** to ensure patient safety and quality control.

Note: A core committee for **Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS** is being constituted for the implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives. For this initiative, AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with Duke-NUS.

106. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Canada have co-chaired the discussions for the **sixth India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) in Ottawa**.

Note: MDTI is a bilateral mechanism that provides an institutional mechanism to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment-related issues and cooperation areas. The Ministers have also reviewed India-Canada CEPA negotiations.

107. The **42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** started in **Indonesia** on May 8, 2023.

Note: 2023 theme: ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth. Aim: To demonstrate the bloc's hopes and efforts to become the center and driving force behind global development. ASEAN is an organization formed by the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore in 1967. Aim: To promote economic growth in the Southeast Asian region

108. **Sixth edition of the two-day International Indian Ocean Conference** has been started in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** on May 12, 2023.

Note: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the conference. The conference is being organized by the India Foundation in association with the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **2023 theme for this conference is 'Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership for a Resilient Future'**. The event is being attended by about 150 delegates.

109. The **fifth edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival** (Gaf 2023) will be held in which **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** from December 1 to 5.

Note: The **theme of the event is 'Emerging Challenges in Healthcare & A Resurgent Ayurveda'**. Aim: To bring together Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders from around the world to showcase Ayurveda's potential in addressing health challenges. The event will also feature over 750 research papers and 750 poster presentations on the sidelines.

110. **Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** has launched a **mobile application named Meri LiFE (My life)** in New Delhi.

Note: This app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, **envisioned by PM Modi at COP 26**. This app will showcase the power of citizens, especially young people in saving the environment. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched in October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat. Focus: Behaviour changes in individuals through simple easy-to-do actions

111. **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation fell below zero** in **April 2023** for the first time since July 2020.

Note: **The WPI inflation fell (-) 0.92% in April 2023**, as compared to 1.34 percent recorded in March 2023. Reason: Fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food articles, chemical and chemical products, rubber and plastic products, and paper products. It was at 3.85% in February 2023 and 4.73% in January 2023.

112. **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has set up the C-PACE.**

Note: C-PACE refers to **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**. Reason: To centralize the process of striking off companies from the MCA Register. The C-PACE will reduce the burden on the registry and provide stakeholders with hassle-free filing, timely and process-bound striking off of their company's names from the register. **The C-PACE institution is established under sub-section (1) of section 396.**

113. **PM Modi** has inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 18 May 2023.

Note: He will also unveil several key initiatives, including the **Mascot, a Graphic Novel titled 'A Day at the Museum', the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards**. The Mascot is an artistic representation inspired by the iconic Dancing Girl sculpture in the Chennapatnam art style. Indian Museums Directory serves as a comprehensive survey of museums in India.

114. **University Grants Commission** has launched a newly redesigned website and portals named '**UTSAH**' and '**Professor of Practice**'.

Note: **UTSAH refers to Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education**. This portal will serve as a platform providing detailed information

about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education. The Professors of Practice portal facilitate institutions to get experienced professional experts in the required area.

115. According to a **UN report titled, 'World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2023', India's economy** is expected to grow by **5.8% in 2023**.

Note: **6.7% in 2024 (CY)**, supported by resilient domestic demand. The report has also highlighted that the higher interest rates and weaker external demand will continue to weigh on investment and exports this year for the country. Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023 as global commodity prices moderate.

116. Minister of Communications, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched the **Sanchar Saathi portal**.

Note: He has also **introduced three reforms: CEIR** (Central Equipment Identity Register) – for blocking stolen/lost mobiles. Know your mobile connections – to know mobile connections registered in your name. **ASTR** (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) – to identify fraudulent subscribers.

117. Union MoS for Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the **8th All India Pension Adalat** in **Delhi**.

Note: Agenda: Chronic cases will be taken up and resolved. **Till now, 7 All India Pension Adalats have been organized**, in which 24,218 cases have been taken up and 17235 cases have been resolved. The Minister has also presided over the 50th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop, conducted by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.

118. MoS for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan has launched the **ORAN testbed project**.

Note: **ORAN refers to Open Radio Access Network**. For conformance, certification, and interoperability testing of O-RAN-based solutions. It will facilitate the testing of ORAN elements and will facilitate the development of a fully indigenous 5G radio network in India. He has also released a Postal Stamp to mark the glorious 20 Years of Universal Service Obligation Fund of the Ministry of Communications.

119. The **Ministry of Cooperation** has informed that government will form **1,100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the Cooperative Sector**.

Note: These additional 1100 FPOs have been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the FPO Scheme. Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assistance of 25 lakh rupees per FPO is provided to the Cluster-Based Business Organizations.

120. **PM Narendra Modi** embarked on tour to **Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia** on May 19, 2023.

Note: At first, he will attend G7 Summit in Japan at an invitation of Japanese PM Fumio Kishida. G7 Summit preferences: Nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, food and health and development. Later, he

will visit Papua New Guinea to host the third Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation with his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape.

121. Minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the National Ayush Mission Conclave in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health). **Note:** Minister of Health informed that the Government will **launch an 'Integrative Health Policy'** for the health and wellness of public at large. It would be a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Ayush. **Two ICT initiatives of Ministry of Ayush i.e. E-Learning Management System and AHMIS were launched.**

122. India launched 'Operation Karuna' to provide humanitarian assistance for **people in Myanmar**, which is affected by **Mocha Cyclone**.

Note: **Three INS (Shivalik, Kamorta, and Savitri)** carrying relief material have already reached Yangon, Myanmar. The ships are carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and hygiene items. EAM Dr. Jaishankar informed that India continues to be the first responder in the region.

123. Ministry of Education and World Bank has organized one of its kind workshops on **School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program** in Mumbai.

Note: This workshop was attended by the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the **six STARS states: Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh**. STARS program was launched for strengthening of Vocational Education and the workshop focused on discussion on a Skill Gap analysis.

124. AirAsia India has successfully operated **India's first commercial flight on the Pune-Mumbai sectors** using an indigenously produced **sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) blend**.

Note: Flight I5767 was **powered by SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF)**. It was supplied by Indian Oil in partnership with Praj Industries, which provided the technology for the blend. SAF: It is also referred to as bio-jet fuel. SAF made from renewable biomass and waste resources

125. The Union Health Ministry has launched the **"75/25" initiative to screen 75 million people for hypertension and diabetes** on Standard Care by 2025.

Note: The government has **launched the Shashakt Portal** to train the 40,000 primary healthcare medical officers on the Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs. The MoHFW has also released revised operational guidelines for the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) for wider coverage.

126. School students from all 25 districts across **Sri Lanka** have received the prestigious **Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships**.

Note: This scholarship **provides Rs 2500 Lankan per student** every month to the top six students from each district, based on merit cum means. In 2023, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 period.

127. The 50 start-ups exchange program was launched between **India and Bangladesh**.

Note: **The first group** of 10 start-up companies returned to Dhaka after completing a successful five-day visit to India from 8-12 May 2023. Under this program, **50 Startups from Bangladesh and 50 Startups from India will exchange** visits to each other's countries. Reason: To explore partnerships, expand business relations, share experience and knowledge, and expand youth and entrepreneurial cooperation

128. The Union Government has approved the signing of the Project Collaboration Agreement between the **Department of Health Research (DHR) and WHO on Assistive Technology**.

Note: Aim: Working towards drawing global attention toward access to assistive technology, fostering research and innovation, and developing and disseminating appropriate training programs. The government has also approved an MoU between the CCI and the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA).

129. The first ministerial-level meeting of the **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council** held **Brussels, Belgium** on May 16, 2023.

Note: Aim: To discuss ways to increase cooperation in strategic technologies, digital connectivity, clean energy, trade, and investments. Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal will co-chair the meeting along with EAM S Jaishankar and MoS, Electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

130. The annual ASEAN Tourism Forum will be hosted by Laos in January 2024.

Note: The **theme of the forum will be "Quality and Responsible Tourism -- Sustaining ASEAN Future"**. The forum will include a tourism exhibition and serves to spur tourism and further service improvement in associated businesses. Previously, Laos hosted the ASEAN Tourism Forum in 2004 and 2013. The Lao government is working to promote the country's potential as a nature-based tourism destination.

131. G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference on Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for sustainable blue economy held in **Diu** on 18 May 2023.

Note: The main theme of RIIG during India's G-20 Presidency in 2023 is **"Research and Innovation for an Equitable Society"**. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr Srivari Chandrasekhar has chaired the G20 RIIG conference.

132. Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &**

- Industry (FICCI)** has organized a curtain raiser ahead of Wings India 2024 in **New Delhi**.
- Note:** The ministry has also unveiled the event and promo video and released the Wings India 2024 brochure. Wings India 2024 is expected to be Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation on Commercial, General and Business Aviation and will bring together various stakeholders.
- 133. Union Minister of Environment, Bhupendra Yadav** has formally inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM)** at ICFRE, Dehradun.
- Note:** Aim: To promote South-South Cooperation and address land degradation issues through sustainable land management practices. The CoE-SLM is poised to make a lasting impact in addressing land degradation issues, by leveraging sustainable land management practices, and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).
- 134. Union Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal** has informed that the government will provide **financial support of 30%** for the **promotion of Green Shipping**.
- Note:** In addition, Green Hydrogen hubs will be developed at the **Deendayal Port (Kandla)** and **Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin)**. Under the Green Tug Transition program, two tugs each will be procured for the Jawaharlal Nehru, VO Chidambaranar, Paradip, and Deendayal ports. A portal will be designed for cruise bookings.
- 135. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** launched GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS) 2023 in **Kolkata**.
- Note:** Aim: To identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions toward technological advances in shipbuilding by Startups. Focus: AI, Renewable/Green Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Efficiency Enhancement. It was launched by G Surya Prakash, Assistant Manager (Finance) of GRSE. **GRSE was established as a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company.**
- 136. The Heavy Industries Ministry** notified that the government would reduce the subsidy provided under the **FAME-II scheme applicable to electric two-wheelers registered on or after June 1, 2023**.
- Note:** The subsidy for electric two-wheelers would be reduced to ₹10,000 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers will be 15% of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40% (present). AME India Scheme is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan
- 137. The Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh** has launched **SAMARTH'on promote Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats' in Lucknow**.
- Note:** Implemented by: **Ministry of Rural Development**. Aim: To promote Digital Transactions in rural areas, focusing on women. Minister has lauded the SHG's NPA, which was reduced from 9.58 % in 2013 to below 2%, and urged banks to recognize and outstanding credit performance of SHG Didis and facilitate loans.
- 138. The Central Board of Direct Taxes** has raised the **tax exemption on leave encashment** on the retirement of **non-government salaried employees from ₹3 lakh to ₹25 lakh**, effective from 1 April 2023.
- Note:** It was announced in the union budget 2023. It applies to the period of earned leave in the credit of the employee at the time of retirement whether on superannuation or otherwise. In the case of **government employees**, the **entire leave encashment amount received is tax-exempt**.
- 139. India** will unveil its **18 new petaflop supercomputer for weather forecasting** institutes by the end of 2023.
- Note:** The new supercomputer will be bought at a **cost of Rs 900 crore**. NCMRWF will be allocated eight petaflop supercomputing power with the remaining 10 petaflops going to IITM. **The NCMRWF houses 'Mihir', a 2.8 petaflop supercomputer**
- 140. PM Modi** inaugurated the new **New Delhi Parliament House on May 28, 2023**.
- Note:** He has also installed the **Sengol with Nandi in the Lok Sabha chamber**. **Constructed by: Tata Projects Ltd**. **Three main gates: Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar, and Karma Dwar**. The new building can comfortably seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chamber and 300 in the Rajya Sabha chamber. The new Lok Sabha chamber has a peacock theme and Rajya Sabha's theme is based on National Flower, Lotus
- 141. King of Cambodia, Norodom Sihamoni** has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.
- Note:** The King will have **s**. He will also pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat. The visit marks the culmination of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Cambodia. This visit by the King of Cambodia is taking place after almost six decades.
- 142. Ministry of Education and USA's Department of State** launched the **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development**.
- Note:** Aim: To enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the field of education and skill development. The working group exchanged perspectives on skill development and vocational education, certification and recognition, partnerships between US and Indian higher educational institutions, and engaging with the private sector.
- 143. PM Modi** was accorded a Ceremonial Guard of **Honour at the Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia**.
- Note:** During his visit, India and Australia signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force. The **MoUs were exchanged** after a bilateral meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese.

- 144. Molbio Diagnostics and ShsanMukha Innovations** have collaborated to design, develop and commercialize point-of-care **diagnostic devices, SickCell**.
Note: Aim: To diagnose hemoglobin-related diseases. ShanMukha Innovations is an IISc spin-off that specializes in creating mobile diagnostic solutions. SickCell is a first-of-its-kind indigenous point-of-care confirmatory test in the country for quantitative detection and differentiation of sickle cell disease/trait.
- 145. Nepal** has decided to allow **India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited** to develop a second hydropower project in the country.
Note: Presently, SJVN is **developing a 900-MW Arun -III hydroelectric project**, a run-of-river located on the Arun River in Eastern Nepal. The draft project development agreement was approved by Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and is to be signed with India's state-owned SJVN to develop the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydropower project in eastern Nepal.
- 146. 32nd Arab League Summit** has been concluded in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** with the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration.
Note: This declaration focuses on fostering Arab unity and addressing various regional challenges. The unanimous decision to readmit Syria to the Arab League. The declaration emphasizes the need for increased pan-Arab efforts to assist Syria in resolving its ongoing crisis. It also proclaims the Arab League's commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative
- 147. Eighth NITI Aayog Governing Council** was concluded in New Delhi, **presided over by PM Modi** as the Chairman of NITI Aayog.
Note: Theme: Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India. Eight prominent themes were discussed: (i) Viksit Bharat@2047, (ii) Thrust on MSMEs, (iii) Infrastructure and Investments, (iv) Minimising Compliances, (v) Women Empowerment, (vi) Health and Nutrition, (vii) Skill Development, (viii) Gati Shakti for area development and social infrastructure.
- 148. Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** has inaugurated 8th International Conference on Pharma and Medical Device Sector.
Note: He unveiled the National Medical Device Policy 2023 and launched the Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices. He also **launched a scheme titled 'Assistance for Medical Devices clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)'**. Aim: To establish and strengthen common infrastructure facilities in the medical devices clusters
- 149. The Ministry of Civil Aviation** has launched the **5.1 version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)**, which is specially designed for **Helicopter**.
Note: Aim: To further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters. For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes. Airfare caps have been reduced by as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

April 2023

1. According to the data from **the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, **India's unemployment rate increased to 7.8%** in March 2023.
Note: The unemployment rate in the country surged in December 2022 to 8.30% but declined in January to 7.14%. It edged up again in February 2023 to 7.45%. In March 2023, the unemployment rate in urban areas of India reached 8.4%, while in rural areas it stood at 7.5%. In March 2023, unemployment was the **highest in Haryana at 26.8%**.
2. Union Minister for Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched the App Version of the **National Logistics Portal (Marine) named Sagar-Setu**.
Note: The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc. **Benefits for Traders:** Improve convenience with the reduced turnaround time for approval and compliance. Increase the visibility of operations and tracking.
3. According to the report titled **'Women and Men in India 2022'**, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, an average **Indian woman aged between 15 and 29 spends 5.5 hours doing unpaid labor**.
Note: While a **man between 15 and 29 spends about 50 minutes daily** doing work that **yields no money**. A senior woman (above 60) spends four hours a day doing unpaid labor, while a senior man spends 1.5 hours on the same.
4. **Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in India** for a two-day visit and was received by EAM S Jaishankar in New Delhi.
Note: Both countries will discuss **hydro-power cooperation, economic and trade partnership, space cooperation**, scholarships, youth-centric and STEM-based initiatives, and establishing digital infrastructure matters. The defense and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.
5. According to the new joint report from the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)** and **JMK Research and Analytics**, **India could become the world's second-largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer by 2026**, after China.

- Note:** India's cumulative module manufacturing nameplate capacity more than doubled from 18GW in March 2022 to 38GW in March 2023. In terms of upcoming PV manufacturing installations, Gujarat would be the leading state in India.
6. According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, an initiative of **Tata Trusts, Karnataka** emerged at the **top among the 18 large and mid-sized states** with a population of over one crore.
Note: **Tamil Nadu** ranked **second**, followed by Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. **Small States (population less than 1 Crore):** Sikkim (top), followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. Four core pillars of the justice system: Police, Prisons, Judiciary, and Legal aid
 7. Indian PM Narendra Modi holds a bilateral meeting with **King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck** in New Delhi on April 5.
Note: The two sides will set up the **first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing**. The two sides agreed to find a technically sound and cost-effective way forward for the Punatsangchhu-I plant. They also agreed to expedite the operationalization of the third international internet gateway for Bhutan.
 8. The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a **14-members committee to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them**.
Note: **Headed by: Amitabh Kant** (India's G20 Sherpa and the former CEO of NITI Aayog). Other members: NOIDA CEO, Finances Services secretary of the Union Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs secretary, chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and other officials.
 9. The government has announced a **plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity** in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy **by 2030**.
Note: The government has decided to invite bids for **50 GW of renewable energy capacity** annually for the next five years (2023-28). These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.
 10. **India plans to give green hydrogen fuel producers incentives worth at least 10% of their costs** under a \$2 billion scheme by the end of June 2023.
Note: The govt has approved a 174.9 billion rupee incentive plan to **promote green hydrogen** to cut CO2 emissions and become a major exporter in the sector. The cost of manufacturing green hydrogen in India is about Rs 300/ kg and the government will give incentives worth at least Rs 30/kg for the production of green hydrogen fuel.
 11. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the **Indian Space Policy, 2023**.
Note: Under this policy roles and responsibilities of ISRO, NewSpace India Limited, and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) have been laid down. It enables the ISRO to channelize its focus on research and development of advanced space technologies. This policy would **increase the participation of private players** in the space sector.
ISRO Chairman: S Somanath
 12. The CCEA has approved the revised **domestic natural gas pricing guidelines** for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy blocks, and pre-NELP blocks.
Note: The **price of natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket** and shall be notified on a monthly basis. For the gas produced by ONGC & OIL from their nomination blocks, the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price shall be subject to a floor and a ceiling.
 13. The **Information & Broadcasting Ministry and Amazon India** have signed a collaboration agreement to boost India's creative economy.
Note: Amazon Prime Video will sponsor scholarships, create **internship programs and job opportunities for students of the FTII and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute**. International Film Festival of India Award-winning films and films produced as part of India's international co-production treaties will be onboarded by Amazon Prime Video.
 14. **Tripura** will host the **first-ever G20 summit of the State commencing** on the 3rd of April 2023.
Note: The meeting will delve into 'Clean Energy for Greener Future.' After the first session of the summit, the second session will see the opening of exhibition stalls and an Investor Meet. A light and sound show will be organised for the G20 delegates at the Ujjayanta Palace.
Chief Minister of Tripura: Manik Saha
 15. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** is being **hosted the Youth20 (Y20) Consultation** under the G20 Presidency of India on April 5, 2023.
Note: The two-day event was attended by more than 1,200 youth delegates from across India and abroad. It is a platform that brings young people together to connect and share ideas on finding innovative solutions to pressing global concerns. It is a pan-India activity in the run-up to the final Y20 Summit to be held in Varanasi, UP
 16. **President Droupadi Murmu** has taken a historic sortie in a **Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft** at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on April 8, 2023.
Note: She flew for approximately 30 minutes **covering the Brahmaputra and Tezpur valleys**. The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of the 106 Squadron. She is the **third President** and second woman President to undertake such a sortie. The President is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.

17. PM Narendra Modi has released the latest **Tiger census data**, which shows the country's big-cat count increased by **200 in four years to 3,167 from 2,967 in 2018**.
Note: This report revealed that the **Western Ghats showed a significant decline** in numbers from 981 in 2018 to 824 in 2022. While the **Sundarbans is threatened** by the effects of climate change and the rise of sea levels. India hosts some 75% of the global tiger population living in forests.
18. PM Narendra Modi has launched a **97-nation International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) in Karnataka** on April 9, 2023.
Note: To focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species in the wild. **Seven big cat species are tiger, leopard, jaguar, lion, snow leopard, puma, and cheetah**. The launch of the alliance follows the clarion call given by the Prime Minister in July 2019. He also visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka.
19. Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the **'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo**, a border village in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.
Note: He has also **inaugurated nine Micro Hydel Projects of the AP government** constructed under the "Golden Jubilee Border Illumination Programme" in Kibithoo. These electricity projects will empower people living in border villages. In the first phase, 662 villages have been identified for priority coverage.
20. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the scientific convention on the occasion of **World Homoeopathy Day on April 10, 2023**, in New Delhi.
Note: The Convention has been organised by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH. This year, **the theme is "One Health, One Family."** It aims to promote homoeopathic treatment among the people through the neighbourhood family physicians.
21. **India's first post office** will be constructed using **3D printing technology in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
Note: The project at **Cambridge Layout in Ulsoor** is being implemented by Larsen & Toubro, which has experience in constructing 3D-printed buildings. The 1,100 sqft building is expected to cost 30-40% less than conventional buildings because of technological intervention. The post office is being built at a cost of Rs 23 lakh.
22. According to the **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) report 2021-22, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Telangana are the front-runners in the SEEI 2021-22**.
Note: Achiever category (score between 50-60): Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab. Based on their efforts and achievements, states have been classified into **four categories: Front runner, Achiever, Contender, and Aspirant**. This report was released by Power Minister R. K. Singh in New Delhi.
23. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has granted the **national party status to Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**.
Note: AAP was recognized as a state party in the NCT of Delhi. While ECI has **withdrawn the national party status of the Trinamool Congress (TMC)** and Communist Party of India (CPI). Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has received recognition as a state party in Nagaland. Tipra Motha Party got recognition as a state party in Tripura.
24. Union Minister of Law, Kiren Rijiju has released the **first edition of the Dogri version of the Constitution** of India at the University of Jammu.
Note: During the event, he informed that the government is digitizing about 65,000 words of the legal glossary to frame a core vocabulary for the understanding of all citizens. **About Dogri Language:** It is one of the 22 official languages of India. It is widely spoken in the Jammu region of J&K, India.
25. PM Narendra Modi has flagged off **Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express** train on April 12, 2023.
Note: It is the world's first semi-high-speed passenger train on high-rise overhead electric (OHE) territory. It will make its inaugural journey **between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt railway stations**. It will operate between Ajmer and Delhi Cantt, with stops at Jaipur, Alwar, and Gurgaon. It will complete the Ajmer-Delhi Cantt journey in 5 hours and 15 minutes.
26. **WhatsApp** has launched a new **campaign** named **'Stay Safe with WhatsApp'** to highlight the several safety features that are pre-built on the messaging app.
Note: It will run for three months with a focus on several safety-centric features like **'Block and Report,' 'Two-Step Verification,'** and **'Privacy and group settings.'** The campaign highlights why it is important to add two-step verification to WhatsApp, which requires a 6-digit pin and an OTP to authenticate a user.
27. According to the data, released by the Ministry of Statistics, **the index of industrial production (IIP)** has expanded as the manufacturing sector's output **increased by 5.3% in February 2023**.
Note: While the **mining output increased by 4.6 %** and Power generation raised to 8.2%. In January 2023, the IIP growth was revised to 5.5% from 5.2 percent. The industrial output of the country in February 2023 rose 5.6 percent, on a year-on-year basis.
28. Union Minister of Fisheries, **Parshottam Rupala** will be launched the **Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI)** on April 14, 2023.
Note: He will also launch the **World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH) project**. Aim: To create an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach. It will be implemented over a five-year as a Central sector scheme with a financial provision of Rs. 1228.70 Cr.

29. Uttarakhand CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched a program named **A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production)**.
Note: Women have been chosen to strengthen livestock-related activities in remote rural areas, keeping in mind their important role under the A-HELP scheme, envisioned by Govt. of India. Trained A-HELPS will help to prevent the various infectious diseases of animals, and artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
30. **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has signed an agreement with **49 Universities** to inspire youth towards water conservation and river rejuvenation.
Note: Aim: To bring the student community to the forefront of the mass movement for creating a sustainable ecosystem of rivers. This also ensures the cleanliness and purity of River Ganga with the rejuvenation of rivers being the prime objective of the Namami Gange Mission. **Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**
31. The **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)** and **State Museum, Lucknow** signed an MoU to work together toward environmental conservation and education among the masses.
Note: The multi-dimensional efforts will be made in organizing programs for school and college students to create awareness about nature. NMNH was established to **portray and promote awareness** of the country's **Natural Heritage**. It is an institution devoted to environmental education.
32. According to the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, **Andhra Pradesh's CM Jagan Mohan Reddy** has the **highest assets totaling Rs 510 crore**, followed by Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over Rs 163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Pattnaik (over Rs 63 crore).
Note: While **West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee** has the **lowest total assets** of about Rs 15 lakh. Out of the 30 CMs analyzed, 29 are crorepatists with the average assets being Rs 33.96 crore for every CM.
33. **India's first semi-high-speed regional rail services have been named 'RAPIDX'** by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
Note: The trains will run on the **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors**, being implemented to connect key urban nodes across NCR. It is a joint venture company of the Union government and Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The NCRTC will commission the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor by 2025.
34. **AIM, NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Agriculture** signed to promote innovation in the **agricultural sector among school students** across India.
Note: The **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** with **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)** and Agricultural Technology Management Agency agreed to connect. KVKs work as a Single Window Agricultural Knowledge Resource and Capacity Development Centre. KVKs, in partnership with ATMA, will collaborate with nearby ATLs to support agricultural-related innovation.
35. According to the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, **India's labor market has witnessed an improvement** with over 15 million people entering the workforce in the last three quarters.
Note: The country's **employment rate increased to 36.9%** in March 2023 from 36.6% in December 2022. The labor participation rate (LPR) declined from 40.5% in December to 39.8% in March 2023. While the unemployment rate saw a small decrease from 8.3% to 7.8% during this period.
36. The festivals of **Vaisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi, Meshadi, Naba Barsha, and Puthandu Pirappu** are being celebrated in different parts of the country on April 14, 2023.
Note: **Baisakhi is celebrated with pomp in the North region**, especially in Punjab. Rongali Bihu is marked as Assamese New Year. Poila Baisakh falls on April 15, marking the beginning of the Bengali New Year. Vishu marks the new year in Kerala, while Puthandu marks the Tamil New Year.
37. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a three-day **International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics** in New Delhi on April 12, 2023.
Note: Through this platform, policymakers, academicians and government officials can share their insights and experiences on Defence Finance and Economics for evolving security challenges. Delegates from the USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya will participate in the conference.
38. **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has joined hands with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)** to develop a robust touchless biometric capture system.
Note: They will carry out joint research to build a mobile capture system for fingerprints along with a liveness model integrated with the capture system. The touchless biometric capture system will allow fingerprint authentication from home alike face authentication.
39. The **Indian government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Food Programme (WFP)** for sending **10,000 metric tonnes of wheat to the people of Afghanistan**.
Note: The MoU was signed between the **Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations WFP**. This MoU marks the fifth tranche, to be shipped through the Chabahar Port in Iran, of humanitarian food assistance that India committed in 2020. In 2022, India has contributed 40,000 metric tons of wheat.
40. PM Modi has launched a series of railway projects across the Northeast, a methanol plant, and laid the foundation stone for a bridge over **Brahmaputra river**.
Note: He commissioned a methanol plant at Namrup in Dibrugarh by Assam Petrochemicals Ltd (APL) with 500 tonnes per day (TPD) capacity. He has also witnessed a

mega-Bihu dance performance, which has made it to the Guinness World Records, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Assam.

41. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with Tiger Reserve **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam**, spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Note: Reason: To facilitate a seamless and efficient entry process for vehicles entering into the forest area. It will provide FASTag based payment system at Forest entry points. It will extend the benefit of a collection of Ecosystem Management Coordination fees through FASTag at various entrance points of the Tiger Reserve
42. PM Modi has inaugurated the All Indian Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in **Guwahati, Assam**.
Note: The foundation stone was laid in May 2017 and was built at a cost of over Rs 1,120 crore. It has a total capacity of 750 beds, including 30 AYUSH beds, and also has an intake capacity of 100 MBBS students per year. He also laid the foundation of the Rs 546 crore Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute, a joint initiative of the state government and IIT Guwahati.
43. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** is planning to set up a joint venture with US-based clean energy technology company LanzaJet Inc and multiple domestic airlines.
Note: Reason: For the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The proposed venture will set up a plant to make SAF with alcohol-to-jet technology at the state-run company's Panipat refinery in Haryana at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore. IOC will possess a 50% share, while LanzaJet Inc will hold a 25% share.
44. According to the provisional data, released by the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and **The US** increased by 7.65% to USD 128.55 in 2022-23 as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22.
Note: The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23. During 2022-23, India's two-way commerce with China declined by about 1.5% to USD 113.83 billion. In 2022-23, the UAE (USD 76.16 billion) was the third largest trading partner, followed by Saudi Arabia.
45. According to the government data, India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation has declined to a 29-month low of **1.34%** in March 2023.
Note: This is the 10th straight month of decline in WPI-based inflation. The WPI inflation data was 3.85% in February, 4.73% in January 2023, and 14.63% in March 2022. While the food index inflation eased to 2.32% in March 2023 from 2.76% in February 2023.
46. **Eight projects** worth ₹638 crore (approx) were approved in the 48th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
Note: Chaired by: Director General, G Asok Kumar. In an initiative to clean River Hindon, four projects worth Rs 407.39 crore were approved for pollution abatement in the Shamli district. As part of preparations for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in 2025, one project for the development of seven ghats was approved.
47. Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar launched **SATHI Portal** to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.
Note: SATHI refers to Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory. It has been developed on the theme of Uttam Beej - Samridh Kisan. The minister highlighted that the government is constantly trying to overcome the challenges and difficulties faced by farmers.
48. **NHAI** is working towards the development of around 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables (OFC) infrastructure across the country by FY2024-25.
Note: The network of Digital Highways will be implemented by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a fully owned SPV of NHAI. Under the pilot routes for the Digital Highway development, around 1,367 km on Delhi - Mumbai Expressway and 512 km on Hyderabad - Bangalore Corridor have been identified.
49. **ACC (Army Commanders' Conference)** is an apex-level biannual event, is scheduled from 17 to 21 April 2023
Note: It is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army. For the first time, it is being conducted in Hybrid format exploiting available technology for secure communication. Army Commanders will meet virtually on the first day and then travel to Delhi for balance physical meetings.
50. IFGE- CBG Producers Forum will organize a two-day Global Conference on Compressed Biogas in **New Delhi** from 17 April 2023.
Note: Theme: Towards Progressive Policy Framework for a Robust CBG Foundation and Growth. Aim: To apprise the industry regarding the initiatives taken for the development of the compressed biogas industry and to identify the areas where policy modifications are required. Union Minister for Petroleum, Hardeep Singh Puri will also attend the event.
51. A three-day Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) under India's G20 presidency has been started on April 17, 2023, in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: They will discuss sustainable agriculture and food systems for healthy people and the planet, Agriculture research and development, including food security and nutrition, public-private partnership etc. The 'Millets And Other Ancient GRains International ReSearch Initiative (MAHARISHI)' is also proposed.
52. **Confederate of Indian Industry** has co-organized a Digital Health Summit 2023 with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on April 16, 2023.
Note: The theme of the event was 'Building One Health Together - Improving Health Equity'. Objective: To bring together the policy makers, industry leaders, and global

- healthcare experts and thought leaders to deliberate upon key issues confronting the digital health space
- 53. PM Modi will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on April 20, 2023.**
Note: Theme 2023: Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis. This two-day summit will be hosted by the Ministry of Culture and its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation. It will be attended by scholars, Sangha leaders, and Dharma practitioners from all over the world. It will also enhance the cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries.
- 54. The Union Minister of State for Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste will inaugurate India Steel 2023, organized in Mumbai from 19-21 April 2023.**
Note: The event will be conducted by the steel ministry, Department of Commerce, and FICCI. Aim: To bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the steel industry. It will showcase advance technologies, products, and solutions from the Indian steel industry.
- 55. Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has launched the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme in Manipur.**
Note: This scheme has been introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region. Vision: To strengthen the livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.
- 56. Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched a YUVA PORTAL for connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups in the country.**
Note: He has also launched the One Week -One Lab program. This program will offer the opportunity to the CSIR labs to showcase the work being done by them so that others can avail of it. During the launch event, he also hailed the launching of the astronomy lab that has come up in Karnal, Haryana.
- 57. Union Minister of Rural Development has launched the 'Sangathan Se Samridhi' campaign to empower marginalized rural households by bringing all eligible rural women into the fold of Self Help Groups (SHGs).**
Note: The govt is targeting to bring 10 crore women under the purview of SHGs (existing nine crores). The govt has also set a target that every woman associated with SHGs should be able to earn 1 lakh rupees per annum. He also urged women to produce millet.
- 58. The Centre has launched over 254 network towers to provide 4G mobile connectivity in border areas of Arunachal Pradesh.**
Note: It will provide 4G coverage in uncovered villages of the state, thereby bringing digital connectivity to 336 villages, including several areas which have remained unconnected since Independence. Over 70,000 subscribers are expected to benefit from the service.
- 59. India has improved its ranking in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023 by six places from 44 in 2018 to 38 in 2023, among 139 countries.**
Note: LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities on trade logistics and the scope of improvement. India's category-wise ranking: International shipments: 22; Logistics competence and equality: 48; Timeline: 17; Tracking and tracing: 38
- 60. The government has launched Fifth round of the regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas.**
Note: Under this scheme, viability gap funding (VGF) will be capped at 600 km stage length for both priority and non-priority areas, which was earlier capped at 500 km. Besides this, no pre-determined routes would be offered and only network and individual route proposals by airlines will be considered.
- 61. PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth more than 17,000 crores in Madhya Pradesh.**
Note: He has also inaugurated the integrated e-Gram Swaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level. Objective: To enable Panchayats to market their goods and services through GeM. With the handing over of around 35 lakh Swamitva Property Cards, about 1 crore 25 lakh property cards have been distributed under this scheme in the country.
- 62. Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted the first-ever census of water bodies across the nation.**
Note: Aim: To provide a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like lakes. Over 24.24 lakh water bodies have been enumerated in the country out of which more than 23 lakh water bodies are in rural areas and nearly 69,000 are in urban areas. Top 5 (number of water bodies): WB, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam
- 63. Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts, IIT - Discovery Campus at Chennai.**
Note: Under the Sagarmala Programme, the centre has been established in IIT Chennai at a cost of 77 Crore rupees. The institute acts as a technological arm of the Ministry and develops cutting-edge technologies and application products to provide solutions to various challenges faced by the Ports and Shipping Sector.
- 64. The Unique Identification Authority of India and National Payments Corporation of India are setting up an aggregator platform for eKYC (electronic know-your-customer).**
Note: The process of Aadhaar-based eKYC is used for paperless verification of a customer's credentials to get a

- mobile connection or open a bank account. The process can be completed using biometrics or through the use of OTP. It is being used by financial services players, and government agencies.
65. The Ministry of Petroleum has successfully completed the Bihar portion of the Barauni Guwahati pipeline (BGPL) under **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project**.
Note: It will connect six districts in Bihar to the National Gas Grid. Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project is also known as Jagdishpur – Haldia & Bokaro – Dhamra Pipeline Project (JHBDPL) project. Aim: Caters to the energy requirements of five states (UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and WB).
66. **SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant** has signed a Memorandum of understanding with Telecommunications Consultants India (TCIL) to explore the potential of the application of 5G/ IT/ telecom and other wireless communication technologies.
Note: This project would include SAIL's Mines and Collieries, Central Coal Supply Organization, and the SAIL refractory unit in Jharkhand.
67. PM Modi has inaugurated India's first water metro in **Kochi (Kerala)**.
Note: The metro project will start with eight electric hybrid boats developed under Cochin Shipyard Limited. It was funded by the Kerala govt and the German company KfW. It consists of 38 terminals and 78 electric boats. The first phase of this project started from the High Court-Vypin and Vyttila-Kakkanad terminals.
68. India has launched a rescue operation named Operation Kaveri to evacuate its stranded citizens from **Sudan**.
Note: Two C-130s aircraft and the navy ship INS Sumedha is on standby to evacuate Indians. The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister Modi chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine Operation Ganga. Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
69. Union Minister for Labour **Bhupender Yadav** has launched new features in eShram Portal.
Note: Aim: To enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganized workers. A feature for capturing the family details of migrant workers has been added to the eShram portal. Through the portal, the eShram-registered workers can now connect with employment opportunities, pension schemes, digital skilling, and states' schemes.
70. **Union Minister Amit Shah** has launched IFFCO's nano liquid Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500 ml bottle.
Note: Aim: Farmers to use nano urea and DAP extensively to make the country self-reliant and reduce import dependence. One bottle (500 ml) of nano-liquid DAP is equivalent to one bag (50kg) of conventional granular DAP, which is currently being sold at Rs 1,350. In 2021, IFFCO launched the world's first nano urea fertilizer.
71. **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023** approved by the union government to reduce India's heavy import dependence on the medical sector.
Note: It will help the Medical Devices Sector, grow from the present 11 billion USD to 50 billion USD in the next five years. It also aims to facilitate orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, and innovation. The Cabinet has also approved establishing 157 nursing colleges
72. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States and Union Territories of India.
Note: The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery. Report's theme: State Missions and initiatives to promote millets; Inclusion of millets in ICDS; Research and development and use of technology for innovative practices. It will serve as a guiding repository to revive and mainstream millets in our diets.
73. India's first cable-stayed bridge **Anji Khad bridge** will be completed by May 2023.
Note: It connects Katra and Reasi via tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal section. Aim: To connect J&K to the rest of the country with all-weather rail connectivity. The cables weigh 848.7 MT and the total length of cable strands involved is 653km. The asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of river Chenab. Total length of the bridge: 725m
74. **Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)** signed the tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government of Assam to avoid the violence and join the mainstream.
Note: According to the MoU, the DNLA will lay down its arms and abide by the Constitution. It was decided to set up a Dimasa Welfare Council and grant a special financial package of Rs. 1,000 crores (Rs. 500 crores each by the Centre and Assam government).
75. **MoHUA** has launched 'City Beauty Competition' portal.
Note: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can participate in this competition through an online process. Objective: To encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces. Five broad pillars: (i) accessibility (ii) amenities (iii) activities (iv) aesthetics and (v) ecology
76. **Union Finance Ministry** has given its approval to upgrade Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) from Category-I Miniratna.
Note: RVNL, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, will be the 13th Navratna amongst CPSEs. The company will have more autonomy in terms of investment, setting up JV and other financial decisions. As per the Navratna Company criteria, the company must have Miniratna status, with 4 independent board directors.

77. Union MoS (IC) S&T, Dr Jitendra Singh visited **Imperial College London** in the United Kingdom and interacted with the Indian students of the college.
Note: During his visit, the Imperial College London announced scholarships of £ 400,000 for Indian students studying in the college. Out of which 50% of the scholarship would be given to female students from India. Imperial College London is a public research university in London, England.
78. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) has increased by **3.6%** (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022.
Note: ICI measures the combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries - Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity. The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
79. According to the Kpler report, **India** has become Europe's largest supplier of refined fuels, surpassing Saudi Arabia.
Note: Europe's reliance on Indian crude oil products has grown since the ban on Russian oil. It also showed that Europe's refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day. Russia was the largest exporter of crude oil to India by value in February in spite of the Western price cap of USD 60 per barrel.
80. **Army Southern Command** and some civil agencies conducted a day-long firefighting exercise called 'Agni Daman - 23'.
Note: The exercise was conducted with 56 teams at the 29 Field Ammunition Depot (FAD), Dehu Road. Aim: To enhance synergy among firefighters to work together in the event of major fire incidents. The exercise was a landmark endeavor in synergizing all the firefighting resources available with the military and civil establishment in Pune.
81. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed an MoU with Art of Living as part of **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**.
Note: The signing ceremony was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. This campaign will get a boost towards achieving a drug-sensitized India. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has been implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to curb the menace of drug demand.
82. India and **United Kingdom** have agreed to create India-UK NET zero innovation virtual centre.
Note: Aim: To provide a platform for stakeholders of both countries to work together in areas like the decarbonization of manufacturing processes, transport systems, and green hydrogen as a renewable source. Both countries will also join to launch the first-ever UK-India scientific 'deep sea voyage' and 'space parks' partnership.
83. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** will be organizing Asia Pacific Leaders' Conclave on Malaria Elimination in New Delhi on 24th April 2023, in partnership with Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA).
Note: It will be held under the guidance of Union Minister. Aim: to reaffirm political commitment to galvanize action for malaria elimination by 2030. It will revitalize national and regional momentum towards the goal of an Asia Pacific Free from Malaria by 2030.
84. **Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR)** has organized a four-day International Conference on 'Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces: Psychological Perspective' in Delhi on April 25, 2023.
Note: Aim: To deliberate recent advances, emerging trends, and challenges of psychology with respect to the human capital of the Armed Forces upon world over. The conference has participation from the three Services, DRDO labs, and academia.
85. The Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India will host the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 April 2023 in **New Delhi**.
Note: Aim: To discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within SCO, and effective multilateralism. SCO 2023 theme under India's Chairmanship: SECURE-SCO. SCO was established in 2001. Members: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, and Uzbekistan
86. The Y 20 Pre Summit Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs is being organized from 26th to 28th April 2023 in Indian city **Leh**.
Note: Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life. Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War. Health Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth
87. **Australia** will host the third in-person Quad Summit in Sydney on May 24, 2023.
Note: It will be the first time when Australia will host the meeting. The meeting will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Kishida Fumio, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese. The leaders will discuss issues on critical and emerging technologies and high-quality infrastructure, etc. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises India, the US, Japan, and Australia.
88. Union Minister of Agriculture, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the Summit on Farm Machinery Technology in **New Delhi**.
Note: Organized by: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Tractor and Mechanisation Association in New Delhi. During the event, the minister informed that, about 85% of small farmers in the country, who should get the benefit of technology and machinery. It was attended by stakeholders including Original Equipment Manufacturers and design firms.

89. The Indian Merchants Chamber has organized the 'India Calling Conference 2023' in **Mumbai**.
Note: The theme of the 2023 Conference is "Rising India-Inviting Partnership for Growth". The conference was attended by Union Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and MoS for Railways & Textiles Darshana Jardosh. Minister Piyush Goyal delivered the inaugural address at the 'India Calling Conference 2023'.
90. PM Modi will attend the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT) initiative in **Gujarat**.

- Note:** This scheme was started by PM Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Aim: To act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient, and time-bound manner
91. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the revamped CGTMSE(**Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises**) Scheme.
Note: Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto ₹1 crore by 50% bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa only. Raising of ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore. Enhanced the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to ₹10 lakh.

Important News – State

August 2023

1. The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) will be opening a first-of-its-kind museum on its campus in **Bengaluru**.
Note: Minister of Agriculture N. Cheluvaryaswamy would inaugurate the museum. Aim: To introduce the evolution of agricultural practices into the lives of students and the general public increasingly cut-off from the experience by the "urban buzz". The museum will serve as a one-stop solution where they can get information about agriculture.
2. **Uttar Pradesh** cabinet approved the Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy 2023.
Note: Aims: To make the state a water tourism and adventure sports destination. According to Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, this policy will be valid for 10 years from the date notified by the state government. The policy will be applicable to all inland land-based, air-based and all adventure activities to be carried out on various water bodies and land parcels in the state.
3. **Rajasthan** Cabinet approved the proposal of a high-level committee to form 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the State.
Note: Rajasthan will now have a total of 50 districts and 10 divisional headquarters. According to CM Ashok Gehlot formation of new districts will improve governance and bring relief to people who have to cover long distances to go to the district headquarters. The new districts are like, Jaipur has been divided into Jaipur and Jaipur Rural
4. Central Railway has inaugurated **New Amravati station** as the 1st "Pink Station" on the Bhusaval Division and the 3rd station on Central Railway to be fully managed by an all-women staff.
Note: The examples are set by Matunga station in the Mumbai division and Ajni station in the Nagpur division. Railway has a staff strength of 12 women employees including 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel and 1 Ticket Booking Agent
5. **Telangana** launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
Note: The ADeX has been developed as a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector. Aims: To ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the agriculture sector.
6. **PM Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for a temple-cum-memorial for Sant Ravidas and along with that also inaugurated developmental works which are worth Rs 4,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh in Aug 2023.
Note: The memorial is steeped in the spirit of 'Samrasta' as the soil of more than 20,000 villages and 300 rivers have been used in it. Sant Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the bhakti movement and founder of the Ravidassia religion during the 15th to 16th century CE.
7. **Rajasthan** launched the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme on the occasion of Independence Day.
Note: Under the scheme, families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get the Annapurna food packets every month from the fair price shops (FPS) for free. Each packet will contain one kg each of gram pulses, sugar and iodized salt, one litre soybean refined edible oil, 100 gram each of chili powder and coriander powder.
8. **Goa** launched the flagship scheme "Gramin Mitra" in August 2023.
Note: Objective: To provide doorstep delivery of government services across the state and promote

digital empowerment in rural areas. **Aims:** To empower rural communities with access to information and opportunities that can transform their lives and drive socio-economic growth. The program will help us accelerate the delivery of e-governance services to rural areas across the state.

9. **Maharashtra** launched a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund.

Note: A helpline number 8650567567 has been started for patients and their relatives. More than 12 thousand 500 patients have benefited from the Chief Minister's Aid Fund in the last one year. On this occasion, the fifth edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokhthok' based on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray was launched.

10. **Telangana** has announced a farm loan waiver of up to 99 thousand 999 in August 2023.

Note: It will be cleared within the next 45 days. The Government has released over 5,800 crore rupees towards this end which will benefit over 9 lakh farmers. The amount will be transferred directly into loan accounts of farmers. With the latest decision, farm loans up to 99,999, amounting to 7753.43 crore rupees, of over 16 lakh 66 thousand farmers will be cleared.

11. **Arunachal Pradesh** signed MoAs with three Central Public Sector Undertakings to allot 12 'stalled' hydropower projects in August 2023.

Note: The three CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited. The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW. CM of Arunachal Pradesh is Pema Khandu

12. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing Youth 20 Summit-2023 from 17th August to 20th August in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: The themes include Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War, and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Y20 Summit will bring together youth experts, decision-makers, and youth representatives from G20 countries.

13. Based on the FY23 revised budget estimates, **Maharashtra** secured the top position as the best state in overall fiscal health in a report conducted by a foreign brokerage firm.

Note: Chhattisgarh, one of the poorest states in the country, is in 2nd position followed by Telangana, while the bottom 3 are Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala. The report, penned by Kaushik Das, chief economist at the Deutsche Bank, was conducted to survey the fiscal health of 17 major states across the country

14. **Mayem** has become the first village in Goa to have a biodiversity atlas, a 250-page document with maps detailing the floral and faunal biodiversity of the village.

Note: The atlas was prepared based on the People's biodiversity register (PBR) prepared by the village Biodiversity management committee. There are huge funds to be tapped for villages that have registered biodiversity atlases. For every lake, the government of India is ready to give Rs 10 crore to maintain it.

15. India's first 3D-printed post office is coming up at Cambridge Layout in **Bengaluru**.

Note: 3D printing is a process of making three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. In this process an object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the object is created. Each of these layers can be seen as a thinly sliced cross-section of the object. 3D printing enables you to produce complex shapes using less material than traditional manufacturing methods.

16. **Maharashtra** cabinet decided to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme in Maharashtra to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads.

Note: The project is estimated to cost Rs 5,000 crore and nearly 6,838 km of roads will be constructed as part of the scheme. In the Budget Session, Deputy CM and Finance Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the implementation of the scheme to connect all the tribal padas by perennial roads

17. **NLC India (NLCIL)** has inked a pact to supply 300 MW of solar power for 25 years to Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam under the CPSU scheme.

Note: NLCIL is presently having 1,421 MW of Renewable Energy Capacity. As per its corporate plan, it contemplates establishing a 6,031 MW capacity by 2030. NLC India has entered into a long-term power usage agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited to supply 300 MW of solar power under the CPSU Scheme in Rajasthan.

18. **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has topped the in terms of new investments in 2022-23.

Note: According to RBI, UP and Gujarat together accounted for 57.2% of the total investment proposals made during the year. In 2022-23, UP attracted the highest share of new investments, with a total project cost of Rs. 43,180 crore. Followed by Gujarat (Rs. 37,317 crore), Odisha (Rs. 11,810 crore), Maharashtra (Rs. 7,900 crore) and Karnataka (Rs. 7,300 crore).

19. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport became the first in the northeast to launch Digi Yatra for hassle-free travel, is located in **Guwahati**.

- Note:** Aim: To eliminate the need for verification of tickets and IDs at various touchpoints. The Digi Yatra service will be available in three major areas namely - first entrance, check-in and boarding areas. Passengers will be able to register their documents on the 'Digi Yatra' app and enter the airport by scanning their faces.
20. **Former President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated Kerala's first AI (Artificial intelligence) school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram.
Note: It is an innovative learning method that ensures international standards and quality learning opportunities for students with the help of artificial intelligence technology. It is designed and molded by one of the world's most advanced educational platforms iLearning Engines USA in collaboration with Vedhik eSchool.
21. National Tiger Conservation Authority approved India's **54th** tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur district.
Note: This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari. The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6%. The number of tigers in Rajasthan has increased from 32 in 2006 to 88 in 2022. Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers in the country (785).
22. **Sri Lanka** hosted its very first Karnataka cultural festival organized by the International Cultural Council of India in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and M. E Global Peace Foundation.
Note: Aim: To celebrate cultural diversity and mark a significant moment in the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka. The event showcased performances by over 30 artists from Karnataka including dances, folk songs, multi-lingual poems, and captivating puppet shows
23. The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting officially began in **Gandhinagar** in August 2023.
Note: Science advisors, Scientists, researchers from G20 countries, and invited countries will participate. Themes Include: Opportunities in One Health. Synergizing Global Efforts to Expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge. Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science & Technology. Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive Global S&T Policy Dialogue
24. **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** chaired the 26th Western Zonal Council (WZC) meeting at Gandhinagar.
Note: Aim: To enhance cooperation between the states through regular dialogue and discussion. The meeting is being organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat. The WZC comprises the states of Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
25. Keralalites across the globe are celebrating "Thirunam" on the 10th and the most auspicious day of **Onam**.
Note: Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, symbolises prosperity, secularism, and harmony. Keralites celebrate the festival welcoming the visit of the righteous and mythical king Mahabali, in the memory of good old days. Thirunam is being celebrated in all its cultural and traditional glory instilling the minds with hope.
26. **Maharashtra** has signed an MoU with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga', to build a football team for players under the age of 14.
Note: Aim: To help young footballers to develop their skills and potentially compete at a high level. The Bundesliga is Germany's premier professional football league. It is one of the leading football leagues in Europe and the best football players and teams belong to the league.
27. **Gujarat** announced a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes in local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations.
Note: In the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas notified areas, the reservation for OBCs will continue to be 10 percent to protect the interest of tribals. The existing quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will remain unchanged and there has been no breach of the 50 percent reservation ceiling.

July 2023

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.

June 2023

1. Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with **Bajaj Finserv** to invest 5,000 crore rupees in Pune which is expected to **create 40,000 jobs**.

Note: The MoU was **signed by Harshdeep Kamble (Industry Secretary, Maharashtra) and S Sreenivasan (Chief Financial Officer, Bajaj Finserv)**. The development will have a positive impact as it will create new jobs and business opportunities for partners, vendors, suppliers, and contractors in and around Pune, as well as globally.

2. Union MoS Jitendra Singh has inaugurated a **two-day lavender festival** in **Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note: He also highlighted that **Bhaderwah has emerged as the Lavender capital of India** and agri StartUp destination. CSIR, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu had organized the event as part of its 'One Week One Lab Campaign'.

The CSIR-Aroma Mission is a flagship project of CSIR under which Lavender cultivation is being promoted in the temperate regions of J&K

3. Kerala government **launched the KFON**.

Note: KFON: Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON). Aim: To ensure internet facilities for all at affordable rates in the State. This project will bridge the digital divide in the society. During the first phase of the KFON initiative, Internet facilities will be provided to thirty thousand government institutions and fourteen thousand houses in the State.

4. MP government has launched **Chief Minister's Learn and Earn** scheme to teach employable skills to the youth.

Note: The youth will also be **given an allowance of Rs 8,000 to 10,000**. 703 work areas have been identified for training. At least one lakh youth would be trained. The registration of establishments

providing training to youth will start on June 7. The registration of youth willing to learn work will start on 15th June. The youth will start working from 1st August.

5. **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the **Nand Baba Milk Mission scheme** at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore.

Note: Aim: To provide **milk producers the facility of selling their milk at a reasonable price** in villages through dairy cooperative societies. Under this mission, it is proposed to form a Dairy farmer producer organization (Dairy FPO) in order to facilitate the sale of milk in producers' villages itself. UP is a leading state in the field of milk development and milk production.

6. **Madhya Pradesh** has launched '**Ladli Bahna**' scheme to make women financially independent.

Note: In this scheme, each woman **will be given 1000 rupees per month**. MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has deposited the first month's amount of this scheme in the bank accounts of about 1.25 crore women at a State-level function in Jabalpur. The State government has also issued a phone number 181 for the help of women. Ladli Bahna Army also formed for women empowerment and security.

7. The **central government** has agreed to **sanction Rs 12,911 crore** to **Andhra Pradesh** for completing the first phase of **Polavaram Project**.

Note: The sanctioned amount of Rs 12,911 crore also **includes Rs 2,000 crore for the construction of the diaphragm wall**, which was washed away due to flood. Polavaram Project is an under construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.

8. **Haryana CM Manohar Lal** has launched an **integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25** under Amrit Jal Kranti in **Chandigarh**.

Note: A two-day water conservation seminar was **organized in Panchkula** in April, 2023, in which many departments of Haryana, including experts from India and abroad doing research on water conservation participated. Several initiatives like Mera Pani-Meri Virasat Yojana, have been taken towards water conservation which have drawn significant results.

9. **Kerala** has launched a new scheme to **reward for reporting illegal waste dumping on roads**.

Note: This scheme is **a part of the 'Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam' campaign** to make the state garbage-free. Under this scheme, citizens would report about the littering/dumping (solid and liquid waste) in public spaces, private property and water bodies. The person who informs authorities of such violations will be given Rs 2,500 (maximum) or 25% of the fine imposed.

10. **Uttar Pradesh** has decided to **gift GI-tagged Gulabi meenakari** handicrafts for the visiting delegates from G20 nations.

Note: A group of more than 100 trained artisans were mobilized to fulfil the order of Gulabi meenakari peacocks for the G20 delegates. **Gulabi meenakari** is one of the rarest crafts in India that is practised in the by lanes of Varanasi, near Gai Ghat. The GI certification and ODOP initiative have got new recognition all over the world.

11. **Karnataka** has rolled out its first of the five poll guarantees, the '**Shakti**' scheme.

Note: Aim: To offer **free travel to women and transgender** people in government-run buses in the state. The scheme was launched by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, deputy CM DK Shivakumar and transport minister Ramalinga Reddy. They have also issued smart cards to five beneficiaries at an event on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

12. **Haryana** launched a monthly pension of ₹ 10,000 for the Padma awardees from the state.

Note: Besides the monthly pension, a free travel facility in the 'Volvo bus' service of the state government for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardees from Haryana. The state government is also giving the benefit of health insurance up to ₹ 5 lakh to families with an annual income of up to ₹ 1.80 lakh.

13. **Madhya Pradesh** will get its seventh tiger reserve with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined protected area.

Note: Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary: It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and acts as a corridor for Panna Tiger Reserve and Satpura Tiger Reserve. Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary: It is located in the Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh and hosts 18 species of mammals.

14. **Assam** launched a web portal for cattle transportation.

Note: Aim: To prevent the illegal transportation of cattle. From now, Livestock farmers and cattle traders can obtain permits required for inter-state transportation of cattle through the website ahvd-cattletrans.assam.gov.in. This system is prepared under the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021.

15. **Telangana** would release the Kharif installment of financial assistance to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme from June 26, 2023.

Note: He directed State's FM Harish Rao to take steps to deposit the Rythu Bandhu funds to the farmers in their respective bank accounts. The Podu land farmers will also be considered for the Rythu Bandhu assistance. In Rabi season 2022-23, over 70 lakh farmers received Rythu Bandhu assistance.

- 16. Karnataka** has launched a free power scheme named 'Gruha Jyothi scheme' for providing free electricity up to 200 units a month.
Note: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah also stated that the scheme also extends to tenants living on rent if their electricity consumption matches the scheme's criteria. The beneficiaries will get a 'zero bill' starting August 1 if usage is within their entitlement. The Gruha Jyothi scheme is part of the Congress government's five poll promises.
- 17. Jharkhand** launched the panchayat-level drugs shop scheme to make essential medicines available in remote areas.
Note: The scheme was inaugurated in Chatra district by handing over licenses to three persons for operating the medicine shops in panchayats. A total of 15 people have been selected for licenses in the district so far. The programs like 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' will be restarted to establish a "real connection with people".
- 18. Karnataka** has decided to give cash instead of rice till rice is procured.
Note: It was one of the guarantees of the Siddaramaiah govt was to provide 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household. The government has decided to pay beneficiaries cash at the rate of ₹34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of the foodgrain promised under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme. The disbursement of money will start on July 1.
- 19. Surat** has set a Guinness World Record with over 1.53 lakh people participating in a yoga event at one place on the International Day of Yoga (IDY), organized on 21st June.
Note: Guinness officials handed over the certificate to chief minister Bhupendra Patel at the venue. Two 4km-long stretches of roads, each around 300 meters wide, connecting the Y junction were covered with carpet for participants. The participants were divided into groups of 1,000 each
- 20. Himachal Pradesh** will collaborate with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to set up a state-of-the-art milk processing plant at Dagwar in Kangra district.
Note: The dairy development board's assistance would be taken for its operation and marketing. The Dagwar plant's capacity would range from 1 lakh to 3 lakh liters, in which high-quality milk products would also be prepared.
- 21. Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has laid the foundation stone of Balidaan Stambh' at Pratap Park, near the Lal Chowk city centre the commercial hub of **Srinagar city**.
Note: Home Minister has laid the foundation stone in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation.
- 22. Paytm Payment Services Limited** signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park to create a startup ecosystem for the youth.
Note: Under an MoU, Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage startups at a discounted price. It also offers free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid youths' business ventures in their early growth stage. This will nurture the startup ecosystem in the state and motivate young entrepreneurs
- 23. Uttar Pradesh** state Police Department launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.
Note: The initiative will expedite the prosecution of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, cow slaughter, religious conversion, and murder. It ensures the immediate arrest of criminals, the collection of strong evidence against them, quality investigation, and effective representation of cases in courts.
- 24. Seven** products of Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
Note: Seven products are: Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, and Kalpi Handmade Paper. The Amroha Dholak is a musical instrument made of natural wood. Mango, jackfruit, and teakwood are preferred for making the dholak.
- 25. Gujarat** signed an MoU with the US-based computer storage chip maker Micron for setting up a \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly.
Note: It will be the first semiconductor manufacturing facility in India and will be manufactured within 18 months. Micron will receive 50% fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian government and incentives representing 20% of the total project cost from the Gujarat government.

May 2023

- 1. Manipur** launched the **Facial Recognition System (FRS) for Inner Line Permit (ILP) system** and flagged off two camera-mounted mobile FRS vehicles.

- Note:** It will help in the **effective checking of ILP holders** whose validity has expired and in better management of the system. The system has been implemented on a trial basis. In addition, two mobile vehicles will be stationed at different locations in Imphal East and West districts to identify ILP defaulters
2. **Haryana** will be introducing a new feature on the 'eSamiksha portal'.
Note: Aim: To enable Administrative Secretaries and Head of Departments to monitor the follow-up action taken on decisions made during their meetings and presentations. It will **provide updates on file number**, meeting date, chairperson, meeting description, and other documents such as the minutes of the meeting (MOM), which can be accessed by officers of the concerned departments.
 3. The Central Government has recently **promulgated Article 355 in Manipur** to take charge of the **security of the state**.
Note: Article 355 of the Indian Constitution is a part of emergency provisions contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India, from Article 352 to 360. It encourages the centre to take all necessary steps to protect the state against internal disturbances and external aggression. It empowers the Centre to take necessary steps to protect a state.
 4. The **Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship** was inaugurated at the **KITS Warangal campus in Telangana**.
Note: It was inaugurated by Telangana's IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao. The govt has promoted innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers. Aim: To face the latest Engineering, technological, and entrepreneurship challenges in the 21st Century.
 19. The Uttar Pradesh's Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched **School Health Program**.
Note: This program has been started by **Lucknow Smart City** in three schools in Lucknow. A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project. The benefit of **health insurance worth Rs 25,000** is also being given to these children.
 20. Union minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the **trailer of the "first ever" movie in Tagin language** of his home state Arunachal Pradesh.
Note: The film "Love in 90s" will be tax-free and will ask the state government to promote it through other means as well. The film looks at displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world. **Tagin or Ghasi Miri tribe is an indigenous community of the Tawang and West Kameng districts, Arunachal Pradesh.**
 21. **Telangana** has introduced a **Robotics Framework**, for providing a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State.
Note: This is the **first-of-its-kind policy** in the country. The Government will set up a Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC) to implement the framework, which will focus on the key pillars of infrastructure access, business enablement, fostering research and innovation, development of a skilled workforce, and responsible deployment.
 22. PM Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various **development projects worth over 5,500 crore rupees in Nathdwara, Rajasthan**.
Note: He has also laid the foundation stone for the gauge conversion project and for **setting up a new line from Nathdwara to Nathdwara town in Rajsamand**. He dedicated three NH projects, including a six-lane Udaipur to Shamlaji section of NH-48 and the widening and strengthening work of the Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur Section of NH-25.
 23. **Punjab** has become the **first state in India** to implement the '**right to walk**' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansions of roads and construction.
Note: Reason: Every month more than 10 pedestrians/ bicycle riders are killed in road accidents due to encroachment on pedestrian footpaths. Road-owning agencies include NHAI, the public works department, local bodies, and urban development departments.
 24. **Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport** has become the **first in India** to have a **reading lounge**.
Note: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's advisor Awanish Awasthi has inaugurated the lounge. Apart from books on Kashi, the lounge's library has a collection of literature and books in many international languages besides books of youth authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana. The lounge has been established with the assistance of National Book Trust (NBT).
 25. **Himachal Pradesh** has launched '**Him Data Portal**'.
Note: Aim: A common digital platform to integrate data of all organizations for the deliverance of welfare schemes and to better serve the public. The people **associated with the Him Pariyojna project** would get information about various welfare schemes easily. From July 2023, the HP government would start the Him Parivar project which will give a special digital identity to the people of the State.
 26. **Kerala** becomes the **first state in India** to launch a **welfare fund for MGNREGS workers**.

- Note:** The workers who have **completed the age of 60** will be entitled to a pension under this fund and it will also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, and other benefits. The workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of Rs 50 as a contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount.
- 27. Andhra Pradesh** has introduced an **electronic service delivery system, e-Chits'** to regulate and usher in transparency in the sector.
Note: Aim: Financially protecting chit-fund companies' subscribers amid alleged scams. The transactions can be done only online, which will enable the registration department officials to verify subscribers and only then give approval. It also ensures that subscribers know which registered companies are operating in the chit-fund business
- 28. Himachal Pradesh** will set up an ethanol plant in its **Una district by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** with an outlay of **Rs 500 crore**.
Note: The government will invest 50% equity in the project and would extend cooperation to the company for setting up the plant. The plant would provide employment and self-employment opportunities to the local people and farmers from Kangra, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur. **HPCL CMD: Pushp Kumar Joshi**
- 29. Uttar Pradesh** has launched an **online rural education program 'Pahal'**.
Note: The Department of secondary education has prepared this program in **collaboration with IIT Kanpur**. Free online education will be provided at 10 government secondary schools in the initial phase. The rural area students will be able to get the latest information related to science and mathematics.
- 30. UP** will launch a **5G technology training program** under the Skill Development Mission for the youth.
Note: Aim: To make the youth skilled in new and future employable technologies. The state government believes that in the future, youths trained in 5G technology will be needed on a large scale in the telecom sector. The 5G technology will transform the entire telecom ecosystem of hardware, software, and services.
- 31. Madhya Pradesh** has approved a new scheme named **'Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana (Learn and Earn scheme)** for unemployed youths.
Note: Youth who have **passed class 12th, ITI, Graduation, and post-graduation** are eligible for this scheme. A stipend amount will also be given to them for learning skills. Youths, who have passed Class 12, would be given a stipend of Rs 8000, and an ITI pass would be given Rs 8,500.
- 32. Union WCD Minister, Smriti Irani** has inaugurated the women laborers convention organized by the **Kerala unit of BMS in Thiruvananthapuram**.
Note: Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan would make the keynote address at the event. Around 3,000 women workers and laborers are expected to take part in the convention. The trade union informed that 2,000 seminars would be held across the country and out of those 200 would be held in Kerala.
- 33. Himachal Pradesh** has formulated the **'Green Hydrogen' policy** to promote the **use of green hydrogen** and establish the state as a leading hub for its production.
Note: It aims to attract investments in large-scale renewable energy projects, ensuring a consistent and sustainable supply of green electricity for electrolysis. The government has already signed an MoU with **Oil India Limited** to enable the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia on a pilot basis.
- 34. Andhra Pradesh** has launched the **Niramaya Health Insurance scheme**.
Note: Beneficiary: Children suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, and others. The money for the scheme was arranged from Sanjivani Nidhi (funds for which were donated by government employees on New Year's Day). The insured person would get 1 lakh a year for health-related issues
- 35. Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state in the country** to conduct **pilgrimage by air** on government expenditure, under the **Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana**.
Note: Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has flagged off a regular Indigo flight carrying a **batch of 32 senior citizens on pilgrimage to Prayagraj (UP) from Bhopal (MP)** via flight. A help center was also set up at the airport for the convenience of the passengers.
- 36. Maharashtra** has approved a new financial scheme named **Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana**, under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be **paid 6,000 rupees annually**.
Note: The amount is in **addition to the 6,000 rupees being paid to farmers by the Centre under the PM Kisan Yojana**. Maharashtra Cabinet also approved the implementation of **'Gender Inclusive Tourism Policy called 'Aai'** to empower women in the tourism sector.
- 37. Tripura** has appointed former BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly** as the **brand ambassador of state tourism**.
Note: This appointment would help to attract more visitors to Tripura and boost the tourism industry. Tripura is a state in Northeast India, bordered by

Assam and Mizoram to the east and by Bangladesh to the north, south, and west. Tripura is divided into 8 districts and 23 sub-divisions. **Capital of Tripura: Agartala**

38. The officials of the **Government of Goa** and **Government of Uttarakhand** have signed an MoU for enhancing the tourism landscape of both states.

Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Rohan Khaunte (Minister for Tourism, Goa) and Pushkar Singh Dhami (CM of Uttarakhand). Aim: To promote bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector. The signing of this MoU is also aligned with the **'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi.**

39. **PM Modi** has flagged off **Assam's first Vande Bharat Express** train through video conferencing on May 29, 2023.

Note: This new service will cover the distance of 411 km **between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri** in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The train will stop at Kamakhya, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Alipurduar, and New Coochbehar and culminate at NJP. This will be the third Vande Bharat for West

Bengal, after Howrah-NJP Vande Bharat Express and Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express

40. **Odisha** has launched **'Artificial Intelligence for Youth' initiatives.**

Note: He has also launched **'Odisha for AI'**. Odisha for AI: A free 4-hour course on AI by Intel on its app/site. In the first phase, the initiative will be implemented in Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Cuttack. **AI for youth:** It is for students (below 18) of 2000 ST schools of phase 1 and Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas. Aim: To create an ecosystem fostering research, innovation, and application across sectors

41. **Odisha** has launched a **'Mo Ghara' (My House)** scheme.

Note: Aim: to provide credit-linked financial assistance to beneficiaries who face a fund crunch to complete or upgrade their houses. The scheme will cover all such families who were left out in the existing housing schemes. Under the Scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to Rs 3 Lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding a one-year moratorium period in easy installments.

April 2023

1. The Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has released **Rs 877 crore to 43 lakh farmers** through **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** mode on the occasion of **Utkal Divas.**

Note: The state government has extended another round of funds to **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)** for undertaking the Kharif operation. **About KALIA scheme:** It was launched in December 2018. Aim: To reduce poverty and accelerate agricultural prosperity

2. **Telangana govt** has launched **India's first Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028** at the CDMA office in Telangana.

Note: It is jointly launched by the **state's municipal administration** and **urban development department.** The policy aims to drive state-wide adoption of cool roofs by making it mandatory to install cool roofing materials, such as solar reflective paints, tiles, or sheets. It is a **five-year policy**, that **came into force on April 1, 2023**, and continues till March 31, 2028.

3. The world-famous **Basohli Paintings from the Kathua district** of Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh Wood Carving of Ladakh have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Note: The process for GI Tagging of these products was started by NABARD in consultation with and support from the Department of Handicrafts and

Handloom in December 2020. A GI tag is a sign used on a product that has a special geographical origin.

4. The **Punjab government** has launched the **'CM di Yogshala' program** and **portal in Punjab.**

Note: Aim: To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab. The initiative was initially launched for **four cities of the state:** Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara. The formation of these Yogshalas will be under a pilot project. Trained Yoga instructors will impart free Yoga training to people in open parks and other public places.

5. A flagship initiative of **Telangana government** to prevent controllable blindness, **'Kanti Velugu program'**, has achieved a milestone by **screening 1 crore people** for eye problems.

Note: The **second phase** of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June. Health staff is screening all individuals over 18 years old at Kanti Velugu camps set up in all Gram Panchayats in the State. A total of 1,500 teams are working towards creating a Guinness World Record.

6. **Tripura** has been given the **best state award in the northeastern region** by the Centre for the successful implementation of e-procurement.

Note: To maintain transparency, the state has made it mandatory to go for e-procurement if the value of any government purchase or contract goes beyond Rs 25,000. The total value of payments made through e-procurement and Government eMarketplace

(GeM) portals increased from Rs 4,451 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 7441 crore in 2021-22.

7. The **Tamil Nadu CM, M K Stalin** has inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras' (IIT-M) initiative** which connects one lakh government school students to electronic devices.

Note: This outreach programme on STEM, which is part of the '**Anaivarukkum IITM' (IITM for all) initiative**, aims to connect one lakh rural Tamil Nadu students. The CM also distributed electronic kits to government school students which were developed by IIT Madras.

8. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has inaugurated the **largest Tulip Garden of Jammu region** at Sanasar tourist destination in Ramban district of Jammu division.

Note: As a **Tourism Mission initiative**, **75 new destinations, 75 Sufi/religious sites, 75 new cultural heritage sites** and 75 new tracks are being developed in J&K to open up new economic avenues. Tulip Garden is spread over 40 Kanals of land with 2.75 Lakh Tulip Bulbs of 25 different varieties

9. The **Himachal Pradesh government** is planning to introduce the **HP Sukh Ashraya (Care, Protection and Self Reliance of Children) Bill, 2023 in the State Assembly.**

Note: Aim: To provide proper care protection, development, and self-reliance to orphans, semi-istrict of Arunachal Pradesh.

13. **Note:** The Gonpa has great historical importance for the well-being and betterment of humans, particularly for the people of Shar Nyima Tsho Sum and all Buddhists in general. The 11- 12th-century Gonpa was on the verge of collapse but it has been restored with a new structure.

14. **Andhra Pradesh** has renamed the proposed Bhavanapadu port in the Srikakulam district as Mulapeta port at the request of the locals.

Note: CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay a foundation stone for this nearly Rs 4,000 crore project on April 19, 2023. This decision was taken as farmers from Mulapeta and Vishnuchakram villages requested the name change. The state govt also issued an order notifying Bhavanapadu Port as Mulapeta Port with the same limits.

15. **Kerala** has become the first state to adopt a water budget in a bid to come up with a solution to water scarcity in certain regions.

Note: The first phase would cover 94-gram panchayats and 15-block panchayats. CM Pinarayi Vijayan released Public Water Budget. The third phase of the Ini Njan Ozhukatte (Let me flow now) project for the rehabilitation of irrigation networks in the Western Ghats was also launched. The idea of a water budget was first mooted by the state in 2019.

orphans, and specially-abled children in need. Under the scheme government will also provide recurring deposit accounts for each child with contributions from the **State government up to the age of 27 years.**

10. The **Tamil Nadu government** has formed a one-man committee to recommend measures for the effective administration of the homes functioning as per the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015.**

Note: Headed by: Retired judge K. Chandru. The committee will look into various aspects including infrastructure, health, and medical facilities, and the qualification of staff. The committee will also provide recommendations to the government for improvement.

11. India's tallest statue of Ambedkar, a 125-ft tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in **Hyderabad.**

Note: Reason: To mark the 132nd birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution. It stands next to the State Secretariat on the banks of Hyderabad's famous Hussain Sagar Lake. It was built using 360 tonnes of stainless steel and 114 tonnes of bronze, at a cost of Rs 146.50 crore.

12. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu has inaugurated the Shar Nyima Tsho Sum Namyig Lhakhang (Gonpa) at Gyangkhar village, located in **Tawang d**

16. The first-ever census of **Mangrove Pitta Bird** was conducted by the Odisha forest officials in the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary.

Note: In the first census, 179 mangrove pitta birds were sighted. The habitats of these beautiful birds are confined to mangrove forest areas in Odisha's Bhitarkanika and Sundarban in West Bengal. Mangrove pitta is a colorful bird that has a black head with a brown crown. It feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, and insects.

17. **Assam** government has signed an MoU with the Arunachal Pradesh government to resolve the long pending border dispute between both states.

Note: The MoU was signed in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on April 20. The Assam cabinet has approved the recommendations of 12 Regional Committees formed by the state government to resolve the decades-long border dispute issues with Arunachal Pradesh. Assam shares an 804 km long boundary with Arunachal Pradesh.

18. Manohar Lal Khattar has launched three online services to digitally empower people, is a CM of **Haryana.**

Note: These online services are Pro-active Divyang Pension Service, 'Tau se Poochho' WhatsApp chatbot, and online booking of government rest houses. The Pro-active Divyang Pension Service for

the physically challenged is committed to delivering all services for them at their doorsteps. The Haryana Parivar Pehchan Authority has created a WhatsApp Chatbot Tau Se Poochho.

- 19. Kerala** government has launched a project 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project to revive the sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat.

Note: It was inaugurated by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad. For the first phase of the project, the state government has prepared a list of 113 panchayats. Each playground would cost around

- 21.** The government of **Maharashtra** has decided to constitute a new Commission to decide the backwardness of the Maratha Community.

Note: Its government will file a curative petition in the Supreme Court for Maratha (Social and Economic Backward Class) Reservation. It will ensure all the lapses in the Maratha Reservation law will be overcome and assured that Candidates from Maratha Community will be given all the benefits like other communities.

Rs 1 crore, half will be paid by the Sports department and the rest would be raised from other sources.

- 20.** In a meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Board, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed the development of **Gandhisagar Sanctuary** as a habitat for cheetahs in the next six months.

Note: It will be developed as a second home for cheetahs to retain the tag of cheetah state. Reason: The experts suggested that Kuno National Park in Sheopur does not have enough space for all cheetahs, hence it is necessary to relocate a few

- 22. Kondh Tribe** of Nayagarh district in Odisha celebrates Bihan Mela, which refers to a seed festival.

Note: The event is participated by farmers from as many as 40 villages in Dasapalla block, surrounded by hills and forests. The preparations begin as soon as farmers have harvested Kharif crops, which include both hybrid and indigenous varieties of paddy, millets, maize, and sorghum. Kondh tribes are a tribal group found in the hills and jungles of Orissa in eastern India.

Important News – World

August 2023

- 1.** Bhutan's Tiger population has increased by **27 percent** since its last count in 2015.

Note: The latest survey estimates there are now 131 tigers in the country. It reflected the success of Tiger conservation efforts in the South Asian Himalayan landlocked nation situated between China and India. It was in 2010 that Bhutan continued its commitment to protecting its wildlife when the country joined the global effort to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022.

- 2.** According to **EU** climate change service report, the oceans have hit their hottest-ever recorded temperature as they soak up warmth from climate change.

Note: The average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record this week as it reached 20.96°C. That is far above the average for this time of year. The broken temperature record follows a series of marine heatwaves this year including in the UK, the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

- 3.** According to two official's privy to the latest assessment made for submission to the United Nations, India's greenhouse emissions rate dropped by a faster-than-expected **33%** in 14 years.

Note: Reason: Renewable energy generation rose and forest cover increased. India is well on the way to meeting a commitment to the UNFCCC, to reduce emissions intensity by 45% from the 2005 level by

2030. India's average rate of reduction in emissions increased to 3% annually during 2016-2019.

- 4. MakeMyTrip(MMT)** has joined hands with the Ministry of Tourism to launch a microsite, 'Traveller's Map of India.'

Note: Aim: To showcase 600-plus destinations beyond the popular travel spots in the country. Objective: To discover lesser-known tourism gems that lie within the country's borders based on their preferences. According to MMT "This microsite has been designed in line with the Government of India's visionary 'DekhoApnaDesh' program,"

- 5.** According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), about **12%** of sitting MPs of the Rajya Sabha are billionaires with Andhra Pradesh having the highest percentage of such parliamentarians.

Note: 5 (45%) out of 11 MPs are from Andhra Pradesh, 3 (43%) out of 7 MPs are from Telangana, and 3 (16%) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra.

- 6.** The ADR and the National Election Watch (NEW) have analyzed and updated the criminal, financial, and other details of Rajya Sabha MPs. The WHO South-East Asia Region committed to further accelerate efforts to end tuberculosis by **2030** with member countries adopting the Gandhinagar Declaration.

Note: The South-East Asia Region bears a disproportionate burden of nearly half of the global TB cases and deaths. The Declaration calls for

establishing a high-level multi-sectoral commission reporting to the highest political level in each country for synergy of efforts among various stakeholders.

7. **Saudi Arabia** Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI).

Note: Aim: To study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the "Green Saudi" initiative. It will use AI to analyze satellite imagery to identify areas that are most vulnerable to desertification. Remote sensing technologies will be used to monitor vegetation cover, and track its changes over time.

July 2023

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 Wypaar

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.

June 2023

1. According to a report released by 'fDi Markets', **India** has emerged as a **key source country for FDI in Dubai**, one of the wealthiest of the seven emirates in UAE.

Note: The **top sectors by FDI projects from India into Dubai in 2022** were software & IT services (32%), business services (19%), consumer products, real estate, and financial services. The top sectors by FDI capital from India into Dubai in 2022 were consumer products (28%).

2. According to the **UN's Hunger Hotspots – FAO-WFP early warnings** on acute food insecurity report, along with **Afghanistan and Myanmar, Pakistan** is listed in the hunger hotspots in the world.

Note: Globally Hunger is set to worsen in 18 'hotspots' comprising a total of 22 countries. Highest Concern Nations: Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. **Very High Concern Nations: Pakistan, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, and Syria**

3. **Bangladesh** named the **cyclone 'Biparjoy'**, that would be intensified into a very severe storm as it moved nearly northwards with a speed of 2 kmph in the last 6 hours.

Note: The **cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal** and the Arabian Sea have been intensifying rapidly and retaining their intensity for a longer duration due to climate change. The name Biparjoy was given to the cyclone by Bangladesh, which means "Disaster" in Bengali.

4. According to the **report titled "GCC 4.0 – India Redefining the Globalization Blueprint"**, released by **NASSCOM – Zinnov**, India's Global Capability

Centre (GCC) ecosystem will expand with **over 1,900 GCCs and a market size of \$60 billion by 2025**.

Note: As of FY23, India is home to 1,580 unique GCCs, with several global MNCs opting to establish their first global center outside of their headquarters in India. The GCC market size in FY 23 was \$46 billion.

5. According to the **'The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023'**, **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore** has emerged as **India's highest-placed university**.

Note: The university is ranked **at 52nd rank globally** out of 1,591 universities. Topped by: Western Sydney University followed by the University of Manchester (UK), Queen's University (Canada), Universiti Sains Malaysia, and the University of Tasmania. Amrita Vishwa stood out for its efforts toward meeting the UNSDGs.

6. **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has released its annual compendium, titled **'State of India's Environment 2023**.

Note: It is based on four parameters i.e. environment, agriculture, public health, and infrastructure. Telangana was ranked at the top in terms of overall environmental performance and in terms of increasing forest cover. In agriculture, **MP takes the top slot and Delhi leads in public health**. Gujarat leads the rankings in public infrastructure.

7. **MoS for Education and External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** released the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2023** on June 5, 2023.

Note: IIT Madras has emerged as the top college under the overall category for the fifth consecutive year and the best engineering institute for the eighth consecutive year. Research category: IISc Bengaluru has earned the top spot. Agriculture and Allied Sectors: IARI, New Delhi. Medical category: AIIMS Delhi

8. According to a report titled **'The e-Conomy of a Billion Connected Indians'** published by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company, India's internet economy is expected to grow six-fold to \$1 trillion by 2030 from \$175 billion in 2022.

Note: The contribution of the Internet economy to India's technology sector would expand, from 48% to 62% in 2030. The report emphasizes that the growth will be spearheaded by the B2C e-commerce segment, followed by B2B, and SaaS providers.

9. According to Mercer's Cost of Living survey 2023, Mumbai has ranked the most expensive city in India for expatriates.

Note: After Mumbai, cities like New Delhi and Bengaluru fall on the second and third place in the most expensive list for ex-pats list in India. In the global ranking, Mumbai has been positioned at 147, New Delhi (169), Chennai (184), Bengaluru (189), and Pune (213). Hong Kong and Singapore are the most expensive cities for international employees this year.

10. According to a report, Up to 2.3 billion people around the world are still using polluting fuels to cook and 675 million don't have electricity.

Note: Report by: IEA, International Renewable Energy Agency, U.N. Statistics Division, World Bank, and WHO. The report also highlighted that 1.9 billion won't have clean cooking opportunities by 2030. The global access to electricity increased from 84% in 2010 to 91% (2021), but the pace of growth slowed in 2019-2021.

11. India and Serbia have agreed to set a target for bilateral trade from the present 320 million euros to one billion euros by the end of the decade.

Note: Indian President is on a three-day State visit to Serbia from the 7th to the 9th of June. President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic also promised simplification of the issue of Visa to Indians and also hoped that direct flights between the two countries will begin soon.

12. World Health Organisation (WHO) report has highlighted significant impacts of 'Har Ghar Jal' Programme on public health and economic savings.

Note: The report on 'Har Ghar Jal' estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country. The 'Har Ghar Jal' report focuses on diarrheal diseases as they contribute significantly to the overall disease burden related to water, sanitation, and hygiene issues.

13. Britain and the United States have backed a new "Atlantic Declaration".

Note: Aim: Greater cooperation on pressing economic challenges in areas like clean energy, critical minerals and artificial intelligence. The joint declaration described the partnership covering the broad spectrum of the two countries' economic, technological, commercial and trade relations. They will strengthen their supply chains, develop technologies of the future and invest in one another's industries.

14. WHO and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed a new Strategic Framework.

Note: Reason: For Collaboration to build stronger and more resilient health systems and maximize collaboration and impact in support of country, regional and global responses to major communicable diseases. The new five-year framework builds on the previous agreement signed in 2018. It aligns with the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy and the WHO General Programme of Work.

15. Microsoft has launched a new 'voice chat' feature to its AI-powered Bing Chat on the desktop.

Note: Aim: It will help users to talk to the AI chatbot by clicking on the microphone icon in the Bing Chat box. Currently, the voice chat feature supports five languages- English, Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin. More languages will be added soon. Bing Chat supports text-to-speech answers, which will respond to your questions in its own voice.

16. According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, Switzerland has the lowest prevalence of modern slavery.

Note: Produced by: ILO, Walk Free, and International Organisation for Migration. Walk Free has reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million. Countries with the highest prevalence: North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany.

17. India has drafted resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers .

Note: The UNGA has adopted a draft resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers. Ruchira Kamboj (India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador) has introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers.' The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda, and the US.

- 18. Embassy of India in Kuwait** in association with the United Nations (UN) Habitat Office in Kuwait, has organized a Beach Cleaning Event.

Note: Aim: To promote environmental awareness and community participation. This part was organized as part of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) initiative of the Government of India, that aims to bring individual behaviors to the forefront of global climate action by promoting a circular economy and mindful utilization.

- 19.** According to a new report, Glaciers in Asia's Hindu Kush Himalaya could lose up to **75%** of their volume by the end of the century.

Note: Reason: Global warming, is causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for the 240 million people who live in the mountainous region. The international scientist team found that ice loss on the peaks of Everest and K2 is speeding up. In 2010, the glaciers shed as much as 65% of ice, which was faster than they had in the preceding decade.

- 20. UN** has adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life on the high seas, approved by delegates from the 193 member nations.

Note: The treaty will create a new body to manage the conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas on the high seas. It also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans. The new treaty is under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, came into force in 1994.

- 21.** According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, the number of refugees globally stood at **35.3 million** by the end of 2022.

Note: It also shows an increase in the number of more than 8 million from the year before. Around 52% of all refugees came from Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan. According to international law, refugees are people who are forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution or a serious threat to their life or freedom.

- 22.** According to the 2023 Forbes' -The Global 2000, India's largest power generation company, **National**

Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has climbed 52 positions to secure the 433rd rank in the list.

Note: In the 2022 ranking, the company was on 485th rank. The climb of 52 positions has demonstrated the NTPC's emergence as a strong force in the global market. 'The Global 2000' List recognizes the world's largest companies based on sales, profits, assets, and market value.

- 23.** According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the growth in demand for oil in India will overtake that in China by **2027**.

Note: 'Oil 2023', the multilateral agency's outlook highlighted that China's demand will fall consistently from 2024 after a massive rise this year. The United States, China, and India are the world's three largest oil consumers in that order. IEA also raised its forecast for world oil growth demand to 2.4 million barrels per day in 2023.

- 24. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023, which covered 85% of the global population.

Note: The index has revealed that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women. Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one bias against women. This index has tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions i. e. political, educational, economic and physical integrity.

- 25.** As per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, **Reliance Industries Ltd** is the most valuable private company in India, with a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore.

Note: TCS with Rs 11.8 lakh crore ranked second in India, followed by HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore. The value of Reliance decreased by 5.1% in the last six months, while the total value of TCS increased marginally by 0.7% and HDFC Bank increased by 12.9%. Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany.

- 26.** According to a Gender Gap Index 2023, released by World Economic Forum, India ranked at **127**.

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

- 27.** According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU),

Vienna in Austria has topped the ranking of the most liveable cities.

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

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

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

29. According to the Global competitiveness index 2023, published by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), India ranked **40**.

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

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

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

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

Note: WEF informed that India is the only major economy whose energy transition accelerated across all dimensions. Top 5: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland. The global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy

crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.

32. **INDUS X (India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem)** was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21st June 2023.

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

33. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** met with Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC.

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

34. **Germany** Parliament has approved a new immigration law designed to attract skilled workers to the country.

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

35. A US\$5 billion 'smart' city named Arkadag was inaugurated in **Turkmenistan**.

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

May 2023

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will be the guest of honour at **France's traditional military parade**, which will be held during Bastille Day on 14th July.

Note: PM's visit coincides with the **25th anniversary of the strategic partnership** between France and India. Bastille Day is named after the fall of a fortress that symbolized the French revolution of 1789. PM

- Modi will be 2nd Indian PM to be the guest of honour after Manmohan Singh in 2009.
2. **United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)** has approved the **world's first Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine** for older adults.
Note: However, this vaccine still needs approval from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, before its launch in Public. The vaccine was **approved for people aged 60 and older**. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. It can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.
 8. According to a report **Born Too Soon: Decade of Action on Pre-term Birth**, released by the UN, an estimated 13.4 million babies were born pre-term in 2020, with 45% of them being born in just five countries, **including India, Pakistan, Nigeria, China, and Ethiopia**.
Note: It is jointly produced by the **WHO, UNICEF, and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)**. The global pre-term birth rate increased to 9.9% in 2020, compared to 9.8% in 2010.
 9. WHO has declared **mpox outbreak** is no longer a global health emergency.
Note: In July 2022, WHO declared mpox, previously **known as monkeypox**, a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). This move indicates that the crisis due to mpox has come under control. Mpox spreads through direct contact with body fluids and causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled skin lesions. The WHO recently also declared an end of public health emergency status for COVID-19.
 10. According to the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)'s annual report**, the number of internally displaced people around the world reached **71 million** as of the end of 2022.
Note: The number of movements in which people fled in search of safety and shelter was also unprecedented in 2022 with a figure of 60.9 million. The conflict in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements and monsoon floods in Pakistan triggered 8.2 million.
 11. **China** will launch pilot projects in more than 20 cities to create a "**new-era**" **marriage and childbearing culture** to foster a friendly childbearing environment.
Note: Aim: To boost the country's falling birth rate. China's Family Planning Association will launch projects to encourage women to marry and have children. Cities included in the pilot include the manufacturing hub Guangzhou and Handan in China's Hebei province.
 12. **Pasang Dawa Sherpa** has scaled Mount Everest on May 14, 2023, and become the **world's second person to scale Everest 26 times**.
Note: Kami Rita Sherpa was the first person who climbed Mount Everest 26 times. He reached the summit along with a Hungarian climber. Pa Dawa had climbed the peak 25 times before, including twice in 2022. Since making his first successful of climb of the peak in 1998, Dawa has made the trip almost every year.
 13. European Union regulators have approved **Microsoft proposed acquisition of gaming firm Activision Blizzard** for \$69 billion.
Note: This approval is subject to remedies offered by Microsoft to address antitrust concerns, particularly in the field of **cloud gaming**. The European Commission (EC) has stated that Microsoft has addressed competition concerns while offering 10-year free licensing deals and fair market access for European consumers and cloud game streaming services.
 14. **76th Cannes Film Festival** has been started in **France** on May 16, 2023.
Note: The festival has officially kicked off with the **world premiere of the Johnny Depp starring film Jeanne Du Barry**. MoS for I&B, Dr. L Murugan lead an Indian delegation at the 12-day event, accompanied by filmmaker Guneet Monga and others. The Indian Pavilion has been conceptualized and designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad with the theme - 'Showcasing India's Creative Economy'.
 15. According to the report, '**Turning Off The Tap**', **plastic pollution across the world can be reduced by up to 80% by 2040**, if companies and countries make policy and market shifts using existing technologies.
Note: This **report was published by UNEP**. The magnitude and nature of changes required to end plastic pollution and to create a circular economy to replace the widespread use of single-use plastics and their inappropriate disposal. About 400 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated every year.
 16. **Decade of the 2080s of Bikram Samvat** has been marked as '**the Visit Nepal decade**'.
Note: 2025 as a special year for tourism. This was announced by the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel while presenting the policies/ programmes. As per the latest statistics maintained by Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal recorded the arrival of over 3.26 lakh foreign tourists in the first 4 months of

2023. President has announced that timely revisions would be made to tourism-related law.

17. During the visit to Japan, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled the **bust of Mahatma Gandhi** in **Hiroshima, Japan** on 20 May 2023.

Note: The Mahatma Gandhi bust has been gifted by the Government of India to the city of Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan. **The 42 inches tall bronze bust** has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar. The bust site, **adjacent to the Motoyasu River, is** close to the iconic A-Bomb Dome.

18. **Saudi Arabia's Rayyanah Barnawi** has made history as the **first Arab woman astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS)** as part of the private Ax-2 mission.

Note: She is a breast cancer researcher and was joined on the **mission by fellow Saudi Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter pilot**. The Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) crew took off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. The team also includes Peggy Whitson and John Shoffner.

19. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** along with his **Papua New Guinea** counterpart James Marape released the **Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in Tok Pisin**.

Note: Aim: To bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of this southwestern Pacific nation. Tok Pisin is the **official language of Papua New Guinea**. Thirukkural is a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love, is written by Poet Thiruvalluvar.

20. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has expanded its partnership with **Google Cloud to launch its Generative AI**.

Note: It leverages Google Cloud's generative AI services. It is designed and deployed for custom-tailored business solutions that help clients harness the power of this new technology to accelerate their growth. It is **powered by Google Cloud's Generative AI tools** – Vertex AI, Generative AI Application Builder and Model Garden, and TCS' own solutions.

21. **The Roads and Transport Authority of Dubai** has set a target to **achieve zero-emissions public transportation by 2050**.

Note: Aim: To contribute to climate change mitigation and minimize its carbon footprint across

three critical areas (public transportation, buildings and facilities, and waste management). This move aligns with the **UAE COP28 preparations** and UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. It outlined ten key initiatives, each assigned to various agencies and sectors

22. According to the **Financial Times Ranking 2023**, **IIM Kozhikode** has been placed among the **top 4 schools in India**.

Note: It has been ranked among the top 75 schools worldwide for its Open Enrolment Executive Education Programme. IIM Kozhikode has been ranked 72 among the top 75 providers of open-enrolment executive programs globally. While IIM Ahmedabad ranked 45, IIM Bangalore at 47, and Indian School of Business at 65. **Topped by: Iese Business School, Spain, followed by HEC Paris**.

23. **Tata Group** is the **only Indian company to feature in the Top 50 innovative companies 2023** list, released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Note: Tata Group ranked 20 among the Top 50 innovative companies. **Top 10:** Apple, Tesla, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft, Moderna, Samsung, Huawei, BYD, and Siemens. BCG's list parameters: Superior performance, higher resilience to shocks and disruptions, and the ability to exploit innovation faster for value-creating growth, among other things

24. According to the annual **"State and Trends of Carbon Pricing" report**, revenues from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) have reached a record high, about \$95 billion.

Note: This report **was published by World Bank**. This is despite the challenging context for governments facing high inflation, fiscal pressures, and energy crises. Several countries are using a price on carbon emissions to help meet their climate goals in the form of a tax and Emissions Trading System (ETS).

25. A new greenhouse gas monitoring initiative to support urgent action to reduce heat-trapping gases which are fuelling temperature increase, is approved at **World Meteorological Congress**.

Note: Aim: To fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated, operational framework. The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modeling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof. It was supported by the WMO's 193 Members.

April 2023

1. Japan, India, and **France** have announced a common platform for talks among bilateral creditors to coordinate the restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt.
Note: This move is expected to serve as a model for solving the debt woes. Sri Lanka has secured a 2.9 billion dollar programme from IMF to tackle its huge debt burden. But, the middle-income economy could not apply for relief under the G-20's common framework for debt treatment, which targets only low-income countries.
2. **Syria** has become the world's foremost narco-state, as its economic survival now depends heavily on the production and export of Captagon.
Note: Captagon is a banned illicit drug recognized by the UNODC (2021) and is a synthetic stimulant that combines amphetamine and caffeine. According to the Collins Dictionary, "narco-state" refers to a nation where a significant portion of the economy is reliant on the illicit trade of narcotic drugs.
3. A World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel has ruled that India has violated global trading rules in a dispute against the European Union, Japan, and **Taiwan**.
Note: The case pertains to import duties for a wide range of products. In 2019, the EU, Japan, and Taiwan challenged the import duties on certain IT products. The EU had challenged India's introduction of import duties between 7.5% and 20% for products such as mobile phones, mobile phone components, and accessories.
4. Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj has handed over the cheque of **USD 500,000 (Rs 4.09 crore)** to the UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
Note: The cheque was received by Sima Sami Bahous, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women. The Indian government is committed to the goals of gender equality, the empowerment of women, and gender mainstreaming.
5. Mongolia Ambassador to India Dambajav Ganbold has informed that the first oil refinery of Mongolia, which is built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by year **2025**.
Note: The first stage of the Mongol Oil Refinery will be built with a \$1.2 billion Indian soft loan. The development comes with strategic implications as Mongolia is entirely dependent on Russia for its energy imports. It would help Mongolia meet 70% of its demand domestically.
6. US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol have secured a landmark deal. The name of this landmark deal is **Washington Declaration**.
Note: It includes plans to periodically deploy US nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea. This deal will be known as the Washington Declaration and strengthen the allies' cooperation in deterring a North Korean attack. The declaration comes amid rising concerns about nuclear threats from North Korea as the country carries out a record number of ballistic missile tests.
7. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has unveiled a statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in **Mauritius**.
Note: The sculpture was created in India by a Delhi-based artist and sent to Mauritius in a container ship. During his visit, an MoU was signed between the Economic Development Board of Mauritius and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation to establish a platform for investment between the Western State and the island nation.
8. Russian company **Sberbank** launched its own AI chatbot GigaChat to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT.
Note: It was initially designed to support multimodal interaction and communicate in Russian more intelligently. The GigaChat architecture is based on the neural network ensemble model called NeONKA (Neural Omnimodal Network with Knowledge-Awareness). It includes several neural network models along with supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement learning with human feedback.
9. A report on Trends in World Military Expenditure 2022, published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, stated that total global military expenditure increased by **3.7%** in real terms in 2022 to reach a new high of \$2240 billion.
Note: The three largest spenders in 2022 are the USA, China, and Russia, accounting for 56% of the total world. The US remains by far the world's biggest military spender. India's spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world.
10. The Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, Jens Stoltenberg has informed that **Finland** has become the **31st member of the alliance**.
Note: Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO. Finland shares a long border (over 1,300 kilometers) with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, Turkey and Hungary have declined Sweden's application to join NATO.
11. **OPEC members** including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production **cuts exceeding one million barrels per day from May 2023 until the end of the year**.
Note: Reason: It is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market. OPEC slashed its collective output by two million barrels per day last year. OPEC is a group of 23 oil-producing countries.
12. **France has invited PM Narendra Modi** to visit Paris as a guest at the **annual Bastille Day parade**, which will be held in **July 2023**.
Note: The Indian PM and **French President Emmanuel Macron** are expected to discuss several major

agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defense, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership. Earlier, **Manmohan Singh was invited as the Bastille Day parade guest in 2009.**

13. **Bahrain's government** has launched a new initiative called '**Golden Licence**' to incentivize investments and the **creation of jobs.**

Note: It is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain. **Eligibility for the Licence:** Companies with significant strategic projects and investments exceeding US\$50 million or those creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain.

14. According to the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list, **Mukesh Ambani** has regained his spot as **Asia's richest person** after rival **Gautam Adani (USD 47.2 billion) tumbled to No. 24.**

Note: **Ambani (65) was ranked at No. 9** on the world billionaire list with a net worth of USD 83.4 billion. Bernard Arnault (CEO of LVMH) topped the Forbes Billionaires 2023 Rankings with an estimated net worth of a whopping 211 billion. Elon Musk placed second, followed by Jeff Bezos and Lary Ellison.

15. **India** has been elected to the **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a four-year term** beginning on 1 January 2024.

Note: India received a resounding 46 out of 53 votes, ahead of South Korea (23), China (19), and UAE (15). India was elected by secret ballot while Argentina, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America were elected by acclamation. **UNSC is the highest body of the global statistical system.**

16. **India's** Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj has handed over the **contribution of USD 2 million to the UN Trust Fund in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).**

Note: Reason: New Delhi's commitment to peace and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Earlier, India had contributed USD 4 million to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). **ATMIS was established on 1 April 2022.**

17. The **first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Emine Dzhaparova** is on a four-day visit to India from April 9, 2023.

Note: During the visit, she will **hold talks with Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.** Both sides are expected to discuss bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on the current situation in Ukraine and global issues of mutual interest. Both shares warm and friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation.

18. **Bangladesh, Japan, and India** will hold a meeting in **Tripura** on 11-12 April, 2023, for **connectivity**

initiatives to harness the commercial potential of the region.

Note: The event will be **organized by Asian Confluence**, a think tank based out of North East India, in collaboration with India's foreign ministry. It will be attended by deputy foreign ministers of Bangladesh and India along with the chief minister of Tripura and the Japanese envoy to India

19. **EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar will be on official visits to Uganda and Mozambique** from 11-15 April 2023.

Note: In the first leg, he will visit Uganda and is expected to hold delegation-level talks with **his counterpart Foreign Minister of Uganda General Jeje Odongo.** He will also inaugurate the transit campus of the National Forensic Science University in Jinja. Later, he will **visit Mozambique and co-chair the 5th Joint Commission Meeting** with Foreign Minister Ms. Veronica Macamo.

20. During External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Kampala (Uganda), he has launched the '**Tulsi Ghat Restoration Project**' of Varanasi.

Note: He has appreciated the **initiatives of Overseas Friends of BJP-Uganda's initiative** to contribute to further beautifying the oldest living city in the world. He has also discussed cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure, energy, defense, health, digital and agricultural domains.

21. The Anti-trust regulator of **South Korea has fined Alphabet Inc.'s Google 42.1 billion won** (\$32 million) for **blocking its rival from releasing video games.**

Note: Korea's Fair Trade Commission informed that Google is using its clout in the mobile app market to squeeze out a rival. The Korean regulator has ordered Google LLC, Google Korea, and Google Asia Pacific to cease offering support to mobile game companies in exchange for promises of exclusivity.

22. **Actor Shah Rukh Khan** has secured **the top position in Time Magazine's poll** for its annual TIME100 list.

Note: For the **second spot, the readers picked the Iranian women protesting for more freedom** in the country's Islamic regime. The healthcare workers of the US made it to third place. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle took the fourth spot, with each of them getting 1.9% of the votes. Lionel Messi secured the fifth spot.

23. According to a survey, published by London-based '**Time Out**' - a media outlet, **Berlin (Germany) was ranked as the city with the best public transport system globally.**

Note: It is followed by Prague (Czech Republic), Tokyo (Japan), and Copenhagen (Denmark). While India's city Mumbai secured the 19th spot and was the top-ranked Indian city. **Mumbai's Suburban Railways** form the backbone of public transport for a population of 12.5 million.

24. **TIME Magazine** has published a list of the **100 Most Influential People of 2023**, which includes Jennifer Coolidge (Actor), Doja Cat (Recording Artist), Bob Iger

(CEO of The Walt Disney Company), and Salman Rushdie (Writer).

Note: There is no particular order to the rankings. Six categories: Artists, Icons, Pioneers, Leaders, Titans, and

Innovators. **Indian Actor Shahrukh Khan and Indian Director S.S. Rajamouli** were listed in Icon and Pioneer categories, respectively.

Government Schemes

August 2023

1. Govt to launch a new scheme for in Pharma-Med Sector

Note: Government to launch a new scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma- Med Sector with a total outlay of five thousand crore rupees. Objective: To transform the Indian Pharma Med Tech sector from cost-based competitiveness to innovation-based growth by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country. Aim: To promote the growth of pharma industry in the country , enhance manufacturing of drugs and promote research and innovation in the sector.

2. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah launched 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme

Note: The Karnataka government launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru. Under this scheme, about 1.1 crore women heads of family will get ₹2,000 each at a function in Mysuru. 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the Karnataka Assembly election held in May. The government has earmarked ₹17,500 crore for 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.

3. MP announced Ladli Behna Yojana aid hike, 35% job reservation for women

Note: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month. He also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and provided gas cylinders for Rs 450. Under the programme, women between the ages of 23 and 60, who do not pay income taxes and whose families make less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually, receive Rs 1,000 every month.

4. CM Stalin launched expansion of breakfast scheme for Tamil Nadu govt school

Note: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme at Thirukkuvalai. The scheme has been extended to 31,000 government schools across the

state benefitting 17 lakh students. Initially, the scheme was devised to provide nutritious breakfast to 1,14,095 students of classes 1 to 5 studying in 1,545 government schools and an amount of Rs 33.56 crore was allocated for this scheme.

5. Jal Shakti Ministry releases report on 6th census on minor irrigation scheme

Note: The Ministry of Jal Shakti released the report on the sixth census on minor irrigation schemes. 23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes have been reported in the country, out of which 21.93 million are groundwater and 1.21 million are Surface Water schemes. UP has the largest number of MI schemes in the country followed by Maharastra. For the first time, information about the gender of the owner of the MI scheme was also collected in case of individual ownership.

6. SBI launches Aadhaar-based enrolment for social security schemes

Note: The country's largest lender State Bank of India introduced a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by just furnishing an Aadhaar card. Aim: To make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler. Customers visiting CSPs will need only their Aadhaar cards to enrol in schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana, the bank said in a statement.

7. NESIDS with an approved outlay of Rs.8139.50 crore

Note: The cabinet approved the continuation of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved outlay of Rs. 8139.50 crore. Objective: To support infrastructure development in identified sectors including connectivity in the North Eastern States. For the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, Cabinet approved two components: NESIDS-Road and NESIDS-Other Than Road Infrastructure. The scheme is a central sector scheme with 100% central funding.

8. Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna scheme

Note: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the scheme Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna means 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in Madhya Pradesh. The scheme has facilitated on-the-job training on the lines of 'learn and earn along with skill development, and has been started for the youth in the age group of 18 to 29 yrs. Under the scheme, the selected youth will be given training according to the requirements of the industries and also get an 8 to 10 thousand rupees stipend

9. Modi Cabinet approves 'PM-eBus Sewa' for augmenting city bus operations

Note: The union cabinet approved 'PM-eBus Sewa' for augmenting city bus operations under which 10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country. Aim: To improve public transport in cities and is also in line with India's objectives concerning climate change Rs 57,613 crores will be spent on this project and around 10,000 new electric buses will be provided across the country. Under this scheme, priority will be given to cities not having organized bus services.

10. Goa govt launches 'Gramin Mitra' scheme to promote digital empowerment

Note: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the flagship scheme "Gramin Mitra" in August 2023. Objective: To provide doorstep delivery of government services across the state and promote digital empowerment in rural areas. Aims: To empower rural communities with access to information and opportunities that can transform their lives and drive socio-economic growth. The program will help us accelerate the delivery of e-governance services to rural areas across the state.

11. CM Ashok Gehlot launches free food packet scheme

Note: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme on the occasion of Independence Day. Under the scheme, families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get the Annapurna food packets every month from the fair price shops (FPS) for free. Each packet will contain one kg each of gram pulses, sugar and iodized salt, one litre soybean refined edible oil, 100 gram each of chili powder and coriander powder.

12. Odisha launched scheme to improve banking penetration in 4,373 panchayats

Note: The Odisha Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved to open banking outlets in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats at a cost of Rs 500 crore in Aug 2023. Aim: To improve financial inclusion,

will be implemented in coordination with six public sector banks in a phased manner. The scheme will be implemented in coordination with six public sector banks - State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India.

13. PM Modi Launched 'Bhartiya Vastra Evam Shilp Kosh' E-Portal

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh' - a Repository of Textiles and Crafts developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles in Delhi (August 2023). Aims: To create a comprehensive catalogue of India's diverse clothing on a single platform. It has a craft atlas, a cultural artefact display, and a visual museum, among other things.

14. Valid license for import of laptops, personal computers to be required

Note: According to the Gov, a valid License for imports of laptops, tablets, and personal computers will be required from the 1st November 2023. The Centre has said that there is no ban on the import of IT Hardware as such devices can be imported after obtaining a valid license by companies or traders. Directorate General of Foreign Trade has prepared a portal, for getting a license by applying online. Gov has notified Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware.

15. Govt allocates Rs 1,39,579 crore to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages

Note: The Communications Ministry informed that the government has allocated 1,39,579 crore rupees to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages across the country. The Ministry also informed that the extension project has been decided after the success of a pilot project in 60,000 Gram Panchayat villages across the country in 8 months. The Bharat Net has reached 1.94 lakh villages during the pilot project and 5.67 lakh households have active Bharat Net connections so far.

16. Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' or 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme

Note: The Ministry implemented the 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme. Aim To assist students/candidates belonging to the six minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations. The coaching period under the scheme ranged from 3 months to 2 years. This information was given by the Minister of Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani in Lok Sabha.

17. MASI Portal for Monitoring CHILD CARE HOMES

Note: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has developed an application named MASI for real-time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions. MASI stands for Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection. The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application.

18. Government launched the scheme - Vivad se Vishwas-II

Note: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the scheme, "Vivad se Vishwas 2 in the Union Budget 2023-24. Aims: To resolve the govt's contractual disputes with private parties, clear the backlog of litigation, and improve the ease of doing business. Objective: To settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings, wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court, a voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced

19. Centre owes ₹6,366 crores in MGNREGS wages to 18 States and UT

July 2023

1. First ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for Livestock Sector launched

Note: The DAHD has launched a "Credit Guarantee Scheme" specifically designed for the Livestock Sector. 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.

2. MoU signed between Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank

Note: 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. 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

3. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde inaugurates PM MITRA Park in Amravati

Note: Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde inaugurated the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) at Amravati. The event was also

Note: According to Minister of State for the Ministry Of Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti the Centre owes Rs 6,366 crore in dues to states and Union Territories under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Central government owes the highest amount – Rs 2,770 crore – to West Bengal. MGNREGS aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to unskilled manual work

20. Ministry of Social Justice implements "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Note: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" in August 2023. Objective: To provide the senior citizens, suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmity, with assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions. Scheme: In the assessment camp, the ALIMCO identifies the beneficiaries, suffering from the age related disability, for required aids & appliances.

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.

4. Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States

Note: The 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. 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.

5. Capacity building Scheme for North Eastern Region

Note: The 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. 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

6. **1309 Railway Stations identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**

Note: Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has been launched for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. 1309 Railway Stations have been identified

under this scheme including 80 no. of stations in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Scheme: For 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'

June 2023

1. **Karnataka to give money instead of 5 kg additional rice to BPL families**

Note: The Karnataka government has decided to give cash instead of rice till rice is procured. It was one of the guarantees of the Siddaramaiah govt was to provide 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household. The government has decided to pay beneficiaries cash at the rate of ₹34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of the foodgrain promised under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme. The disbursement of money will start on July 1.

2. **Centre allocates ₹145 crore to Nagaland for Unity Mall**

Note: The Central government has allocated ₹145 crore for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland. Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings. The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls. The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.

3. **Madhya Pradesh govt launched 'Ladli Bahna' scheme**

Note: MP government has launched 'Ladli Bahna' scheme to make women financially independent. In this scheme, each woman will be given 1000 rupees per month. MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has deposited the first month's amount of this scheme in the bank accounts of about 1.25 crore women at a State-level function in Jabalpur. The State government has also issued a phone number 181 for the help of women. Ladli Bahna Army also formed for women empowerment and security.

4. **Maharashtra CM launches Asia's largest cluster development scheme**

Note: Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde has launched Asia's largest, ambitious and historic cluster development scheme in Thane. This scheme was conceptualized for the collective redevelopment of unauthorized and official dangerous buildings after the

collapse of the Sairaj Building in Thane. The redeveloped township plan includes well-equipped health, educational, sports, recreational, parking, mandi, and civic facilities. The project will be executed by the CIDCO.

5. **PM Modi launches schemes for wetland, mangrove conservation**

Note: PM Modi launched two schemes 'Amrit Dharohar' and 'MISHTI' to revive the country's wetlands and mangroves. **Amrit Dharohar:** To ensure the conservation of the existing Ramsar sites through public participation. These sites will become the center of eco-tourism and a source of green jobs for thousands of people. **MISHTI:** It refers to Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes. It will help revive and protect the mangrove ecosystem in the country.

6. **Union Minister For Jal Shakti launched portal for GOBARdhan**

Note: The Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan. Aim: One-stop repository to assess investment and participation in the Biogas/CBG sector at the pan India level and streamline the process of setting up CBG/Biogas plants. GOBARdhan refers to Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan. It is an initiative of the Government of India, that aims to convert waste to wealth towards promoting a circular economy.

7. **Cabinet approves City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0**

Note: The City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) has been approved for four years (2023-2027). Conceived by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with the French Development Agency, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs. Funding: A loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million) from AFD and KfW and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the EU.

May 2023

1. Maharashtra farmers to get Rs 6,000 per annum under new scheme

Note: The Maharashtra government has approved a new financial scheme named Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana, under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be paid 6,000 rupees annually. The amount is in addition to the 6,000 rupees being paid to farmers by the Centre under the PM Kisan Yojana. Maharashtra Cabinet also approved the implementation of 'Gender Inclusive Tourism Policy called 'Aai' to empower women in the tourism sector.

2. Government unveils UDAN 5.1 to enhance connectivity to remote areas

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the 5.1 version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) to further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters. For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes. Airfare caps have been reduced by as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

3. National SC-ST Hub Scheme crossed over 1 lakh beneficiary registration

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the National SC-ST Hub Scheme, which crossed over one lakh beneficiary registrations. About National SC-ST Hub Scheme: Launched on: October 2016, It is an initiative of the Union MSME Ministry. Aim: To empower and promote entrepreneurs among SC, ST Communities. It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), a public-sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME.

4. Government unveils UDAN 5.1 to enhance connectivity to remote areas

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the 5.1 version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) to further enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters. For the first time under RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes. Airfare caps have been reduced by as much as 25% to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.

5. Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 300 students across Sri Lanka

Note: School students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka have received the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships. This scholarship provides Rs 2500 Lankan per student every month to the top six students from each district, based on merit cum means. In 2023, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 period.

6. PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY complete 8 years of inception

Note: Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have completed their 8 years of providing social security cover on May 9. PMJJBY: One-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death for any reason. PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to an accident.

7. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra

Note: Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad. Aim: To provide affordable healthcare and generate self-employment opportunities for youth. It was launched to make quality generic medicines available to the common man at a low cost. PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana: Launched by: Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Initially launched in 2008. The scheme was rechristened in 2015

8. MSDE to organize Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela on 8th May

Note: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will organize Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) on 8th May in 200 districts across the country. PMNAM will witness the participation of many companies representing various sectors, providing relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth. Through this, participating organizations can connect with potential apprentices, while strengthening the livelihood opportunities of the youth.

April 2023

1. Tribal Affairs Minister launches PTP-NER scheme in Manipur

Note: Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has launched the Marketing and Logistics Development for

Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme in Manipur. This scheme has been introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region. Vision: To strengthen the livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.

2. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches 'YUVA PORTAL'

Note: Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched a YUVA PORTAL for connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups in the country. He has also launched the One Week -One Lab program. This program will offer the opportunity to the CSIR labs to showcase the work being done by them so that others can avail of it. During the launch event, he also hailed the launching of the astronomy lab that has come up in Karnal, Haryana.

3. Govt launches 'Sangathan se Samridhhi' scheme

Note: Union Minister of Rural Development, Giriraj Singh has launched the 'Sangathan Se Samridhhi' campaign to empower marginalized rural households by bringing all eligible rural women into the fold of Self Help Groups (SHGs). The govt is targeting to bring 10 crore women under the purview of SHGs (existing nine crores). The govt has also set a target that every woman

associated with SHGs should be able to earn 1 lakh rupees per annum. He also urged women to produce millet.

4. PM Modi to attend 20th anniversary of SWAGAT initiative in Gujarat

Note: PM Modi will attend the 20th anniversary of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT) initiative in Gujarat via video conferencing on April 27. This scheme was started by PM Modi in April 2003 during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Aim: To act as a bridge between the citizens and the government using technology by solving their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient, and time-bound manner

5. Minister Narayan Rane launches the revamped CGTMSE Scheme

Note: Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has launched the revamped Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme. Modifications: Reduction in guarantee fees for loans upto ₹1 crore by 50% bringing the minimum guarantee fee to the level of 0.37% pa only. Raising of ceiling for guarantee from ₹2 crore to ₹ 5 crore. Enhanced the threshold limit for claim settlement without initiation of legal action to ₹10 lakh.

Government Committees

April – August 2023

1. Ban diesel four-wheelers in cities with 10 lakh population, says panel

Note: According to a report commissioned by the oil ministry, India should ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population by 2027 and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles. The report of the committee headed by former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor. The panel has also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035. These steps will help India achieve the goal of cutting its emissions to net zero by 2070.

2. Irdai sets up expert panel for matters related to mental health

Note: Insurance Regulator, IRDAI has constituted a five-member expert committee to advise it on matters related to mental health and insurance. The committee is headed by Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore. The panel will

advise on coverages offered/to be offered under insurance products, for mental illnesses. The panel will also provide expert advice/inputs on terminology, concept and the like on matters relating to mental illnesses from the medical domain perspective.

3. Sebi reconstitutes intermediary advisory committee

Note: SEBI has formed an Intermediary Advisory Committee to advise the market regulator on changes in the legal framework. The committee will also advise SEBI on increasing transparency in the functioning of market intermediaries like stock exchanges, clearing corporations, etc. The committee is chaired by former Sebi executive director S Ravindran. Other members: Ashish Chauhan (CEO of NSE) and Sundararaman Ramamurthy (CEO of BSE), representatives from the broking community, legal, and FI

4. **RBI committee proposes new rules to improve customer service standards**

Note: RBI has set up a committee for Review of Customer Service Standards in RBI Regulated Entities (REs), under the chairmanship of former deputy governor BP Kanungo. Suggestions: The operations of accounts should not be stopped pending periodic KYC updates. The committee has also suggested measures for the benefit of pensioners. There should be a time limit for the return of property documents to borrowers after the closure of the loan account, failing which a penalty should be imposed on the lender.

5. **Govt constitutes panel led by former Law Secy T K Vishwanathan to recommend reforms in arbitration law**

Note: The Department of Legal Affairs under the Union law ministry, has set up a panel to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. The committee would be led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan. Aim: To reduce the burden on courts. Other members: Rajiv Mani (Law Ministry additional secretary), some senior advocates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, NHAI, railways, and CPWD

6. **IBA sets up 5-member group to implement RBI committee's recommendations on ARCs**

Note: The 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". 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. Group members: Ajit Kumar (MD, Secondary Loan Market Association); Hari Hara Mishra (CEO, Association of ARCs in India); Mythili

Balasubramanian (Executive Director, Edelweiss ARC); and Dharmendra Pali (senior officials, SBI); and Anupama Ranade, (senior officials, ICICI Bank).

7. **Government of India Forms New Standing Committee on Statistics to Enhance Oversight of NSO Data**

Note: The government has set up a new oversight mechanism for official data, replacing the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS). 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.

8. **Central Vigilance Commission reconstitutes advisory board on bank frauds**

Note: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as CBI. The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by former CVC Suresh N Patel. There are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years.

9. **Modi government sets up high power committee to review DRDO**

Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has set up a nine-member committee of experts to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The committee headed by Prof K VijayRaghavan to review and redefine the role of the department and submit a report within three months. Prof Vijay Raghavan is a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and one of the key architects of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Honor & Awards

August 2023

1. The Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 in Pune conferred to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
Note: The 41st recipient of this award will be the PM. Every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, this award is bestowed upon individuals who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions to the progress and development of the nation. To inaugurate the services of the completed second phase of the Pune Metro, the PM will flag off the metro rail.
2. **Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd** received the prestigious "Best Managed Pharmaceutical Sustainable Organizations 2023" award.
Note: While Deepak Shenoy, Managing Director of Medec Dragon was honored as the "Global Visionary Entrepreneur of the year 2023" at the 6th Edition of South Asia Pacific Healthcare Summit & Business Award 2023. The event was organized by BrandsCouncil Ratings & Medilinks in Mumbai. The awards were presented by India's first Mrs. World, Aditi Govitrikar.
3. **Manoj Bajpayee** bagged the 'Best Actor' trophy, the film's cinematographer Piyush Puty won the award for 'Best Cinematography' at the Durban International Film Festival 2023
Note: The film is a psychological thriller about a hunted displaced man who is on the run to protect his daughter directed by Devashish Makhija. The film also deals with issues such as social inequalities, injustice with the tribal communities and deforestation.
4. **Mrunal Thakur** was honoured with the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023.
Note: The recognition comes as she completes a year of having made her debut in South Indian Cinema with Telugu film Sita Ramam (2022). The award is a recognition of her versatile performances across films of different languages. The actor, who made her film with "Love Sonia", and then featured in movies such "Super 30", "Toofan", "Jersey".
5. **Tamil Nadu** bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation.
Note: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation award to Health Minister Ma Subramanian at the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day function held in New Delhi. Tamil Nadu leads all Indian states in organ donations with 1,705 people donating their organs and saving 6,247 human lives.
6. **Karnataka** Road Transport Corporation has won Asia's Best Brand Employer Award 2023 under the category 'Organisation with Innovative HR Practices'.
Note: It was announced at the 14th edition of the 18th Brand Congress and would be presented on August 17 in Singapore. KSRTC: It was inaugurated by the Mysore Road Transport Department on 12 September 1948. Later it was converted to an independent corporation and renamed Karnataka Road Transport Corporation.
7. **Chairman Subhash Runwal** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards.
Note: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is a global industry body representing professionals across the country. Aim: To acknowledge outstanding accomplishments in both global and Indian industries, showcasing the commitment to the highest levels of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams working within built and natural environments.
8. **Kanwardeep Kaur** was named as the recipient of the 'Union Home Minister's Medal of Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2023.
Note: She was given the award for her outstanding investigative work in a minor's rape case, which resulted in the accused being sentenced to death within 11 months of committing the crime. She worked the case when she was the SSP of Kapurthala district.
9. **954** police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day.
Note: The President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to the Central Reserve Police Force's Assistant Commandant Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh. The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229 police personnel. President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 642.
10. **District Kupwara** has been conferred with the award for the "Best Performer District 2023 in UT of J&K under PMAY-G" by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor J&K UT, held at Srinagar.
Note: Kupwara has received the award in recognition of the construction of 4723 PMAY houses out of a target of 4902 houses for FY 2022-23. PMAY-G is successfully fulfilled the dream of several poor and vulnerable families having their own Pucca house in frontier Kupwara district.
11. **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) Team** won Gold Award under Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Complaints in Aug 2023.
Note: ABOUT NAFIS: NAFIS helps in the quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of a centralized fingerprint database. It assigns a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to each person arrested for a crime.
12. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred **76** Gallantry awards to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023.
Note: Awards include: Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously) – 4, Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous) – 11, Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry) - 2,

- Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 52, Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) -3, Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) - 4
13. **53** personnel have been awarded Fire Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023.
Note: Awards Include: President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service has been awarded to 8. Personnel and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to 41. The President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to 3. The Personnel and Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to 1 personnel for their acts of valour and gallantry
 14. **Raj Chetty** has been awarded Harvard University's coveted George Ledlie Prize 2023 for wielding big data to break myths about who achieves the American Dream.
Note: The award is given every two years to a member of the Harvard community who has made the most valuable contribution to science or in any way for the benefit of mankind. He is also director of Opportunity Insights, a group of economists based at Harvard who studies inequality.
 15. The Matti banana variety, native to **Kanniyakumari** district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
Note: There are six known types of the Matti banana and they are indigenous to Kanniyakumari. They are known as 'Baby Banana' which flourishes mainly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. Its low total soluble solids content (TSSC) recommends it as a baby food. This GI tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.
 16. **Ratan Tata** conferred the first-ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
Note: The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The aim of the Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Awards is to honour those people and groups who have significantly impacted Maharashtra's business, industry, education, financial services, fashion, and other sectors.
 17. **Allu Arjun** won the Best Actor award at the 69th National Film Awards.
Note: He was awarded for his movie 'Pushpa: The Rise' (Directed by: Sukumar). Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won the Best Actress award for their phenomenal roles in Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively. Other awards: Best Feature Film: Rocketry. Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan (Godavari). Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR. Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files.
 18. **Indore** was awarded with the national smart city award 2022.
Note: While MP received the state award and Chandigarh received the UT award. Aim: To provide core infrastructure, clean environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'. It includes 35 in Project Award, six in Innovation Award, 13 in the National/Zonal City Award, five in State/UT Award and seven in Partner Award categories.
 19. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was awarded with 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' award by Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou.
Note: This is the second-highest civilian honour in Greece. The Greek State Honours the Prime Minister of India, a statesman who has tirelessly promoted the global reach of his country and who works systematically for India's economic progress and prosperity, bringing about bold reforms.

July 2023

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 “Timely Payments” 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.

June 2023

1. **AIIMS Nagpur** has become the first of all AIIMS to receive **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) accreditation**. **Note:** The NABH accreditation is a globally recognized standard for healthcare quality. It assesses the performance of hospitals in various areas including patient care, safety, and organizational efficiency. AIIMS Nagpur achieved this accreditation by demonstrating its commitment to excellence in all areas.
2. **Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking** was honored with the prestigious '**Climate And Health**' award at the **UITP Awards 2023, Barcelona**. **Note:** Additionally, BEST Undertaking was recognized as one of the top three finalists in the 'Public And Urban Transport Strategy' category. UITP Awards are highly sought-after prizes in the field of public transport. Recently, the **BEST was also awarded for 'Smart Mobility' category by FICCI**.
3. **Suriname President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi** has conferred **Suriname's highest civilian honor, The Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star, to President of India Droupadi Murmu**. **Note:** She is the **first Indian** to receive this award. During her visit to Suriname, both countries signed MoUs in the fields of health, agriculture, and capacity building. These MoUs include a Joint Work Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the **period of 2023-2027**.
4. **Jagdish Bakan** has won the **2023 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management from UNESCO**. **Note:** The 2017 batch officer of the IFS is currently the **director of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**. The USD 12,000 award is given in memory of Dr. Michel Batisse for outstanding achievement in the management of biosphere reserves. He will receive the award from Unesco in Paris on June 14, 2023.
5. **Author Paterson Joseph** was conferred with the **2023 Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize**

for his debut novel '**The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho**'.

Note: This book is a historical fiction novel that tells the story of Charles Ignatius Sancho, who was the first Black man to vote in England RSL Christopher Bland Prize: It is an annual award that is awarded to a debut writer for their work of fiction or non-fiction. **Cash Prize: £10,000**

6. **Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom** has won the **£5,000 Elizabeth Longford Prize 2023** for Historical Biography. **Note:** This book was **authored by Ramachandra Guha**. This book tells the story of seven foreigners (4 British, 2 American, and 1 Iris) who joined India's freedom struggle. The list includes Annie Besant, B.G. Horniman, Philip Spratt, Richard Ralph Keithahn, Samuel Stokes, Madeline Slade, and Catherine Mary Heilemann. Prize money: £5,000
7. **Geological Survey of India Training Institute** has been awarded **accreditation as 'Athi Uttam' by the National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET)**. **Note:** The assessment was made on the basis of the inspection of all standard operating procedures and methodologies. The team of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), NABET, and Quality Control of India conducted the on-site assessment. **GSITI was established in 1976** and its headquarters located in Hyderabad.
8. **EPFO** will gain access to professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services, and support from the **International Social Security Association (ISSA)**. **Note:** The move comes after the central board of trustees of EPFO gave its approval to change its membership status with ISSA from associate member to affiliate member now. The organization became an **associate member in 1962**. Other than EPFO, the **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation is the only ISSA affiliate member from India**.

9. **RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das** was honored with the title of 'Governor of the Year 2023' by Central Banking in London.
Note: Reason: For his role in managing inflation and handling India's banking system during crises like the COVID pandemic and global turmoils. He is the second RBI governor after Raghuram Rajan, who was honored with this title in 2015. While the National Bank of Ukraine was presented with the 2023 Central Bank of the Year.
10. **Kiya. ai** has unveiled its version of the metaverse called Bharatmeta at the prestigious VivaTech event held in Paris 2023.
Note: The demonstration took place at the India Pavilion during the event 'VivaTech'. VivaTech is recognized as Europe's largest annual technology and startup gathering. Bharatmeta offers practical use cases for banking, commerce, culture, and collaboration within the metaverse.
11. **Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi'.
Note: The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in the leading French publishing group, Gallimard. The award ceremony will take place on September 12 at the Lausanne Palace. At the award ceremony, Arundhati Roy will discuss the environment and globalization, caste and language.
12. **Gita Press, Gorakhpur** has been selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 in recognition of its outstanding contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
Note: The award given by the Ministry of Culture, the Gandhi Peace Prize carries an amount of one crore rupees, a citation, and a plaque. Gita Press was established in 1923, having published over 41 crore books in 14 languages.
13. **British-American author, Salman Rushdie** has been selected for the prestigious German Peace Prize 2023 for his literary work and his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger.
Note: He would receive the award in Frankfurt on October 22, 2023. Cash prize: €25,000 (\$27,300). This prize was established in 1950 to recognize a personality committed to serving international understanding between nations and cultures through their work.
14. **Acharya N. Gopi** has been selected for the first-ever Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award, instituted by Bharat Jagruthi.
Note: The award would be presented to Acharya Gopi at an event to be organized at Telangana Saraswatha Parishath in Abids on June 21. The award has been instituted for honoring the litterateurs every year. Acharya Gopi has penned 56 books including 26
- compilations of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books.
15. **IndiGo** has won a top award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia at the prestigious 2023 Skytrax World Airline Awards.
Note: It is the thirteenth time that IndiGo has won this award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia. Recently, IndiGo has placed a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft, which will provide IndiGo with a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035.
16. **Priya A S** has been named the prestigious (Kendra) Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023.
Note: She was awarded for children's literature in Malayalam for her 2018 novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal. She won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel in 2020. The book was featured in the Sammanapothi series by Poorna Books. Bal Sahitya Puraskar consists of a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.
17. Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has conferred the 'Order of the Nile' to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
Note: The 'Order of the Nile' was instituted in 1915, which is conferred upon heads of state, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services. Over the last 9 years, PM Modi has received many international awards and this is the 13th highest state honour conferred upon PM Modi.
18. **Shankar MahadevanShankar Mahadevan** was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University (BCU) in London, England.
Note: Reason: To celebrate his contribution to music and the arts. He was honoured by the BCU Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Plowden at the ceremony. He was accompanied by fellow musicians Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin at the ceremony.
19. **Dr. K. Venugopal** has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day on July 1.
Note: He was selected under the category of community service. He will receive the award at a function to be held at IMA headquarters in New Delhi on July 1. Indian Medical Association was formed in 1928 & is headquartered in New Delhi.
20. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak honored **Rajindar Singh Dhatt** with a Points of Light award on June 28th, 2023.
Note: He was recognized for his service and work running the 'Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association'. The Points of Light award recognize outstanding people whose service is making a difference in their communities and whose stories can inspire others towards innovative solutions to social challenges in their own communities and beyond.

1. **Meera Syal** has been conferred a **BAFTA Fellowship**, the highest accolade bestowed by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
Note: Recognition: For an outstanding and exceptional contribution to film/television. She was honored with an MBE and then a CBE by the late Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to drama and literature. She is **best known for television shows** such as 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42'.
2. The **Cannes Film Festival** will honor **Michael Douglas** with an **honorary Palme d'Or**.
Note: Reason: For his outstanding career and **contributions to cinema**. He will be honoured during the festival's opening ceremony on May 16. Douglas has worked in various films like The China Syndrome, Basic Instinct, Falling Down, and Behind the Candelabra.
3. **Former Lok Sabha MP Pandit Ramkishan** was awarded the title of "**Shatabdi Purush**" (**Man of the Century**) in New Delhi.
Note: Reason: For his **contributions as a socialist leader**. The honor was bestowed on him during the birth centenary celebrations of Madhu Limaye (renowned socialist ideologue and parliamentarian). Ramkishan is considered the most senior and iconic figure in Indian socialism and has been recognized as the "Socialist Shatabdi Purush".
4. **UNESCO** has awarded its annual **World Press Freedom Prize** to **three imprisoned Iranian female journalists**.
Note: The winners, **Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi**. They were recognized for their work in reporting on human rights abuses in Iran and their commitment to truth and accountability.
20. With **Hernan Diaz (Argentina Writer)**, Barbara Kingsolver (American Novelist) has shared the **Pulitzer Prize 2023** in the fiction category.
Note: Barbara Kingsolver was awarded for her novel '**Demon Copperhead**' and Hernan Diaz won for his novel '**Trust**'. Drama: English, by Sanaz Toossi; Biography: G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century, by Beverly Gage (Viking); Memoir or Autobiography: Stay True, by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
21. ICC has named **Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman** as ICC Men's Player of the **Month for April 2023**.
Note: While Thailand's skipper **Naruemol Chaiwai** as **ICC Women's Player of the Month**. Fakhar Zaman: He becomes the first Pakistani player to win the monthly accolade since Sidra Ameen in November 2022. Naruemol Chaiwai: She chipped in with 55 runs across the T20I series that followed, her 29 in the second T20I helping her side edge out Zimbabwe in a five-wicket win.
22. **Argentina footballer, Lionel Messi** has been named the **Sportsman of the Year at the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards**.
Note: He was awarded for his remarkable achievements on the pitch in the past year, which included leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup. Sportswoman of the Year: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica) Athletics, **Team of the Year: Argentina Men's Football Team**, Breakthrough: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) Tennis, Comeback: Christian Eriksen (Denmark) Football
23. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred **37 Gallantry awards** to the personnel of the **Armed Forces, CAPF, and State or Union Territory Police** during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) in New Delhi.
Note: The 37 Gallantry awards include **eight Kirti Chakras** (including five posthumous) and **29 Shaurya Chakras** (including five posthumous). The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty
24. **Prof Jayant V. Narlikar**, who was awarded the **first-ever Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).
Note: He was also a **founder director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)** in Pune. The ASI instituted the award in 2022 to recognize eminent Indian astronomers for their contributions to the field of astronomy and astrophysics. Prof Narlikar is known for his study of the Universe.
25. Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General **Anil Chauhan** has conferred **CDS Unit Citations award** to the Strategic Forces Command, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad and **2 PARA (Special Forces)**.
Note: Reason: For their **exemplary performance for the Year 2021-22**. The CDS unit citations award was constituted after the establishment of the Office of Chief of Defence Staff in 2019. Aim: To boost jointness and integration in the Armed Forces
26. **Musharraf Ali Farooqi** has won the inaugural edition of the **Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature** in Translation.
Note: He **translated Siddique Alam's 'The Kettledrum and Other Stories' from Urdu to English**. The book will be published by Open Letter Books in 2024. The Armory Square Prize for translation was instituted by the American venture capitalist firm Armory Square. Aim: To recognize literature from underrepresented traditions
27. **Saantinketan** has been recommended for **inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List**, is the home of **Rabindra Nath Tagore**.
Note: The quaint town in West Bengal's Birbhum district is also home to the Visva-Bharti University built by Tagore. Santiniketan, over 160 km from Kolkata, was originally an ashram built by Tagore's father Debendranath Tagore. India has a total of 40 sites that enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage tag.

28. **Writer Arinze Ifeakandu** has won **Swansea University's Dylan Thomas Prize 2023** for a "kaleidoscopic reflection of queer life and love in Nigeria".
Note: Dylan Thomas Prize is a recognition of literary works by authors aged 39 or under and is one of the most prestigious awards for young writers. His **debut book is God's Children Are Little Broken Things**, which is a collection of nine short stories on the themes of queer life, love, and humanity.
29. **Ben Whishaw** has received the **best leading actor award** for his role in **'This is Going to Hurt (BBC One)' at the BAFTA TV Awards 2023**.
Note: **Kate Winslet won the leading actress award for her role in I Am Ruth** (Channel 4). Drama series: Bad Sisters (Apple TV Plus). Mini-series: Mood (BBC Three). International: Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story (Netflix). Supporting actor: Adeel Akhtar – Sherwood (BBC One)
30. **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has conferred the **National Technology Awards 2023** in five categories i.e. Main, MSME, Startup, Translational Research, and Technology Business Incubator.
Note: **T-Hub Foundation, Telangana has received the National Technology Awards 2023** in Technology Business Incubator. T-Hub (Technology Hub) is an innovation hub and ecosystem enabler. T-Hub leads India's pioneering innovation ecosystem and is the world's largest innovation campus.
31. **Gauri** has been awarded the **'Best Long Documentary Award'** at the **South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023**.
Note: This documentary was **directed by Kavitha Lankesh**. It is based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017. This film was commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam. The Free Press Unlimited mission stems from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
32. **Uttar Pradesh** has received the **Geographical Indications (GI) tags** for three more ODOP crafts **Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft**.
Note: Uttar Pradesh has **now 48 GI tags**. Among the 48 GI goods of UP, 36 products belong to the handicraft category. Tamil Nadu has a maximum of 55 GI-tagged goods while UP and Karnataka have 48 and 46 GI products respectively. Tarkashi is a technique of inlaying brass, copper, or silver wires in wood.
33. **N Chandrasekaran** was conferred with **France's highest civilian honor, 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur'**, by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna.
Note: He was awarded for his role in developing and **fostering commercial links between India and France**. N Chandrasekaran was appointed the chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 and later, was given a second term in the role for another five years.
34. **Harrison Ford** was honored with the **prestigious Palme D'Or award for lifetime achievement** at the **76th Cannes Film Festival 2023**.
Note: He received the award before the premiere of his film **'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny'**. It is an annual film festival, held in Cannes France from 16 to 27 May 2023. The festival opened with Jeanne du Barry (directed by Maïwenn). The festival will close with Elemental directed by Peter Sohn
35. **Two-lifetime achievement awards to Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum and Peter Piot** at the 76th World Health Assembly held in Geneva on May 21.
Note: **Professor Muyembe-Tamfum from Congo** is being recognized for his innovation and contributions to the management and treatment of diseases such as Ebola virus disease. Professor Piot from Belgium is being recognized for his leadership in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
36. **Veteran actor, Kamal Haasan** honored with the **Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award** at the 23rd IIFA Awards 2023, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Note: He was awarded various awards including Padma Shri (1990), Padma Bhushan (2014), and Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2016. While Ritesh Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza will be honored with **Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema**. **Manish Malhotra** will also receive the Outstanding Achievement in Fashion in Cinema.
37. **Chandigarh** has received the **first rank in the best Urban Local Body category** of the **National Water Award 2022**.
Note: The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation declared the **4th National Water Award in 2022**. The Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Awards were launched in 2007. Aim: To encourage all stakeholders for adopting innovative practices of groundwater augmentation through rainwater harvesting.
38. **PM Modi** has been conferred with the **highest honors by Fiji and Papua New Guinea**.
Note: He was conferred with the **"The Companion of the Order of Fiji"** by his **Fijian PM, Sitiveni Rabuka** for his global leadership. While Papua New Guinea conferred its highest civilian order, Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries. PM Modi is on a visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the third India-Pacific Islands Cooperation Summit.
39. **Thalapathy Vijay** has received the **Best Actor Award at the Osaka Tamil International Film Festival** held in Japan.
Note: He was awarded for **his performance in 'Master' (directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj)**, released in 2021.

- While **Kangana Ranaut has bagged the Best Actress Award** for her performance in *Thalaivii*. Other winners: Best Tamil Film: *Sarpatta Parambarai*; Best Director: Pa. Ranjith (*Sarpatta Parambarai*); Best Supporting Actor: K. Manikandan; Best Supporting Actress: Lijomol Jose
40. **Georgi Gospodinov has bagged the 2023 International Booker Prize for their book 'Time Shelter'**.
Note: Translated by: Angela Rodel. It is the first book originally written in Bulgarian to be nominated for the award. The prize has recognized fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland in the year leading up to the award. Prize money: 50,000 pounds (about \$62,000) shared equally between the author and translator
41. **Three Indians have been honored posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.**
Note: India's Permanent Representative at UN Ambassador **Ruchira Kamboj** has received the medal in honor of three Indian peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2022. BSF Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi have served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While Shaber Taher Ali served in a civilian capacity with UNAMI
42. **Hrithik Roshan has bagged the Best Actor award at the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023 held in Abu Dhabi.**
Note: He was awarded for **his performance in Vikram Vedha**. While **Alia Bhatt also won the Best Actor (Female) award** for *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. Best Film: *Drishyam 2*. Best Director: R Madhavan (*Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*). Supporting Role: Best Actor (Female): Mouni Roy (*Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva*); Best Actor(Male): Anil Kapoor (*Jugg Jugg Jeeyo*)
43. Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai has presented the **57th Jnanpith Award**, the country's highest literary honor, to **Goan writer Damodar Mauzo**.
- Note:** 25 books have been **published in Konkani and one in English**. Many of his books have also been translated into different languages. In 1983, he has conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Karmelin'. He is the second Goan to receive the Jnanpith Award, after Ravindra Kelekar, who received the award in 2008.
44. **'Anatomy of a Fall' (directed by Justine Triet) was conferred with the Palme d'Or, the highest prize at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.**
Note: She is the **third woman director to win Cannes' top honour**. Other awardees: Honorary Palme d'Or: Michael Douglas; Best Actress: Merve Dizdar (for *About Dry Grasses*); Best Actor: Kōji Yakusho (*For Perfect Days*); Best Director: Tran Anh Hung (*For The Pot-Au-Feu*); Short Film Palme d'Or: 27 (directed by Flóra Anna Buda)
45. The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has conferred the award in the 'Smart Mobility' category to Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (BEST).**
Note: Reason: Pioneering efforts in adopting green and sustainable practices. The BEST has been working on its transformation for 2 years, such as 10,000 Electric Buses, Digital Tickets on NCMC and BEST Chalo App, First And Last Mile Services, and Mobility-As-A-Service (MaaS).
46. **RINL has conferred the prestigious "GreenTech Safety Award 2023" under Safety Excellence Category at the 21st Annual Greentech awards function.**
Note: Reason: For its outstanding contribution to improving workplace safety in 2022-23. The 21st Annual Greentech Awards was organized by the Greentech Foundation to recognize the organizations that are taking responsibility for defining a commercial future by adding value through excellence in fire, safety, and security management.

April 2023

1. **Anjali Sharma of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh has conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa**, wearing Lunachari.
Note: She is working to **promote Gaddi culture** on the peaks of the mountains. Lunachari is a traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh. Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) is the tallest mountain in Africa and the world's largest free-standing mountain. It has three main volcanic peaks namely Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
2. **Kiran Nadar was conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain in April 2023.**
Note: Reason: In recognition of her **contribution to the field of art**, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties. She is a chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.
3. Bihar's **West Champaran** was awarded the **GI tag for its 'Mircha' rice**.
Note: The size and shape of the **grain appear like that of black pepper**, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice. This rice is famous for its aroma, palatability, and its aromatic chura (rice flakes) making qualities. The cooked rice is fluffy, non-sticky, sweet, and easily digestible with a popcorn-like aroma.
4. Former Indian cricket team captain, **MS Dhoni** was named among the five Indians to have been inducted with the **Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) honorary life membership**.
Note: Other four Indian Cricketers: Yuvraj Singh, Maithali Raj, Suresh Raina, and Jhulan Goswami. MS Dhoni

had featured in 538 international games across formats, scoring over 17,000 runs during the same. Yuvraj Singh was an integral part of the Indian team that won the first T20 World Cup in 2007.

- An Indian-American physician and professor, **Dr. Nitya Abraham** was honored with the **Young Urologist of the Year Award** by the **American Urological Association (AUA)**.

Note: She is an **Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College** of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency program. Other honorees: Rena Malik, Jesse D. Sammon, Sarah Vij, Alexander J. Ernest, Kerri Thurmon, Zachary Klaassen, and Yahir Santiago-Lastra

- According to the data shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** has secured the **ninth position** in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022. **Note:** As per the data, this airport is handling 59.5 million passengers annually. IGI Airport has improved its ranking from 2021 (13th). **Top: Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** (93.6 million passengers)

- The **Bharat Biotech** has won the **'Best Production /Process Development'** award as part of the **Vaccine Industry Excellence (VIE) awards** at the World Vaccine Congress 2023.

Note: The event was held during April 3-6 in Washington, USA. It is the **world's first producer of intranasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNcovacc**. World Vaccine Congress: It is the largest global meeting dedicated to vaccines, from basic research to commercial manufacture, it covers the whole vaccine value chain.

- An Indian-American mathematician and statistician, **Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao** (102) will be awarded the **2023 International Prize in Statistics** in July 2023.

Note: Reason: For his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionized statistical thinking. He is currently a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University and Research Professor at University at Buffalo. He will receive the prize, with an \$80,000 award. It is awarded every two years to an individual or team.

- Retired Indian track and field athlete, **PT Usha** has been awarded an **Honorary Doctorate Degree by the Central University of Kerala** at Sabarmati Hall, Periya Campus.

Note: She was conferred by **Vice Chancellor Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu**. She has won 33 medals including 19 gold in the Asian Games and Asian Championship. She was the first Indian athlete to win medals in four consecutive Asian Games and also won six medals including five gold in the Jakarta Asian Athletic Meet in 1985.

- Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla** has received the AIMA's Business Leader of the Decade Award 2023.

Note: Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Jyotiraditya M Scindia has presented the 13th AIMA

Managing India Awards. AIMA JRD Tata Corporate Leadership: TV Narendran, CEO and MD of Tata Steel. Transformational Business Leader: Sanjiv Bajaj, MD of Bajaj Finserv. Outstanding Institution Builder: Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor

- Union HM Amit Shah has presented the Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2022 to **Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari** at Raigarh, Maharashtra.

Note: He has played a significant role in organizing several tree plantation drives, blood donation drives, free medical clinics, and job fairs. Award: A shawl, citation and memento, and a cheque of Rs 25 lakh. He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2017. His father Dr. Narayan Vishnu Dharmadhikari was also awarded the Maharashtra Bhushan in 2008.

- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has been accorded the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Note: SECI was incorporated in the year 2011 and is the primary implementing agency of the ministry for renewable energy schemes/ projects towards fulfillment of India's international commitments. As of date, SECI has awarded RE project capacities of over 56 GW.

- Nandini Gupta** has been crowned the 59th edition of the beauty pageant, **Femina Miss India World 2023**.

Note: Meanwhile, Shreya Poonja from Delhi and Thounaojam Strela Luwang from Manipur were announced as the first runner-up and second runner-up, respectively. She hails from Kota, Rajasthan, and holds a Business Management degree. Femina Miss India 2023 was held at Indoor Stadium, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, Manipur.

- Karnataka** has bagged the national award for the best implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the country.

Note: The state has recorded a 47.74% increase in the enrolment of farmers under the scheme, between the Kharif season 2021 and 2022. While the area covered under the scheme increased by 41.80%. The common service centers have also seen an enrolment of 4.66 lakh non-loanee farmers over the last six years.

- Utsa Patnaik** has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023.

Note: It is granted for outstanding contributions to Development Studies. The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh. The award is given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. It is annually given to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury.

- Former Chancellor Angela Merkel** has received the highest Order of Merit of Germany from the President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Note: The award has only been given twice before, to former chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. All three former leaders belong to the conservative

Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The Order of Merit entails no financial reward. Merkel led Germany from 2005 to 2021, totaling four terms in office.

- 17. Legendary singer Asha Bhosle** will be felicitated with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award on April 24, the Memorial Day of theatre-music veteran Deenanath Mangeshkar.

Note: The family and the trust have instituted the award in memory of Lata Mangeshkar, who died on February 6, 2022. This award was aimed to honor people from various fields such as music, drama, art, medicine, and social work. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was its first recipient.

- 18. National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme** of the Union Health Ministry received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 under the innovation category.

Note: The award was received by Rajesh Bhushan (Secretary, Ministry of Health) from PM Narendra Modi. PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative received an award for excellence in public administration 2022 in the 'Innovation (Central)' category.

- 19. Wing Commander Deepika Misra** was conferred the Vayu Sena medal by Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal VR Chaudhari.

Note: She becomes the first woman Air Force officer to receive a gallantry award. She is a trained helicopter pilot, a qualified flying instructor, and an instrument-rated instructor and examiner. She was among 58 personnel who received the gallantry award during the investiture ceremony held in New Delhi.

- 20. The West Stand at Sharjah cricket stadium** has been renamed after Indian former cricketer, Sachin Tendulkar in a special ceremony in the UAE, honouring the Indian cricket legend on his 50th birthday.

Note: Sharjah Cricket Stadium holds the Guinness record for most One-Day internationals played (244). The gate at the Sydney Cricket Ground was also named after Sachin Tendulkar on his 50th birthday. CEO of Sharjah Stadium: Khalaf Bukhatir

- 21. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded the country's prestigious HUDCO Award for 2022-2023.

Note: It was awarded in the Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2022-23 category for cleanliness. The award was presented by the secretary of MoHUA, Manoj Joshi to Neha Sharma (State mission director, UP). Cash Prize: 1 Lakh Rupees. This campaign was organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Uttar Pradesh from January 14 to 24, 2023.

- 22. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL)** has been awarded the Global Gold Award 2023 by The Green Organization.

Note: Reason: For improving Agriculture Productivity and Rural Livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi, Odisha. The Director (Personnel) of POWERGRID, Dr. V. K. Singh received the award.

- 23. Bombay IIT's SHUNYA team** has secured second place in Solar Decathlon Build Challenge in the United States.

Note: Reason: For their innovative zero-energy house designed to address air quality challenges in Mumbai's hot and humid climate. SHUNYA refers to Sustainable Housing for Urbanizing Nation by its Young Aspirants. It is a student-driven technical team of IIT Bombay working to build a sustainable future.

- 24. Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama** has received the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award by members of the award foundation personally after 64 years.

Note: It was the first international award given for his Community Leadership in recognition of his leadership of the Tibetan community's gallant struggle in defense of the sacred religion that is the inspiration of their life and culture. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called the Nobel Prize of Asia.

- 25. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL)** has bagged Steel Ministry's "Ispat Rajbhasha Samman" for the year 2021-22.

Note: The award was presented by the MoS for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste to CMD, RINL Atul Bhatt, in the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti held at Srinagar. The minister also released RINL's March issue of Hindi In-house Magazine "Rashtriya Ispat Sugandh". The members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti appreciated various activities being undertaken by RINL.

- 26. Maria Stepanova** has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023.

Note: She was honored in Leipzig for her volume of poetry "Mädchen ohne Kleider" (Girls Without Clothes). It is described as a sensitive and highly poetic study of often hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression. About Leipzig Book Award: Literary prizes in Germany. Prize money: 20,000 euros

- 27. Rajkumar Rao** has been awarded the Best Male Actor award for his role in Badhaai Do at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 28, 2023.

Note: Alia Bhatt was awarded Best Actor (Female) for Gangubai Kathiawadi. Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi. Best Film (Critics'): Badhaai Do. Best Actor (Critics'): Sanjay Mishra (Vadh). Best Actress (Critics'): Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do) and Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2). Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)

August 2023

1. Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Avneet Kaur bagged gold medals each in the individual events in World University Games 2023 in China, are associated with **Archery**.
Note: Indian archers defeated South Africa's de Klerk in a finale. India bagged a total of nine gold, three silver, and five bronze medals, securing fourth position. China with 17 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals, followed by Korea with 10 gold, 10 silver, and 5 bronze medals, and Japan with 10 gold, 6 silver, and 7 bronze medals.
2. **Polish Player Iga Swiatek** secured her fourth Women's Tennis Association title of the year 2023 by defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund in Warsaw.
Note: He currently holds the position of world No. 1 in singles according to the Women's Tennis Association rankings. She has earned the title of four-time major singles champion, conquering the French Open in 2020, 2022, and 2023 as well as the US Open in 2022. She became the first player from Poland to achieve a major singles title.
3. Stuart Broad announced his retirement, is associated with **Cricket**.
Note: He sits fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets. He has also played in 167 test matches, 121 one-day internationals, and 56 international T20 games. In Test cricket, he stands as the sole English player boasting two hat-tricks to his credit. Broad is only the second fast bowler and second bowler for England to reach the milestone.
4. **Viktor Axelsen** beat Indonesian Jonatan Christie to bag the men's singles title at the Japan Open 2023 in Tokyo.
Note: While Korean An Se-young outplayed He Bing Jiao of China to win the women's singles crown. World number one Axelsen, who recently retained his European title in Poland, to win his third BWF title of the year. In the women's singles, world number two is Se Young from Korea.
5. Former Uruguay captain Diego Godin announced his retirement from **Professional football** after a remarkable career spanning two decades.
Note: He made 627 professional appearances, scored 38 goals, and earned 10 titles, including two Europa League trophies and three UEFA Super Cups, all during his captaincy at Atletico Madrid. He participated in four World Cups and spent a significant part of his club career in Spain.
6. **Grandmaster Gukesh D** has become as India's top chess player, surpassing Viswanathan Anand in Aug 2023.
Note: He qualified for the third round of FIDE World Cup 2023, secured victory against Azerbaijani Misratdin Iskandarov. He holds a live rating of 2755. 9 in Classic chess, slightly edging out Anand, whose live rating stands at 2754. 0. He now holds the 9th position in the live rankings, while the five-time World champion Anand has slipped to 10th place.
7. At the World University Games 2023 in China, **Indian archery Aman Saini and Pragati** secured a gold medal in the mixed archery team.
Note: They defeat Korea's Sua Cho and Seunghyun Park to claim the top spot on the podium. Presently, India holds the fourth position in the overall medal standings. The bronze medal in the compound team event was secured by Ming-ching Lin and Z-wei Wu from Chinese Taipei. Indians won two more medals in archery in men's and women's team events.
8. **Aditi Swami** has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin.
Note: In the final, she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event. Conversely, India's Ojas Deotale also created history after defeating Lukasz Przybylski of Poland in a thrilling final to become the new world champion in Men's Individual compound event.
9. **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes.
Note: Aim: To motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games. This initiative will also motivate youngsters in the country to take up sports. A similar movie series, 'Olympics ki Aasha,' was launched before the Tokyo Olympics.
10. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the opening ceremony of **132nd** of Durand Cup today at SAI Stadium which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city.
Note: The mega event is being organized by the Indian Army in association with Assam Government and Bodo Territorial Region. The inaugural ceremony was followed by the opening match of the tournament between Bodoland FC and Rajasthan United FC.
11. In the Four Nations Para-Badminton International 2023 held in England, **Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam** men's doubles duo clinched a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category.
Note: They achieved this victory by defeating Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar. Bhagat secured a silver medal in the singles SL3 category, and he also teamed up with Manisha Ramdass to claim a silver medal in the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 category. Kadam won a bronze in the singles SL4 category.
12. Indian shuttler **HS Prannoy** won silver at the Australian Open Badminton 2023 final in Sydney.

- Note:** He went down fighting against World No. 24 Weng Hong Yang of China. He also bagged the silver medal in Boys' singles at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics. He followed it up with another silver, this time at the Bahrain International Challenge, in 2011.
13. **Savita** entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India in the women's 61kg weight division in World aCadet Wrestling Championships 2023 in Turkey.
Note: India bagged a total of 11 medals, including 1 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze at the World Cadet Wrestling Championship 2023 at Istanbul. It was the women's freestyle where India showed best by finishing third, only behind Japan and USA.
14. **69th** famed Nehru Trophy Boat Race 2023 would be held at the picturesque Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district in Kerala.
Note: 72 boats, including 19 Chundan Valloms or Snake Boats vying for the coveted trophy, will be participating in the boat race, held every year on the second Saturday of August. Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan would inaugurate the event. The current champion, Pallathuruthy Boat Club from Alappuzha, has bagged the Trophy thrice
15. **Bangladesh** appointed veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as its ODI captain for both the Asia Cup and the 2023 ODI World Cup.
Note: He had also led Bangladesh in 49 ODIs between 2009 and 2011, when he first became captain, and won 22 of those. He later captained Bangladesh in three more ODIs in 2015 and 2017, each time standing in for Mashrafe. Shakib has so far led Bangladesh in 19 Tests and 39 T20Is, and the last of his 50 ODIs as captain was in 2017.
16. **India** hockey team defeated Malaysia and won for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai.
Note: With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is in the first spot in the history of the tournament. Pakistan, with three titles, is in the second spot now. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin lauded Team India on their Asian Champions Trophy win and announced a cash prize of ₹1.1 crore for the winning team
17. **American golfer Lilia Vu** won the Women's British Open to claim her second major title of 2023 by defeating Charley Hull.
Note: She also won the Chevron Championship in April 2023, became the first female player to win two majors in the same year since Jin Young Ko in 2019, and the first American woman since Juli Inkster in 1999. Three of the five women's majors have been won by American this year 2023 Allisen Corpuz won the Women's U. S. Open title at Pebble Beach.
18. **Mohit Kumar** has become the Under 20 World Championship 2023 in the men's 61 Kg Freestyle category by defeating Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinovin in Jordan.
Note: He is the fourth male wrestler from India to earn a gold medal in the U20 World Championships, following Palwinder Cheema in 2001, Ramesh Kumar in 2001. Jaideep won the bronze in the 74kg category. Sagar Jaglan won the silver medal 79 kg category while Deepak Chahal won the bronze medal in 97 kg category.
19. **Priya Malik** clinched a Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships (women's 76kg freestyle) in Jordan by defeating Laura Celine Kuehn of Germany.
Note: She became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned U20 world championship. Antim Panghal had been the first woman from India to win a junior world title in wrestling at last year's edition. She has now won both the U17 2021 and 2022 and U20 world titles.
20. **Tamil Nadu** partnered with Racing Promotions Private Limited to launch India's first-ever night street racing circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.
Note: RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship. As for the track, it is a 3.5km layout, located around the Island Grounds that resides in the heart of the city. Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin has launched the circuit
21. Wahab Riaz announced retirement from international cricket in August 2023, is associated with **Pakistan**.
Note: In his career of 15 years, he played 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets from 154 internationals. The Pakistani paceman is fondly remembered for his fiery spell in the 2015 World Cup against Shane Watson. He will be remembered as one of the most popular and respected players in Pakistan's recent history.
22. The duo of Indian shooters, **Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal** won the gold medal at the 10m air pistol mixed event in the final of the ISSF World Championship 2023 at Baku, Azerbaijan.
Note: The Indian duo defeated the Turkish pair of Ilayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec 16-10 in the final match. Presently, India placed second on the medals table with a gold and a bronze medal, while China is leading the tally with five gold and two bronze medals.
23. **India** has secured Second Rank at the 16th International Olympiad 2023 on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Poland With Four Gold and One Silver Medal.
Note: The United Kingdom clinched the lead with five Golds. A total of 236 students from 50 nations participated at the Olympiad. Rajdeep Mishra from Kota, Rajasthan, Koduru Tejeswar from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Md. Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata, West Bengal, Akarsh Raj Sahay from Nagpur, Maharashtra were awarded Gold medals.
24. **R Pragganandhaa** becomes the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup 2023, defeated his higher-ranked opponent, Fabiano Caruana, in Baku.

- Note:** Out of four Indians, who had made it to the quarterfinals, Praggnanandhaa remains the only Indian in the fray. No Indian has reached the last four stage of the Chess World Cup, except Anand, who won the first two editions of the tournament in 2000 and 2002.
25. **Mehuli Ghosh** secured bronze medals behind the People's Republic of China's Jiayu Han and Zhilin Hang in the women's 10-meter air rifle event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku.
Note: This Championship 2023 was a qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics. A total of 48 Olympic quotas are on offer with the top four finishers (one per country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events. This was India's fourth Paris 2024 quota in shooting.
26. **Spain** secured their first FIFA Women's World Cup title 2023 by defeating England at the Accor Stadium in Sydney.
Note: Spain and Germany are now the only two nations to win both the men's and women's tournaments. The victory made La Roja the first team to hold the under-17, under-20 and senior world titles at the same time – and the fifth winner in nine editions of the Women's World Cup. Spanish captain Olga Carmona's first-half goal proved to be the difference maker
27. **Anahat Singh** has bagged the gold medal defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong in the U-17 category in the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships 2023 held in China.
Note: She also has a bronze medal win, at Macau in the U-13 category in 2019. She won the U-11 title during the British Junior Open Squash and by winning the U-13 title in the Dutch Junior Open Squash 2019. In 2021, she also reached the quarterfinals of the Indian Open held at Noida.
28. **Novak Djokovic** secured the Men's single title of Cincinnati Open 2023 after defeating Carlos Alcaraz of Spain.
Note: The win delivered Djokovic his 95th career title and 39th Masters 1000 crown. The Spaniard is currently ranked at number one in the ATP Tour rankings, with Djokovic ranked just behind him at number two. Djokovic is the only player in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across all three different surfaces
29. **Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya** clinched first-ever gold and silver respectively in the junior men's 72kg category at the World Para Powerlifting Championships 2023 in Dubai.
Note: Dabas lifted a best total of 135kg while Jograjya had his best total lift of 132kg. Dabas has two gold medals from the Dubai 2022 Fazza World Cup. India's only medal at a World Championships has been claimed by Parmjeet Kumar (men's -49kg) at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships.
30. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as **Asmita Women's League**.
- Note:** ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action. The Asmita Portal serves as a comprehensive resource, offering valuable insights into upcoming leagues among other features. It will enable any school, college, government, or private organization to host the 'Asmita Women's League.'
31. **33 Khelo India Centres (KIC)** in Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
Note: He also announced that a National Center of Excellence with a sports science center will be set up in Rajasthan along with an additional 18 KIC, thus taking the total number of KIC in the State to 51. The total number of KICs across India is 960, out of which 715 are operational KICs
32. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a sponsorship agreement with **Mastercard**.
Note: Under this deal, the brand has become a global partner for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which is set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. The advantages are to interact with legendary cricketers, see the Men's Cricket World Cup trophy up close, and gain special access to games.
33. **Amanpreet Singh** won the gold medal in the Men's 25 metre standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku.
Note: South Korea's Gunhyeok Lee had to settle for silver while France's Kevin Chapon secured a bronze. In the Women's 25-meter Standard Pistol shooting event, Tiwana, Yashita Shokeen, and Kritika bagged bronze.
34. The two medals on the day took India's tally in the Championship to nine - five gold and four bronze medals. **Rajeshwari Kumari** has secured a shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics.
Note: She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The ISSF World Championship 2023 serves as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024. The best four finishers (one from each country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events receive a seat on their national teams, giving a total of 48 shooters
35. **HS Prannoy** bagged a bronze medal in badminton at BWF World Championships 2023 in Denmark.
Note: He registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals at the Championships and went down to world number three position. This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships. This includes one gold, four silvers and nine bronze medals. China is the most successful team in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.
36. Indian women's visually impaired team won the T-20 final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023, held at **Birmingham**.
Note: The Indian team defeated Australia by nine wickets in the rain-interrupted match. The Indian men's blind cricket team lost to Pakistan in the IBSA World Games final to settle for a silver medal. Cricket for the visually

- challenged made its debut in the International Blind Sports Federation World Games in 2023.
37. **Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw (88.17 meters) event at the World Athletics Championships 2023 held in Budapest, Hungary.
Note: He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics. Neeraj faced tough competition, notably from Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who secured the silver medal with a commendable throw of 87.82 meters.
 38. The Indian men's 4x400 metres relay team comprising of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh ended with what position in the 4x400 metres relay race final at the World Athletics Championships 2023.
Note: The USA relay team of Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson, and Rai Benjamin won finished first and won the gold. France clocked bagged silver while Great Britain claimed bronze.
 39. **Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn** became the first Thai to win the men's singles title at the World Championships 2023 and became the badminton world champion after a victory over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in Copenhagen.
Note: Earlier, world No. 1 An Se-young also became the first South Korean to win the women's singles gold at the World Championships 2023 after defeating Carolina Marin. She had knocked out Tokyo 2020 gold medallist Chen Yufei in straight games in the semi-finals
 40. **Max Verstappen** has won the Dutch Grand Prix 2023 for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race held at Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands.
Note: With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row. The second position was secured by Fernando ALONSO of the team Aston Martin and third position was secured by Pierre GASLY of the team Alpine
 41. **Parul Chaudhary** finished in the eleventh position in the 3000 meters steeplechase final of the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest Hungary.
Note: She broke the national record in the World Athletics Championships and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024. Brunei athlete Winfred Mutile Yavi clinched the gold medal, Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech won silver and another Kenya athlete Faith Cherotich achieved winning bronze.
 42. **Youth Affairs Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur** has announced that 1,000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country.
Note: He also informed that each player will receive 5 lakh rupees to procure equipment for their centres and per year another 5 lakh rupees for operational expenses. He also launched an Information booklet on Sports Infrastructure Projects sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme as well as launched a National Sports Federations portal.

July 2023

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. 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.
 8. **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
 9. **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.
 10. **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.
 11. **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.
 12. 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 Pragganandhaa** 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.

June 2023

1. **Indian Hockey Team defeated Pakistan** in the final of the **Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023**, held at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman.
Note: This was **India's fourth title at Men's Junior Asia Cup**, after winning in 2004, 2008, and 2015. With this title win, India has become the most successful country in the history of the Men's Junior Asia Cup. While Pakistan is the second-most successful team in the tournament with three titles.
2. Indian cyclist **Esow Alben** has bagged the **bronze medal** in the **elite men's keirin event** at a **UCI Class 1 Event-Finale Bahnen-Tournee 2023** cycling competition in Germany.
Note: He has also listed himself in being the first cyclist from India to participate in the UCI Champions League. Alben was also the first Indian who won a medal in a cycling world championship. Apart from Alben, Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam finished 10th in the men's sprint event at Germany meet.
3. **Third khelo India University games** has been concluded at IIT BHU campus in **Varanasi**.
Note: **Punjab University, Chandigarh** regain **champions crown as Guru Nanak Dev University fall** short despite Fencing sweep on final day, after a gap of one edition of the Khelo India University Games. PUC finished with an overall tally of 69 medals including 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals. As many as 131 of the 203 Universities who finally participated at the Games.
4. Indian sprinter, **Amlan Borgohain** has bagged **two gold medals** in the **men's 100 and 200-meter races** category at the Flanders Cup 2023 athletics in Merksem, Belgium.
Note: He clocked 10.70 seconds to emerge as the fastest man of the meet. He holds the 100-meter national record of 10.25 seconds and holds 20.96 seconds in the 200-meter. Meanwhile, Sapna Kumari finished behind Belgium's Amber Vanden Bosch in the women's 100m hurdles after clocking 14.10.
5. **Indian shooters Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot** have bagged gold in the final of **10 meter Air Rifle Mixed Team** event at the ISSF World Cup Junior 2023 in Suhl, Germany.
Note: The **Indian team of Shaw and Bhanot** registered a 17-7 win over the French pairing of Oceanne Mueller and Romain Aufrere in the gold medal match. With this, India now has two gold medals, one silver, and one bronze from the World Cup after two days of competition.
6. India won **three medals (including two gold)** at the **2023 Asian Under 20 Athletics Championships campaign**, which is being held in **Yecheon, South Korea**.
Note: **Rezoana Mallick Heena and Bharatpreet Singh kicked off clinched gold medals** in women's 400-meter race and men's discus throw respectively. Henna clocked 53.31 seconds to take the top position on the podium. Antima Pal won the third medal for India, a bronze, in the women's 5,000-meter race.
7. **Max Verstappen (Red Bull Driver)** has clinched the pole position at the **Spanish Grand Prix 2023** extending his lead in the Formula One championship by 53 points.
Note: Red Bull's dominance continued as they celebrated their **seventh consecutive triumph** of the season. While Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton (seven-time world champion) has secured the second spot for Mercedes, followed by George Russell (Mercedes driver).
8. **GM Aravindh Chithambaram (India)** won the **23rd Dubai Open 2023** for the second consecutive year, at the 23rd edition of the Dubai Chess Open, organized by Dubai Chess & Culture Club.
Note: A total of 172 participants (in category A) from more than 46 different countries participated in this tournament. A total of 9 rounds were played in Swiss format. He became one of only two players to win back-to-back championships in the history of the Dubai Open Chess Tournament.
9. **Siddharth Choudhary** has clinched **the gold medal** in the men's shot put with a personal **best throw of 19.52 metres** at the **Under 20 Asian Athletics Championships in Yecheon, South Korea**.
Note: Three other players Sharuk Khan (3000-metre steeplechase), Shivam Lohakare (Javelin), and Susmita (Long Jump) have also clinched the silver medals in their respective events. While Shakeel (800 metres) and the mixed relay team won the bronze medal.
10. Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur send off **198** special athletes to the **Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023** to be held in Berlin.
Note: The Government spent 450 crore rupees in the current Olympic cycle on training, equipment, and facilities. It will provide more assistance if needed to ensure India makes a new record in the Paris Olympics

2024. India has given the best-ever performance at the last Olympics with improvements in facilities.
11. **Japan's Tokito Oda has defeated top-ranked Alfie Hewett** from Britain 6-1, 6-4 to win the **2023 French Open wheelchair Men's singles title**.
Note: With this win, he also become the sport's youngest Grand Slam champion. While Diede de Groot from Netherlands has secured the 2023 French Open – Wheelchair women's singles. Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid (Britain) won the Men's Double title, and Yui Kamiji and Kgothatso Montjane won the Women's Double title.
 12. **Indian Women's hockey team** defeated Republic of Korea to win the **Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title** in Kakamigahara, Japan.
Note: This is the **first time** India have won the **Women's Junior Asia Cup**. Recently, India had secured a spot in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile. Japan beat China 2-1 to become the third team to qualify for the World Cup scheduled this year. For India, Annu and Neelam were on target while Seoyeon Park scored the solitary goal for Korea.
 13. **India defeated Argentina 2-1 in its final FIH Pro League 2022-23** match in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.
Note: **Akashdeep Singh and Sukhjeet Singh** scored goals for India while Lucas Toscani netted the only goal for Argentina. India consolidated their position atop the FIH Pro League standings with 30 points from 16 matches. Argentina is fifth with 13 points from 14 matches. The Indian men's hockey team finished in fourth place in their debut FIH Pro League campaign back in 2020-21.
 14. The **World Cup Squash championship** is being organized in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
Note: It was formally inaugurated by the State Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Udhayanidhi Stalin. On the first day, India will play against Hongkong and China in the pool B matches and in another match Japan will play against South Africa. Each match will be played to the best of five games, each to seven points with a total of 11 points in general.
 15. **Uruguay** beat Italy 1-0 to win its **first FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023**.
Note: The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament. Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute with a header from close range, giving Uruguay a much-deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy. Earlier, debutant Israel beat South Korea 3-1 to secure third place in the same stadium in La Plata.
 16. **Murali Sreeshankar** has **secured a third place**, with a jump of 8.09m, in the **2023 Diamond League Meet at Paris, France**.
Note: With this, he also became the **only third Indian to finish in the top three of a Diamond League** after Neeraj Chopra (Javelin thrower) and Vikas Gowda (former discus thrower). Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece secured Gold with a jump of 8.13m and Simon Ehammer of Switzerland won silver with a jump of 8.11m.
 17. The Asia Cup 2023 will take place in Pakistan and **Sri Lanka** between August 31 and September 17, 2023.
Note: Earlier, the tournament was originally meant to be held entirely in Pakistan. Recently, the Asian Cricket Council has approved the hybrid model, in which four of the 13 matches will be played in Pakistan and the remaining nine in Sri Lanka. In Pakistan, matches will be held in Lahore while the games to be played in Sri Lanka will be held in Kandy and Pallekele.
 18. **Egypt** has retained the World Squash Championship, after beating Malaysia by 2-1 in the final.
Note: Malaysia won the silver, and third place (bronze) was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan. India was defeated by Malaysia 3-0 in the semi-final. The championship was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu with eight countries as participants and was held from June 13 to 17. Egypt won the World Cup when it was last held here in 2011.
 19. The inaugural edition of India's first-ever Women's Kabaddi League (WKL) has been commenced in **Dubai**.
Note: It marks the first time that women kabaddi players from across India have been given the opportunity to exhibit their skills and prowess on a global stage. This league consists of eight teams, featuring a total of 96 players, each representing Indian states. The victorious team will be awarded a prize of approximately half a million dirhams (1 crore INR).
 20. Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant has launched the mascot named 'Moga' for the upcoming **37th** edition of the National Games at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao.
Note: The event was organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Authority of Goa. The ceremony was attended by the Sports Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude, President of the Indian Olympic Association, Dr. P. T Usha, and Olympic medalist MC Mary Kom.
 21. **Indian** men's senior football team has clinched the Intercontinental Cup 2023 after defeating Lebanon in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
Note: This is India's second title in the tournament, following their win in the inaugural edition in 2018. The first half was goalless while in the second half, the hosts made it 1-0 in the 46th minute with Indian captain Sunil Chhetri's goal. Lallianzuala Chhangte netted the second goal in the 65th -minute, making it 2-0.
 22. **C. A. Bhavani Devi** has secured the bronze medal at Asian Fencing Championships 2023 held in China.
Note: In the quarterfinal, she created history by defeating reigning World Champion Misaki Emura and secured India its first-ever medal at the event. She stunned the world number one 15-10 to enter the women's sabre semifinal. However, Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab

- Dayibekova in the semifinals by 15-14, securing a bronze medal.
23. **India** U-23 women's team won the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup T20 title after defeating Bangladesh in the final held at the Mission Round Ground in Hong Kong. **Note:** India has scored 127 for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs. India's Kanika Ahuja was named the Player of the Match, who stayed not out on 30 off 23 with four fours in the final. While India's Shreyanka Patil was named the Player of the Series, as she was the highest-wicket taker.
 24. **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath** has unveiled the first ticket for the first race of MotoGP 2023, to be hosted by Uttar Pradesh. **Note:** For the first time, the motorbike race is being held in India. The event is scheduled to be held at the Buddha International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, 2023. The event would firmly establish 'Brand Uttar Pradesh' at the global level. This is the first time the event is being held outside Europe.
 25. **Cristiano Ronaldo** has received the Guinness World Record Award certificate to become the first men's player to make 200 international appearances. **Note:** He celebrated the milestone by scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute as Portugal beat Iceland in European Championship qualifying. He received a Guinness World Records certificate before the game. The closest to Ronaldo's tally is Bader Al-Mutawa, who was capped by Kuwait on 196 occasions.
 26. **Diksha Dagar** has secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open 2023. **Note:** In the final, she defeated Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand. She hails from Jhajjar in Haryana. In 2019, she won her first LET title at the South African Women's Open, held in Cape Town. After Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar is the only other Indian woman golfer to have won two or more LET titles.
 27. Wanindu Hasaranga has achieved a remarkable feat in cricket by becoming the first spinner and second overall player in history to take three consecutive 5-wicket hauls in the One Day Internationals (ODIs). He belongs to **Sri Lanka**.
 - Note:** It was achieved, when Sri Lanka bundled out Ireland at 192 to secure the Super Six spot in ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifiers match. He has placed himself equal to the legendary Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis.
 28. **Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee**, Indian women's doubles pair won the 2023 World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender tournament in Tunis. **Note:** The Indian pair won the title after beating the Japanese pair of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto. The pair also became the first Indians to win a Contender title this year. Meanwhile, the Indian mixed doubles pair as well as the men's doubles duo had lost their respective semifinal matches.
 29. The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has confirmed that the 2023 U-17 World Cup will be hosted by **Indonesia**. **Note:** Initially, the host of the youngest World Cup event was Peru. This announcement was made after the FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, Switzerland. FIFA also announced Colombia as the host of the 2024 U-20 Women's World Cup and Dominica as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup. FIFA President: Gianni Infantino
 30. Indian woman cricketer, **Jhulan Goswami** has joined England women's team captain Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan to become a member of the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC). **Note:** This committee is an independent body that consists of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from various countries. Jhulan Goswami retired from international cricket in 2022. She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April 2023.
 31. **India** has finished its Special Olympics World Games 2023 campaign by winning 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver, and 51 bronze). **Note:** Indian athletes notched six medals from the track events (2 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze). Aanchal Goyal (400m, Level B Female) and Ravimathi Arumugam (400m, Level C Female) blew away their competition to take the top of the podium. Saket Kundu, who grabbed a silver medal in the mini javelin Level B, also won a bronze in the Level B 400m.

May 2023

1. **Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** clinched the men's doubles title at the Badminton Asia Championship 2023 held in Dubai, UAE from 25 to 30 April 2023. **Note:** They defeated eighth-seeded Malaysian pair Teo Ee Yi and Ong Yew Sin in the final. They become the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the Badminton Asia Championships title. With this win, they also clinched India's second-ever Badminton Asia Championships title after Dinesh Khanna in 1965.
2. **Ding Liren** has become **China's first male world chess champion**, after **defeating his Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi** in the fourth rapid game of the first tie-breaker at Astana, Kazakhstan. **Note:** He succeeded as the winner of the World Chess Championship from Norway's Magnus Carlsen. His victory makes him the **17th winner of the world chess tournament**. In 2009, he became China's youngest chess champion at national level.

3. **Red Bull's driver, Sergio Perez** won the Formula 1 **Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023** World Championship, in Baku, Azerbaijan.
Note: He **defeated his teammate Max Verstappen** to victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third and Fernando Alonso finished in fourth place. Previous Grand Prix: Australian GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull); Saudi Arabia GP: Sergio Pérez (Red Bull); Baharin GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
4. **Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon**, mixed Indian shooters pair won **India's first gold medal** in the ongoing **ISSF World Cup Shotgun 2023**, held in Cairo, Egypt.
Note: The Indian mixed doubles pair **defeated Luis Raul Gallardo Oliveros and Gabriela Rodriguez** 6-0 in the final of the Skeet Mixed Team. While the duo of Simona Scocchetti and Gabrielle Rossetti from Italy secured their bronze medal in the tournament.
5. **Indian Men's team** has **surpassed Australia** to become the **number one Test team** in the latest rankings released by ICC on May 2, 2023.
Note: Currently, India has topped the **ranking with 121 points**, while Australia ranked second with 116 points. Earlier this year, India posted a 2-1 series win against Australia to retain the Border-Gavaskar trophy for the fourth consecutive time. England, South Africa, and New Zealand placed third, fourth, and fifth spots respectively.
6. **Dubai (UAE)** will host the **inaugural edition of the Global Chess League (GCL)** from June 21 to July 2, 2023.
Note: The chess league will be held in association with Dubai Sports Council, the hosting partner of the league. It will feature six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team. The six teams will compete in a round-robin format where each team will play 10 matches. GCL is a joint venture of FIDE and Tech Mahindra
7. **Bindyarani Devi** has won the **silver in the women's 55kg** category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023, held in South Korea.
Note: She had lifted a total weight of 194kg (snatch 83kg and 111kg in clean & jerk) in the non-Olympic 55kg category. **Chen Guan Ling (China) won the gold** medal with a combined lift of 204kg (snatch 90kg + clean & jerk 114kg) and Vo Thi Quynh Nhu (Vietnam) won the bronze with a lift of 192kg.
43. **Carlos Alcaraz** has successfully defended his title at **Madrid Open 2023** and won his **fourth ATP Tour trophy** of the year and his tenth overall.
Note: In the final, he **defeated Jan-Lennard Struff** (German) 6-4 3-6 6-3. While **Aryna Sabalenka from Belarus** has clinched the **Women's singles** title at Madrid Open 2023. Other winners: Men's doubles: Karen Khachanov / Andrey Rublev, Women's doubles: Victoria Azarenka / Beatriz Haddad Maia
44. **Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)** has launched a **Talent Scout Program** for women to unearth new talents.
Note: The Talent Scout Wing which will comprise former men and women first-class cricketers and coaches, will help in identifying the talent across the state. The TNCA has formed four groups of four members each who will cover all 37 districts in Tamil Nadu. Any player who is above 13 years of age can attend the trials.
45. **Hriday Hazarika and Nancy Mandhotra** have bagged **silver medals** in the **men's and women's 10-meter air rifle** events at **ISSF World Cup 2023** in Baku, Azerbaijan.
Note: In the **10m air pistol mixed team, Sarabjot Singh and Divya TS won gold**. Rhythm Sangwan secured a bronze medal in the women's 25m pistol event. In the overall medals tally, India finished its campaign second behind China. The Baku meet is the penultimate stage of the ISSF World Cup 2023.
46. **Prraneeth Vuppala** has become the **82nd Grandmaster of India**.
Note: He achieved the required 2,500 FIDE rating points during the Baku Open tournament. He had already achieved three GM norms earlier and needed to cross 2,500 rating points. He got the required points after defeating GM Hans Niemann of the USA in the penultimate round of the Baku Open. Prraneeth is now the sixth Grandmaster from the State of Telangana.
47. **Prathamesh Jawkar** has defeated the world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands to win a **maiden World Cup gold medal** in the **men's individual compound section, Archery World Cup 2023**.
Note: In the non-Olympic compound section, India bagged 2 gold with the mixed team duo of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam beating the top-seeded Korean team 156-155. Mixed team duo of Sheetal & Rakesh also bagged gold.
48. **Daniil Medvedev (from Russia)** has clinched his **maiden Italian Open 2023 title**, after beating Holger Rune.
Note: It is Medvedev's **fifth title of 2023** and victory lifts him above Novak Djokovic to second in the world rankings. Other winners: Women's Single Title: Elena Andreyevna Rybakina (Kazakhstani) after defeating Anhelina Kalinina; Men's Double: Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński; Women's Double: Storm Sanders and Elise
49. **Shaili Singh** clinched a bronze medal at the **Golden Grand Prix 2023** athletics meet in the women's long jump in Japan.
Note: She has attempted a jump of 6.65 meter, which provided her third place on the podium. Germany's Maryse Luzolo won the gold medal with an effort of 6.79 meter while Australia's Brooke Buschkuehl bagged the silver medal with a 6.77 meter leap. During the Indian Grand Prix 4 athletics meet in Bengaluru, she has registered a jump of 6.76 meter.

50. **Neeraj Chopra** has become the **new world number one in the men's javelin throw with 1455 points**.
Note: Anderson Peters from Grenadian ranked second, followed by Jakub Vadlejch, and Julian Weber. Neeraj Chopra also became the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track and field event at the Tokyo Olympics. In 2023, he won the Diamond League in Doha with a world-leading effort of 88.67m.
51. **Adidas** would become the **new kit sponsor of the Indian national cricket team**.
Note: In 2020, the BCCI signed a three-year deal with the Mobile Premier League's sports merchandise brand MPL Sports to replace American sportswear manufacturer Nike. Clothing brand Killer Jeans became an interim sponsor after that deal ended prematurely and their contract will expire on May 31, 2023.
52. **Murali Sreeshankar** successfully defended his title in the men's long jump event at the **13th International Jumping Meeting 2023** in Kallithea, Greece.
Note: He registered his season-best jump of 8.18m to beat his compatriot. This was Murali Sreeshankar's third competition of the year and also the third gold medal. While Jeswin Aldrin has claimed silver with an effort of 7.85m. Jalen Rucker of Australia won bronze for a 7.80m effort in the 12-man field.
53. PM Modi will inaugurate Third Khelo India University Games 2022 via video conferencing on May 25, 2023.
Note: The event will be attended by Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and UP CM Yogi Adityanath. The events related to the university games have already started on May 23 in the Gautam Budh Nagar district. Event locations: Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, and Gautam Buddha Nagar. **Mascot: Jitu, which represents Swamp Deer (Barasingha) - the state animal of UP**
54. **GM Magnus Carlsen** has won the **Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland 2023**, held at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.
Note: He finished with a score of 24/36 and won the cash prize of \$40,000. Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Polish), who placed second ended with 23/36. While the USA's Wesley So and France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave finished in a tie for third. The 2023 Grand Chess Tour continues with the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz in Zagreb Croatia.
55. **H.S. Prannoy** has clinched his **maiden BWF World Tour title 2023**, held at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament.
Note: In finals, he **beat Weng Hong Yang of China** 21-19, 13-21, 21-18. He had previously clinched the title at the 2017 US Open. Women's singles: Akane Yamaguchi. Men's Double: Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung-jae. Women's doubles: Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee. Mixed doubles: Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai
56. **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** has defeated defending champions **Gujarat Titans** by 5 wickets to win its 5th IPL title.
Note: The final match of IPL 2023 was held at **Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad**, Gujarat on May 29, 2023. IPL 2023 awards: Orange Cap (Highest Run-Scorer): Shubman Gill (GT) 890 runs. Purple Cap (Leading Wicket-taker): Mohammed Shami (GT) 28 wickets. **Most Valuable Player: Shubman Gill**. Emerging Players: Yashasvi Jaiswal. Fairplay Award: Gujarat Titans
57. **Uttar Pradesh Hockey team** defeated the **Hockey Association of Odisha** to win the **13th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2023**, held at the iconic Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Odisha.
Note: Meanwhile, Hockey Haryana beat Hockey Madhya Pradesh to finish third in the competition. Ujjwal Pal converted three penalty corners, while Rahul Yadav, Ketan Kushwaha, Rahul Rajhbar, and Ajeet Yadav (Team Captain) each scored a goal to secure their victory.
58. **India** has won the **title of the NSC-CAVA Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup** held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Note: India won the title by defeating Kazakhstan in the final at the National Sports Council's Covered Hall in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu. The event was organized by the Nepal Volleyball Association and is supported by the NSC, eight nations participated in it. In the competition, Kazakhstan became the runner-up, followed by Nepal, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, and Kyrgyzstan.

April 2023

1. **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung** from Indonesia has **clinched the Women's title in the 2023 Spain Masters**, held in Madrid, Spain from 28 March-2 April 2023.
Note: She **defeated Indian Badminton player, PV Sindhu**. While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the men's title. Other winners: Men's doubles: He Jiting and Zhou Haodong (China), Women's doubles: Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China), Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Bøje (Denmark)
2. **Red Bull's driver, Max Verstappen**, won his **first Australian Grand Prix 2023**, held at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia.
Note: While Seven-time world champion, L. Hamilton (Mercedes driver) finished second followed by F. Alonso (Aston Martin) and L. Stroll (Aston Martin). The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928. The next F1 Azerbaijan GP will be held in Baku City Circuit, Azerbaijan on April 30, 2023.
3. According to the **latest FIFA rankings in April 2023**, the **Indian men's football team is now ranked 101**.

Note: Reason: Recent **wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan** during the Tri-nation tournament, helped them secure 8.57 rating points. Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions. France ranked second, followed by Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, and Italy. Japan holds the highest rank among Asian countries.

4. **Brazilian artist Dante Akira Uwai** has won the **Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 medal design competition**.

Note: Akira Uwai's creation – 'A Sparkling Future' – was chosen by a panel of judges. His design will feature on the medals for Gangwon 2024 which will be awarded in the Republic of Korea from 19 January to 1 February 2024.

5. **FIFA withdrew Peru's hosting rights** to the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023.

Note: The decision was made after extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF). FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's **ability to meet the requirements** for hosting such a major tournament.

6. An **Indian weightlifter, Sanjita Chanu** has been **banned for four years** by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India.

Note: Reason: She **tested positive for banned drugs**. She has won the Commonwealth Games twice. The testing took place during the National Games held in Gujarat in September-October 2022, and the results showed the presence of drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

7. Russian tennis player, **Daniil Medvedev** has won his **fourth title of the year** by **defeating Jannik Sinner in Miami Opens 2023**.

Note: **Women's singles: Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)**, Men's doubles: Santiago González (Mexico) / Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France), Women's doubles: Coco Gauff / Jessica Pegula (United States)

8. **Indian badminton player, Priyanshu Rajawat** (21) has **clinched the men's singles title** of the **Orleans Masters Super 300 tournament**.

Note: He **defeated Denmark's Magnus Johannesen** by 21-15, 19-21, and 21-16. While the women's singles title was lifted by Carolina Marín from Spain. Other Winners: Men's Double: Chen Boyang & Liu Yi (China), Women's Double: Rena Miyaura & Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan), Mixed Double: Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei (Malaysia)

9. **Delhi Capitals skipper, David Warner** became the **quickest batter to reach the 6000-run mark** in the Indian Premier League (IPL) during a match against Rajasthan Royals at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati.

Note: He is the **third batter to enter the elite club** after Royal Challengers Bangalore's Virat Kohli and skipper of Punjab Kings, Shikhar Dhawan. He took 165 innings to

reach the mark of 6000 runs, while Kohli had taken 188 and Dhawan 199 to achieve the same.

10. **India wrestler, Nisha Dahiya** has secured the **silver medal** in the **women's 68kg category** at the Asian wrestling championships 2023, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Note: She reached the final but fell to Japan's Ami Ishii 10-0 and finished as a runner-up. She had **defeated China's Feng Zhou** 7-6 in the semi-finals. Another Indian wrestler, Priya Malik clinched a bronze in the 76 kg category after defeating Japan's Mizuki Nagashima.

11. **Indian wrestler, Aman Sehrawat** won **India's first gold medal** in **men's 57 kg freestyle category** at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Note: He **defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov** 9-4. Among the other Indian wrestlers, Deepak (79kg) won bronze while Deepak Nehra (97kg) lost his bronze medal match. The Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals while the women's wrestlers bagged seven.

12. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has decided that the top eight participating teams in the Indian Women's League (IWL), have a minimum of 10 Indian players on a fully professional annual contract worth a minimum of **Rs 3.2 lakhs**.

Note: Aim: To revamp and restructure women's football in the country, in line with the Strategic Roadmap Vision 2047. The 2024-25 season will have 10 teams in the top division followed by two other divisions. AIFF President: Kalyan Chaubey

13. Shaili Singh won a gold medal in the women's long jump at the Indian Grand Prix 4 2023 athletics meet in Bangalore, Karnataka, is associated in **Long Jump**.

Note: She has logged a 6.76m effort, the second-best by an Indian after the legendary Anju Bobby George. With this win, she has also qualified for the Asian Games 2023, scheduled in Hangzhou, China, by breaching the women's long jump qualifying standard of 6.45m set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

14. **Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan** has won two gold medals at the Brazil Para-Badminton International 2023.

Note: In the women's singles SH6 category finals, she defeated Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores to win the gold medal. In the mixed doubles SH6 final, she combined with Sivarajan Solaimalai to beat Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Choi Wing Kei. While Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam also won gold in the men's doubles category.

15. Vedaant Madhavan has claimed 5 gold medals for India at the Malaysian Invitational age group Championships 2023 held in Kuala Lumpur, is associated with **Swimming**.

Note: He won gold in the 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 1500m swimming categories. In 2022, he also participated in the 48th Junior National Aquatics

Championships and became the first person in India to break the record of the 1500m freestyle by finishing the race within 16:01.73 seconds.

16. In the 2023 edition of the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack, along with England wicketkeeper-batter Ben Foakes, India Women captain Harmanpreet Kaur, NZ all-rounder Daryl Mitchell and England pacer Matthew Potts, **New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Tom Blundell**.

Note: Harmanpreet is the first India Women's cricketer to be named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year. She was chosen primarily for her ODI century against England at Canterbury. The Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals while the women's wrestlers bagged seven.

17. India has won two gold medals, one each in the mixed team event and women's individual Compound, at the 2023 Archery World Cup Stage 1 in **Antalya, Turkey**.

Note: Indian mixed team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale outclassed Chen Yi Hsuan and Chem Chieh Lun of Chinese Taipei by 159-154 to win the mixed team gold. The second gold came in the women's individual Compound event after Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Sara Lopez of Columbia by 149-146.

18. **Kelvin Kiptum (Kenya)** has won the London Marathon and recorded the second-fastest time in history over the distance.

Note: He set the course record with a time of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 25 seconds. He just missed out on Eliud Kipchoge's world record by 16 seconds. In the women's race, Ethiopian-born Dutch athlete, Sifan Hassan won her marathon debut in 2:18:34. Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the elite men's wheelchair race with a time of 1:23:44.

19. **Commander Abhilash Tomy** has become the first Indian to complete the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022.

Note: He finished second in the race, a solo around-the-world sailing race. This race was started at Les Sables-d'Olonne in France on Sep 4, 2022. South African sailor, Kirsten Neuschafer also become the first woman to win the Golden Globe Race (GGR), a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids.

20. **Jaden Pariat** has won the ROKiT British F4 Championship held at Donington Park.

Note: He is a young Indian racing talent representing Argenti Motorsport. He has become the second Indian racer to achieve an international podium in a Tatuus F4 car, following Kush Maini's feat in 2017.

Science and Defence

August 2023

1. Ministry of National Defense announced the air forces of China and **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will conduct a joint training exercise in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Note: According to the ministry, the exercise, Falcon Shield-2023, will be the first joint training between the two nation's air forces. Aims: To deepen pragmatic exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries and enhance mutual understanding and trust, the ministry added.

2. **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash - the Next Generation Weapon System to Defence Research and Development Organization.

Note: Seeker is a critical and technology intensive subsystem used in Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking in the terminal phase. RF Seeker has been designed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, and produced by BDL at its state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre

3. The Russian Defense Ministry announced the start of the Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercises in **Baltic Sea**.

Note: The exercises are being conducted under the command of Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Nikolay Evmenov. Objective: To assess the Russian Navy's readiness to defend the country's interests in a critical

area, as well as the coordination of the various military forces. The drills involve 30 combat ships 30 aircraft of naval aviation and Russia's Aerospace Forces

4. **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh** launched India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.

Note: MRI is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body. It is an achievement for the National Biopharma Mission, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, and the Department of Biotechnology.

5. According to Minister of State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh, India is the **fifth** among spacefaring countries in the world having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development.

Note: India has the capability to launch from its own land and operate programmes of earth observation, satellite communication, meteorology, space science and navigation, and ground infrastructure. After space sector reforms, the NewSpace industries are also emerging at a fast pace.

6. **Chief Minister Manik Saha** has launched the massive vaccine catch-up campaign of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5. 0 for three months in the state of Tripura in Aug 2023.

- Note:** Aim: To immunize pregnant women and children up to the age of five against the diseases like Measles and Rubella. This is for the first time that children with up to 5 years of age has been brought under the vaccination coverage of the IMI 5. 0.
7. World Health Organization has announced, **Iraq** has now joined the league of 17 other countries that have eliminated trachoma, which is world's leading infectious cause of blindness in Aug 2023.
Note: Iraq established its national trachoma programme in 2012 to coordinate the final domestic push against the disease. A trachoma surveillance system was developed to detect and manage cases within secondary and tertiary eye care facilities, as well as through school pre-enrolment.
 8. **Tata Play** plans to increase its bandwidth capacity by 50% by adding 24 new Ku-band transponders on the GSAT-24 communication satellite.
Note: Aim: To offer more channels, services, and improve picture quality. The GSAT-24 satellite was launched by NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) in June 2022 to specifically cater to Tata Play's DTH requirements. NSIL has been tasked with satellite missions on a demand-driven model.
 9. The Indian Space Research Organisation announced the transfer of IMS-1 Satellite Bus technology to **Alpha Design Technologies**.
Note: The transfer was facilitated by ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited through an agreement. The IMS-1 satellite bus was developed by the UR Rao Satellite Centre and is a small satellite platform designed to enable low-cost access to space. This weighs about 100 kilograms and can carry a 30-kg payload.
 10. Indian Army inducted the lighter and more compact version of the developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M) named **Swathi Mountains**.
Note: Aim: To enhance the Army's battlefield surveillance capabilities, enabling it to effectively monitor and respond to threats in mountainous regions. Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, and designed for operations in mountainous and high-altitude areas, catering to the unique challenges posed by such terrains.
 11. **INS Chennai** was Deployed in the Red Sea Undertook Passage Exercise (Passex) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail.
Note: The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed guided missile destroyer INS Chennai is Mission Deployed in the Red Sea. Aim: To reinforcing mutual trust, cementing operational understanding and enhancing Interoperability between navies, to boost defence co-operation between India and Saudi Arabia, INS Chennai's visit to Jeddah
 12. Government has approved the setting up of research parks at **Eight** Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore in August 2023.
Note: Aim: To strengthen the research ecosystem in the country. Objectives: To enable entrepreneurship and incubation of students and building strong academic linkages for the same, to increase outreach of academic content to industry and enabling industry to add value to academic programme through close collaborations.
 13. **Russia** launched its first lunar landing mission on August 11 2023 after almost 5 decades.
Note: A Soyuz 2. 1v rocket carrying the Luna-25 craft will blast off from the Vostochny cosmodrome targeted to the south polar region of the Moon. Aims: To study the composition of the polar regolith, and to study the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere. According to Russia's space chief Yuri Borisov the spacecraft is expected to reach the lunar world on Aug 21 2023.
 14. Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, which is located in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: Aims: To carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles developed by ISRO. The Indian Space Policy 2023 has the provision for utilisation of a spaceport for carrying out launch activities by Non-Government Entities, subject to technical feasibility and range safety constraints.
 15. The first space-based Indian observatory Aditya-L1 is getting ready for its launch in September 2023, this space programme would study **Sun**.
Note: The spacecraft is expected to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point - L1 of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million Km from the Earth and has advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any eclipses. This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real-time.
 16. Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, declared the goal of suppressing Lymphatic Filariasis by **2027** during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration initiative.
Note: The second phase, targeting 81 districts across nine endemic states, including Assam and Uttar Pradesh. He highlighted the "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach as pivotal to successfully eliminating the disease.
 17. The Union Ministry of Defense has informed that the ministry would install **Maya OS**, a secure operating system (OS), indigenously developed.
Note: This OS would replace the existing OS, 'Microsoft Windows'. About Maya OS: It is based on open-source Ubuntu software. It would shield against cyber threats, offering a familiar interface while boosting security. It uses Chakravayuh, a protective feature inspired by ancient Indian defence tactics.
 18. Two Indian Navy ships named INS Visakhapatnam and **INS Trikand** have arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Note: Reason: For a bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2023' with the UAE Navy. The exercise is being organized from August 8 to 11, 2023. Aim: To share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies. Led by Captains Ashok Rao and Pramod G Thomas, INS

- Visakhapatnam, and INS Trikand showcase advanced maritime capabilities.
19. **Russia** first lunar mission in decades has ended in failure with its Luna 25 spacecraft crashing into the moon's surface.

Note:The incident, a blow to Russia's space ambitions, happened after communication with the robotic spacecraft was interrupted. The measures taken to search for the device and get in contact with it did not yield any results. According to a "preliminary analysis," Luna-25 "switched to an off-design orbit" before the collision
 20. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will hold its first-ever multi-national air exercise 'Tarang Shakti', in October 2023.

Note:The exercise intends to strengthen military cooperation between the air forces. Out of 12, Six air forces will participate in the exercise, while the rest will attend the aerial drills as observers. The air forces of the US, the UK, France and Australia are among those likely to take part in the exercise.
 21. **Prabal**, India's first long-range revolver is to be launched in August 2023 manufactured by Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL).

Note:The Prabal revolver boasts a firing range of up to 50 metres, more than twice the reach of other revolvers. The Prabal revolver is light in weight and equipped with a side swing cylinder. It weighs 700 grams (without cartridges) in weight and its barrel length is 76 m, while its overall length is 177.6 mm.
 22. **Agnikul Cosmos** has launched its first small satellite rocket, named Agnibaan SOrTeD, with its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Note:The rocket is driven by Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine, which is a 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kN semi-cryogenic engine. These flight events have been configured to validate key technologies integral to the success of the company's upcoming orbital flights.
 23. Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari class submarine **INS Vagir** that will reach Fremantle, Australia.

Note:INS Vagir will participate in various exercises with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) units on the West Coast of Australia. On the East coast of Australia, Indian Naval ships and aircraft is involved in Exercise AUSINDEX 23 from 22-24 Aug 2023. The RAN submarine and Indian Naval P8i aircraft are scheduled to exercise with INS Vagir.
 24. **Raja Anirudh Sriram** has bagged a silver medal at the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge 2023 (SIMOC).

Note: His journey of success has been marked by numerous national and international awards that highlight his extraordinary capabilities. More than 2000 students from 32 countries participated in the prestigious event, where Raja Anirudh came up with flying colours.
 25. **USA** FDA has approved the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for use in women during pregnancy to protect the baby.

Note: Aim: To prevent lower respiratory tract infection and severe disease in infants until they are six months old. This vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and the approval allows the vaccine to be given to women 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy
 26. **China** sent a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-12 04 into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

Note: The satellite, Gaofen-12 04, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully. It will be used in a variety of fields, including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster relief. The launch marks the 484th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.
 27. **India** has created history as it became the first country to land (Vikram Lander) on the South Pole of the lunar surface on 23rd August 2023.

Note: The Lander Module comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), landed on the Moon. Aim: To study the composition of the lunar soil and probe for water and ice, while listening for small seismic tremors. India was the fourth nation to succeed at the task after the United States, the Soviet Union, and China.
 28. **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** has successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa.

Note: ASTRA, a state of the art air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets. Aim: To enhance the combat prowess of Tejas and reduce the dependency on imported weapons. It is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Research Centre Imarat and other laboratories of DRDO.
 29. PM Narendra Modi has announced that the site where Vikram Lander and Rover Pragyan landed on the Lunar surface will be named as **Shiva Shakti Point**.

Note: Another site on the Moon where the Chandrayaan 2 lander crash landed will be known as Tiranga Point. He said that Shiva Shakti point will remind the world about Shiv which is devoting oneself to the welfare of mankind and Shakti that gives inherent strength to accomplish that will incline towards the good of mankind.
 30. **Nabhmitra** device developed by ISRO-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) for the safety of fishermen, was tested at Neendakara.

Note: Satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging services from and to the sea. Weather and cyclone warnings will be communicated in the local language, the boats can also send distress messages to the authorities. In capsizing and fire, fishers can press a button on the device and get in touch with the control centre.
 31. **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** manufactured India's first set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants.

Note: The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power

- Station in Telangana, were flagged, from the company's Solar Business Division (SBD) unit in Bengaluru. BHEL is India's largest engineering and manufacturing company of its kind.
32. NASA and **SpaceX's Dragon** spacecraft has blasted off carrying four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).
Note: The Dragon spacecraft carried by a Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Four astronauts from four countries, including the US, Denmark, Japan, and Russia. The agency's SpaceX Crew-7 mission is the seventh commercial crew rotation mission for NASA.
33. The Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that the Pragyan rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy confirmed the presence of **sulphur** in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements.
Note: The rover's spectroscopy also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Ferrous (Iron), Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon, and Oxygen as expected and the search for hydrogen is underway.
34. NASA is launching a groundbreaking technology demonstration known as the Integrated LCRD Low Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T) to the Space Station.
Note: ILLUMA-T is scheduled to launch on SpaceX's 29th Commercial Resupply mission. Aim: To enhance space communications capabilities. The ILLUMA-T, along with the Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) launched in December 2021, will complete NASA's first two-way, end-to-end laser relay system.
35. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** released a graph of the temperature variation between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below.
Note: It was measured by an instrument named ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment). The graph shows that the temperature at 8 cm (80 mm) depth into the Moon's surface drops to -10 degrees Celsius and at 6 cm (60 mm) depth, the temperature is around 5-10 degrees Celsius.
36. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has set up a nine-member committee of experts to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
Note: The committee headed by Prof K Vijay Raghavan to review and redefine the role of the department and submit a report within three months. Prof Vijay Raghavan is a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and one of the key architects of the National Research Foundation (NRF).
37. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent participated for the first time in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise.
Note: It is being held at Cairo Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023. Aim: To strengthen strategic partnerships and enhance joint operational capabilities. Objective: To practice planning and execution of joint operations. The IAF contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.
38. The Indian Army has signed contracts for the procurement of **130** tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators under Emergency Procurement (EP).
Note: The armed forces are currently executing the fourth tranche of EPs sanctioned by the Defence Ministry. Tethered drone: It is an unmanned aerial vehicle tethered to the ground. It consists of a base station on the ground and the drone, which is connected to the station through the tether (cable).

July 2023

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 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's 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 Rijiju 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.

June 2023

1. **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)** has joined a global research group in the development of an algorithm along the lines of **ChatGPT for genetics**.
Note: This algorithm uses genome sequencing data instead of human language to predict disease-causing genetic mutations in patients. The group has generated a huge catalogue of genomic information for primates that have been ever produced.
2. India successfully launched the **Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-1 from the APJ Abdul Kalam Islands**, which is locate in **Odisha**.
Note: It was carried out by **the Strategic Forces Command**, which is responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and nuclear assets. Agenda: To validate all operational and technical parameters of the missile. **Agni series of missiles includes Agni-1(700km), Agni-2 (2000), Agni-3 (3000), Agni-4 (4000), and Agni-5 (5000)**
3. **Indian Navy** has undertaken several green initiatives and shared some of the noteworthy initiatives towards a '**Clean and Green Navy**'.
Note: It employs a number of ships, submarines, and aircraft that have high energy intensity, thus increased energy efficiency is paramount in every operation. It has commissioned solar power with a cumulative capacity of 15.87 MW, with the objective of fulfilling the government's 'Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission.
4. The **Indian Navy** and **DRDO** have successfully engaged and destroyed an **underwater target using 'Varunastra' Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT)**.
Note: It is a significant milestone in the Indian Navy and DRDO for accurate delivery of ordnance on target in the underwater domain. The Indian Navy and Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL) of **DRDO developed 'Varunastra'**, an advanced Heavy Weight anti-submarine torpedo.
5. **GalaxEye** is building the **world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite**, is an incubated space-tech startup of **IIT-Madras**.
Note: It will launch its **first satellite 'Drishti Mission' in 2024**. It is being build with the help of a visible spectrum camera providing synchronised imaging that can take multiple images at the same time. GalaxEye is working on deploying a satellite constellation to provide the comprehensive imagery dataset from space.
6. **Tata Elxsi** has partnered with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** for the upcoming **Gaganyaan Mission**.
Note: It has designed and developed the **crew module recovery models (CMRM)** for the recovery team training of the space mission. ISRO's Gaganyaan project envisions a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching the crew into a 400-kilometer orbit for a three-day mission and safely bringing them to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

7. **DRDO** has successfully flight-tested **New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime'** was successfully from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha** on June 07, 2023.
Note: Aim: To validate the accuracy and reliability of the system. During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated. This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile.
8. The **Ministry of Defence** informed that **first India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise** has started in **Gulf of Oman**.
Note: It involves **the Indian Navy frigate, INS Tarkash, the French Navy ship Surcouf** along with Rafale fighter jets, and UAE Navy maritime patrol aircraft. The two-day exercise involve a wide range of naval operations, including helicopter cross-deck landing operations, advanced air defense exercises, and boarding operations.
9. The **Indian Army** has sealed a deal **Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd** to procure the indigenously-developed "tactical LAN radio".
Note: Tactical LAN radio: It is a state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for the provisioning of reliable communication. It is the second contract that the Army has firmed up under the **framework of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**. iDEX was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.
10. **12th** edition of a **joint military exercise** between the **Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force, 'Ex Ekuverin'** is being commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
Note: Ekuverin meaning 'Friends', is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives. Aim: To enhance the interoperability in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism Operations under the UN mandate. The 11th edition of the exercise was held in Maldives in 2021.
11. **IIT Madras** researchers have recently developed a low-cost mobile air pollution monitoring framework.
Note: The pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution. Traditionally, ambient air quality is measured in monitoring stations and reported by the Air Quality Index (AQI). Since these stations are at fixed locations, they only measure the air quality of a small geographic area.
12. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** researchers have devised a mathematical model on contract farming to predict farmers' delivery of commodities using a decision-theoretic framework based on the 'Prospect Theory'.
Note: Prospect Theory is a psychology theory that describes how people make decisions when presented with alternatives that involve risk, probability, and uncertainty. It was introduced by two psychologists, Daniel Kahneman, and Amos Tversky.
13. Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked a contract with **ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad** for the procurement of 1,035 numbers of 5/7. 5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers.
Note: The value of the contract under Buy (Indian) Category is nearly Rs 500 crore. The delivery of the containers is scheduled to commence from the current Financial Year 2023-24. Aim: To boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and incentivize the private sector
14. The Defence Ministry has approved the deal for acquiring the Predator (MQ-9 Reaper) drones from **America**.
Note: The final decision would be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The deal for the Predator drones was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council meeting. The DAC is the highest body in the Defence Ministry to take decisions on acquisitions. All high value acquisitions are given final approval by the CCS.
15. **INS 'Vagir'** has embarked on an operational visit to Colombo from 19-22 June 2023 to commemorate the 9th edition of the International Day of Yoga and aligns with the theme of 'Global Ocean Ring'.
Note: During the visit, the Commanding Officer of the Indian Naval submarine would meet Rear Admiral Suresh De Silva, the Commander of the Western Naval Area. INS 'Vagir' will also be visited by the visitors and school children to explore the submarine firsthand.
16. India will gift Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to **Vietnam** as a friendly gesture and to expand military ties between the nations.
Note: INS Kirpan is a Khukri-class warship commissioned in 1991. The announcement was made during a meeting between Rajnath Singh (India's defence minister) and General Phan Van Gang (Vietnamese defence minister). The Vietnamese defence minister is on a visit to enhance the military ties, with maritime security and defence industrial cooperation.
17. The Indian Army Contingent has participated in the multinational peacekeeping Joint Exercise Ex Khaan Quest 2023, organized in **Mongolia**.
Note: This exercise was participated by Military contingents and observers from over 20 countries. A contingent from the Garhwal Rifles represented the Indian Army. Aim: To enhance the interoperability of the participating nations, sharing experience, and training uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.
18. **Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS)** has started delivering Armado to the Indian armed forces.
Note: It is an Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle, which is designed by and developed by Mahindra. It has been designed keeping in mind a variety of roles the armed forces may use it for. It gets ballistic protection up to B7,

- Stanag Level II. It can be utilised in counter-terrorist operations by facilitating patrolling in conflict-hit areas.
19. **IIT Kanpur** has successfully conducted a test flight for cloud seeding.
Note: The project was initiated at IIT Kanpur a few years ago and is headed by Prof. Manindra Agrawal from the Computer Science and Engineering Department. The experiment was conducted with due approval from the DGCA. Cloud seeding involves the utilization of various chemical agents such as silver iodide, dry ice, common salt, and other elements with the aim of enhancing the probability of precipitation.
 20. US-based GE Aerospace has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force.
Note: Aerospace's F414 engines will be co-produced in India to power the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk2. The development comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US. It is part of an effort to improve defense- and technology-sharing between the India and US.
 21. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) 'Dhruv' in **Kochi, Kerala**.
Note: The ISC 'Dhruv' hosts modern state-of-the-art indigenously-built simulators which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy. These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience in navigation, fleet operations, and Naval tactics. These simulators will also be utilized for training of personnel from friendly countries.
 22. The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out **Exercise Ranvijay** in UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility from June 16-23.
Note: The focus was on Integrated operations while optimally exploiting the electronic warfare capabilities. The exercise was carried out from different air bases of the command headquartered in Prayagraj. Different IAF commands have been carrying out wargames and aerial drills to enhance jointness with the other two services.
 23. India and **Philippines** decided to collaborate in the defense sector, with a particular focus on the maritime domain at Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation.
Note: Both will develop their ties through different initiatives including official-level interactions, the resident Defense Attaché office in Manila, and the consideration of a concessional Line of Credit. The bilateral ties will strengthen the partnership between the two countries in various fields.

May 2023

1. **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** researchers has developed a machine learning-based computational tool for better detection of cancer-causing tumors in the brain and spinal cord.
Note: The web server **known as 'GBMDriver' (Glioblastoma Mutiforme Drivers)** is now publicly available online. The GBMDriver was developed specifically to identify driver mutations and passenger mutations (passenger mutations are neutral mutations) in Glioblastoma.
2. A new low-cost star sensor, named '**StarBerrySense**', developed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** from off-the-shelf components, has started functioning properly in its first test launch.
Note: It was put into space by Isro's PSLV C-55 on April 22, 2023. Function: Quickly and accurately calculate where a satellite is pointing in space as for any space mission. The star sensor can find its pointing direction in space by identifying the stars in its field of view.
3. **DRDO** and **Indian Navy** conducted the successful maiden **test trial of 'ADC-150' from IL 38SD aircraft, Goa**.
Note: It is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with a 150 kg payload capacity. The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick responses to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships. sIt reduces the requirement for ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.
4. India has participated in the **inaugural edition** of the **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise** with its two frontline warships- **INS Satpura** and **INS Delhi**.
Note: The harbor phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at the **Changi Naval Base (Singapore)** from May 2-4, while the sea phase will be conducted from May 7-8 in the South China Sea. INS Delhi is India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer, while INS Satpura is an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate.
5. **BULAND BHARAT**, an integrated surveillance and **firepower training Exercise** that was conducted at the **Highest Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre**.
Note: It involves the synergized application of surveillance and firepower capabilities of the Artillery and the Infantry in close coordination with Special Forces, Aviation, and CAPF deployed in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Uninterrupted communication on multiple media was also tested at long distances.
6. **INS Magar** has been **decommissioned after 36 years** of exceptional service to the nation.
Note: The ship's decommissioning ceremony was held at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**. It was indigenously built **by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd**, Kolkata and was launched on 16th November 1984 and commissioned into the Indian Navy on 18 July 1987 by Admiral R H Tahiliani.

7. **INS Tarini** will be **returned to India after a six-month-long transoceanic intercontinental expedition**.
Note: It commenced from Goa on November 17, 2022, and is scheduled to be completed at the same venue on May 24, 2023. During the expedition, Tarini sailed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Cape Town, South Africa, participating in Cape to Rio Race 2023.
39. **Rocket Lab** has launched **NASA's two satellites** to study **tropical storms and hurricanes**.
Note: The two CubeSats, the founding members of the agency's TROPICS network, launched atop a Rocket Lab Electron rocket, which was **lifted off from New Zealand**.
Aim: To improve forecasting and provide new insights into how tropical storms evolve and intensify. The TROPICS constellation will consist of four CubeSats in low Earth orbit.
40. **IIT Madras** and **DRDO** have developed cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications.
Note: The Indigenous technology will enable the fabrication of devices at a relatively lower cost. **'Piezoelectric MEMS technology'** is required to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo thin film' into state-of-the-art futuristic naval sensors and devices for underwater applications. The **Piezo Thin Films** are one of the vital components of piezo MEMS devices.
41. **International Business Machines (IBM)** has collaborated with the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** to launch a new geospatial foundation model.
Note: It is designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future. It is expected to be available for preview in the second half of 2023. This model would be part of IBM's watsonx.ai, a next-gen enterprise studio.
42. **PM Modi** laid the foundation stone of scientific projects worth more than **Rs 5800 crore** on May 11.
Note: One of the most significant projects is the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)**. The LIGO-India will be **developed in Hingoli, Maharashtra**. It is an extremely sensitive interferometer of 4 km arm length and act as 'antennae' to detect gravitational waves. It will work in synchronization with two observatories operating in the US.
43. **ISRO** has successfully **commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines**, that would power future launch vehicles.
Note: The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the **2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine** was carried out at the newly-commissioned Semicryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The test is a step towards developing a 2000 kN thrust engine, which works on Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene propellant combination.
44. **Space start up, Vast** is aiming to launch a school bus-sized space station to orbit by late **2025 in association with Elon Musk's rocket firm, SpaceX**.
Note: The **cylindrical spacecraft dubbed Haven-1** is the latest platform planned as a replacement for the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is expected to retire in 2030. In 2021, NASA awarded \$415 million in development funds to four companies including Northrop Grumman and Blue Origin.
45. **US space agency, NASA** has launched a second football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB), under its **Scientific Balloon Program**, from Wānaka Airport, New Zealand.
Note: The first scientific balloon was launched on April 16, following five failed attempts last year. Airways (New Zealand's air navigation services provider) works with Nasa to launch the balloons, which inflate fully in flight to 532,000 cubic meters and carry a scientific payload.
46. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **India's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh**.
Note: It will highlight the IAF's role in various wars. It also houses the first IAF-made patent aircraft Air Force 'Kanpur-1 Vintage Prototype Aircraft', a single-engine indigenous flying machine designed and built by the late Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in 1958. In June 2022, an MoU on the heritage centre was signed between the Chandigarh administration and IAF.
47. **35th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was concluded in the **Andaman Sea** on May 10, 2023.
Note: Aim: To reinforce maritime linkages between the two countries and ensure the safety and security of the international trade route in the Indian Ocean. **INS Kesari**, an indigenously built LST (L), and HTMS Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate participated in the exercise.
48. **4th edition of the India-Indonesia bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23** is being organized in **Batam, Indonesia** from 14-19 May 2023.
Note: Aim: To enhance interoperability, jointness, and mutual cooperation between both navies. India Navy has participated with **INS Kavaratti**, Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, and Chetak helicopter. While the Indonesian Navy participated with KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and AS565 Panther Helicopter.
49. **NASA** has selected **Blue Origin** to make its **lunar lander for Artemis V**, a mission slated to put astronauts near the moon's south pole in 2029.
Note: The Blue Origin contract will provide NASA with a second ride to the moon. Blue Origin will work with several industry partners like Lockheed Martin, Draper, Boeing, Astrobotic, and Honeybee Robotics. Blue Origin plans to use its New Glenn rocket, which has never flown

before, to launch both its lander and this refueling shuttle.

50. **Gajraj Corps** of the **Indian Army** has organized a **Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge** on Manas River, Assam.

Note: Aim: To validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns. The exercise was joined by Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force, DDMA, and police representatives. It includes coordination and rehearsals for a rescue mission of people from inundated areas.

51. **4th Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise titled 'Samudra Shakti-23'** concluded in the South China Sea.

Note: The sea phase of the exercise was held from 17th to 19th May 2023 witnessed the participation of ASW corvette INS Kavaratti with integral Chetak helicopter and a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Sea phase was preceded by a harbour phase which saw professional interactions. Samudra Shakti exercise was first held in 2018.

52. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has launched **15 Centres of Excellence (CoE)** as part of the **'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) Scheme** on 24th May 2023.

Note: Aim: To develop next-generation technologies and create a significant impact. The IoE Scheme was launched by the Government of India to empower Higher Educational Institutions to become world-class teaching and research institutions. IIT Madras, one of the pre-eminent institutions in India, was chosen in 2019.

53. India's AI supercomputer **AIRAWAT** has secured the 75th position in the **prestigious Top 500 Global Supercomputing List**.

Note: The announcement was made during the 61st edition of the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) held in Germany. Airawat PSAI, stands as India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak). Other Indian supercomputers: PARAM Siddhi-AI (131), Pratyush (169), and Mihir (316)

54. **ISRO** has successfully launched a **second generation NVS-01**, by using a GSLV rocket with a cryogenic upper stage.

Note: Type: Navigation Satellite. NVS-01 would augment the India's regional navigation system, providing accurate and real-time navigation. The GSLV-F12/NVS-01 mission was launched from the 2nd launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The signals will be more secure, civilian frequency band has been introduced. This was one of five such satellites.

55. India's defense production has **increased by more than 12%** from last fiscal year and crossed the **1 trillion rupees** threshold for the first time.

Note: Reason: India is reducing its reliance on imports from countries such as Russia. The value of India's local defence production jumped to 1.07 trillion rupees, as on March 31, 2023, and was expected to rise further once data from some private defence companies came in.

56. **Submarine, INS Sindhuratna** has been **returned to Mumbai (India)** after undergoing a major refit at Naval Dockyard in Russia, **after sailing for 97 days**.

Note: The ship returned passage through the Norwegian Sea, English Channel, and the Mediterranean Sea. It had gone for an upgrade in Severodvinsk after a major accident in February 2014. INS Sindhuratna is a Russian Type 877EKM diesel-electric submarine. It is popularly called a NATO-defined Kilo-class sub.

57. **Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF)** concluded the sea phase of the **second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23' in Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia**.

Note: Indian Navy participated with the INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra, and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA). The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo, and UAV. The exercise culminated with debrief at sea followed by a traditional steam past.

58. The **Joint Bangladesh-US Naval** drill Exercise **'Tiger Shark 40'** has started at BNS Nirvik in **Chattogram**.

Note: Aim: To increase the strategic capabilities of both countries and to acquire mutual technical and procedural knowledge. It is being undertaken to improve tsshe existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries. Bangladesh Army and Navy and US Special Forces participated in this training exercise held under the management of Commodore Swords Command.

April 2023

1. The **10th Edition** of the **annual Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise, SLINEX-2023** is scheduled to be held in **Colombo** on April 3, 2023.

Note: It is being **conducted in two phases** of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase. The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura. The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.

2. In Financial Year 2022-23, **India's defense exports** have reached an **all-time high of 15920 crore rupees**, which is almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year (2021-22).

Note: At present, **India is now exporting to over 85 countries**. India exports major platforms like Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns (ATAGs), Brahmos Missiles, Akash Missile System, Simulators, Mine Protected Vehicles, Armoured Vehicles, PINAKA Rockets & Launchers, etc.

3. The Indian Air Force and the US Air Force started the joint exercise '**Cope India**' at **Kalaikunda airbase** in West Bengal from April 10 to 21, 2023.
Note: This exercise will enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces. **While Japan will also join as an "observer"** in the exercise and witness "air combat and mobility elements" operating from multiple air bases like Kalaikunda, Panagarh, Agra, and Hindon.
4. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Lok Sabha that the central **government approved the induction of women in the Regiment of Artillery**.
Note: In January 2023, the proposal to induct woman officers in the Regiment of Artillery was sent to the government. The exact number of woman officers who will be inducted into the Artillery will only be known at the time of the commission of the next batch from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.
5. **Israel** has successfully launched the "**Ofek-13**" **spy satellite** into space by the Shavit launch vehicle, from Palmachim Airbase spaceport.
Note: This satellite was **manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**. It is the latest in a series of domestically produced satellites that were first put into orbit in 1988. Immediately after launch, the satellite successfully entered orbit and started transmitting data, and completed an initial series of tests
6. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** in association with the **DRDO and IAF** successfully demonstrated a precise landing experiment for a **Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) test**.
Note: It was conducted **at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka**. This is a part of ISRO's efforts to develop RLVs, or space planes/shuttles, which can travel to low earth orbits to deliver payloads and return to earth for use again.
7. **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test-fired a **fully 3D-printed 'Dhawan II' cryogenic engine for 200 seconds**.
Note: The company developed the engine for its heavier vehicle, Vikram II. This engine will be used as the upper stage of the updated version of Vikram-II. A cryogenic upper stage instead of a solid fuel stage enhances the payload-carrying capacity of a rocket. In 2022, Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space.
8. **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** has conducted a large-scale Joint Military Exercise '**Ex KAVACH**' involving the assets of the **Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard**.
Note: KAVACH exercise began on 23rd February 2023 and concluded on April 7, 2023. Aim: Fine-tuning joint warfare capabilities & SOPs and enhancing interoperability and operational synergy between the forces. ANC is the first integrated theatre command in India with headquarters at Port Blair.
9. **Prashthan exercise** is held every 6 months under Indian Navy and involves the participation of all stakeholders in the maritime domain.
Note: It is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders. It was conducted on the Greatdrill Chaaya platform, which is about 30 nm South West of Mumbai Harbour. Personnel from Maharashtra Police, Customs, Fisheries Department, Mumbai Port Authority, etc also participated in it
10. An Indian Air Force contingent is participating in the multinational international **Exercise Orion, organized at Mont-de-Marsan in France** from 17 April to 5 May 2023.
Note: The **IAF Contingent is joining the exercise** with four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft, and 165 air warriors. It would be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft. Other participants: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, and the United States of America.
11. **South African cricketer** has launched its flagship JUICE (JUper ICy moons Explorer) mission on April 14, 2023.
Note: The mission was carried by an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. It will take an eight-year journey to reach Jupiter. Aim: To understand whether there are habitable environments among those icy moons and around a Jupiter. It will make detailed observations of Jupiter and its three large moons: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa
12. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Industry Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) has been inaugurated at **Indian Institute of Technology -Hyderabad**.
Note: DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat inaugurated the facility at the campus of the IIT-Hyderabad at Sangareddy in Telangana. The government is taking up futuristic projects towards long-term directed research needed for DRDO. The DIA CoE IITH is the largest centre among all 15 CoEs in the country.
13. **Kenya** has successfully launched its inaugural earth observation satellite, Taifa-1 using a SpaceX rocket from the United States.
Note: The satellite was carried by the Falcon 9 rocket, launched from Vandenberg Base in California. It was developed over a two-year period at a cost of 50 million Kenyan shillings, with assistance from the Bulgarian aerospace firm Endurosat. Additionally, under SpaceX's rideshare initiative, the launch rocket carried 50 payloads from other countries.
14. **IIT Roorkee** has signed an MoU with the National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), Taiwan.
Note: Aim: To develop scientific and academic cooperation and scientific research to promote relations and mutual understanding between NCDR and the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and

- Management of IIT Roorkee. The main objective is to develop a technological solution to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, and compound disasters.
15. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** will set up its first International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania in October 2023.
Note: In February 2023, a team of five professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania and held discussions with various officials on starting the campus. It will be the first IIT campus in Africa and classes are to start from October. This information was shared by IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day.
 16. **Moon Village Association** and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands for global outreach activities in connection with the proposed Chandrayaan-3.
Note: Aim: To increase the impact of Isro's lunar program at a global level and ensure further international cooperation. It will focus on the global aspect of lunar exploration and identify communication, and encourage the youth to focus on the benefits of every lunar mission.
 17. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and **Indian Navy** has successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha in Bay of Bengal.
Note: Aim: To engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of Nations having Naval BMD capability. Prior to this, DRDO has demonstrated land-based BMD system with capability to neutralize ballistic missile threats.
 18. **Indian Space Research Organisations (ISRO)** has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C55 (PSLV-C55) mission carrying two Singaporean satellites titled, Singapore's TeLEOS-2 as the primary satellite and LUMELITE-4 from Satish Dhawan Space Center at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
Note: They are co-passenger satellites precisely into their intended 586 km circular orbit. PSLV-C55 is a commercial PSLV mission of NSIL, which is the commercial arm of ISRO.
 19. Solar Industries Nagpur has recently bagged an order to supply the UAV 'Nagastra' to which armed force, beating competitors from Israel and Poland.
Note: Nagastra is India's first indigenous loitering munition which can strike enemy targets with precision. It has been designed and developed by Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Solar Industries Nagpur, in association with Z-Motion, Bangalore. It has an indigenous content of more than 75%
 20. **Seventh** edition of a joint military exercise between India and the UK, 'Ajeya Warrior 2023' has been started in the Salisbury Plains, UK.
Note: The biennial training event started on 27 April and continues till May 11. The Indian Army has participated with indigenous weapons and equipment. Scope of exercise: It involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the battalion level and company level field training exercise (FTX). Last edition (October 2021): Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.

Books and Authors

August 2023

1. The Indian-origin author, **Chetna Maroo** has been selected for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist with her debut novel 'Western Lane'.
Note: The novel, set in the British Gujarati milieu, skillfully uses the sport of squash as a metaphor for intricate human emotions, earning praise from the Booker judges. The longlist comprises 13 books written by authors from various countries, including Ireland, Canada, the US, and the UK, explore universal and topical themes.
2. **Veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury** authored the new book, titled How Prime Ministers Decide.
Note: A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.
3. **Vipul Rikhi** is the writer of Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir.
Note: A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively. The book is published by HarperCollins India and written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi. The book presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.
4. The book titled 'Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir', was authored by **Vipul Rikhi**.
Note: Published by: HarperCollins India. It presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved

in popular imagination. A new book captures the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision, and his poetry which has been quoted and translated extensively. It brings into one place stories from Kabir's life, his most famous songs.

- The book 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' was authored by **Amrit Mathur**.
Note: Through anecdotes, events, and matches, he provides an insider's view garnered over a span of more than 30 years of closely observing the game and its players. With experience as a cricket administrator, he notably managed the Indian team during the historic 1992 tour of South Africa
- Along with Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan, **Union Minister for Sports Anurag Thakur** has released books based on speeches of PM Narendra Modi titled "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

Note: The book is launched at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal. The second and third volumes focusing on the addresses of PM Narendra Modi from June 2020 to May 2022 were released.

- BJP President J P Nadda released the Outlook Group's Coffee Table Book 'Sikhs and Modi (A Journey of Nine Years)', which was authored by **Prabhleen Singh**.
Note: The teachings of Sikh Gurus contributed towards the unity of the society, patriotism, and dedication towards religion. It was the first time after Independence that the country has started observing 'Veer Bal Diwas' on the day of sacrifice by the young sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh for unity and integrity of the country.

July 2023

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

June 2023

- Abhay K** has authored the **book titled 'Nalanda'**.
Note: The book will be **published by Penguin Random House India**. The book delves into the history of the ancient seat of learning in Bihar. It is his highly anticipated book which is set to take readers on an enlightening journey through time and history. The book is scheduled to release in October next year in 2024 from the Vintage imprint.
- The book titled, '**The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life**' is authored by **BK Shivani**.
Note: The book **published by HarperCollins India**. This book will bring the perfect thought booster, an empowering book that is an essential guide to unleashing the power of the mind, where it all begins from, to make that dream life happen. Brahma Kumari (BK) Sister Shivani, a Rajyog Meditation practitioner for

over 25 years has become a household name for her refreshing and pragmatic take on life.

3. **KK Gopalakrishnan** authored the **book titled "Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime"**.

Note: The book offers a behind-the-scenes look into the world of Kathakali, focusing on the green room, artists' struggles, and the unique bonds forged during long make-up hours.

4. The new graphic novel for young readers titled '**Ajay to Yogi Adityanath**', was authored by **Shantanu Gupta**.

Note: More than 5,000 children from over 51 schools across different districts of Uttar Pradesh participated in the launch ceremony. Prior to this, author Shantanu Gupta has written two bestseller titles on Yogi Adityanath- The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh and The Monk Who Became Chief Minister.

5. The **book titled, "The Snow Forest"**, will be released in February 2024, is authored by **Elizabeth Gilbert**.

Note: This book is published by Bloomsbury. The novel, "The Snow Forest", is inspired by the true story of the family of religious hermits discovered in Siberia in 1978 who had escaped early 20th century Russia for a life in one of the most inhospitable and uninhabited places on earth. He has also authored 'Eat, Pray, Love'.

6. **Satish Chandra** has penned a book titled 'A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service'.

Note: It chronicles his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005. The book was published by the Rupa Publications. The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework.

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

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

8. A book titled 'The New New-Delhi Book Club', authored by **Radhika Swarup**.

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

May 2023

1. **NITI Aayog** has released the "**Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium, 2023**" in collaboration with the **UNDP**.

Note: Reason: To commemorate 75 years of India's independence and highlight and laud the efforts of Union Ministries and State Governments. This compendium includes 75 case studies cutting across 14 key social sectors. The aim of this exercise has been to synthesize lessons for the future to expand, enhance and improve life at the grassroots level.

2. **Amitabh Kant** has authored a new **book titled "Made In India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"**.

Note: Rupa Publications India published this book. He served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) (2016-2022).

8. **Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami** has launched the Hindi version of cybercrime named '**Cyber Encounters**'.

Note: This book was **co-authored** by state director general of Police (DGP) **Ashok Kumar** and former DRDO scientist **OP Manocha**. This book will help the readers in becoming aware of various cyber crimes as it has mentioned actually related cases. It will serve to inspire people to protect themselves from cybercrime.

9. **Oprah Winfrey** has co-authored a **book titled 'Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier'** with **Arthur C Brooks**.

Note: The book is expected to be released on September 12, 2023, by Portfolio Books. This book will introduce readers to the incredible science of happiness, based on the best research available. **Other books** by Winfrey: What I Know for Sure, The Path Made Clear, and Food, Health, and Happiness.

10. **Ruskin Bond** is the author of a **book titled "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life"**.

Note: The Golden Years book is **published by HarperCollins India**. This book was released on 19 May 2023, Bond's 89th birthday. The Golden Years" focuses on Bond's experiences during the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

11. **Anshuman Gaekwad** has released his semi-autobiographical book titled "**Guts Amidst Bloodbath**" at the Cricket Club of India (CCI).

Note: The occasion was graced by six former India cricket captains - Sachin Tendulkar, Gundapa Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, and Kapil Dev. These legendary cricketers shared anecdotes and praised Gaekwad for his contributions to the sport.

12. The book titled '**Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration**' was written by **Dr. Manoj Kumar**.

Note: It is a compendium of three volumes with Judgments spanning from the year 1988 till 2022 covering Arbitration Act 1940 and 1996. The book was

fore worded by R.Venkataramani. There has been substantial jurisprudence laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Country on Commercial Arbitration spanning over multiple statutory frameworks.

13. **Assam Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria** has released a book titled '**Partitioned Freedom**' at an event in Guwahati.

Note: This book was written by Ram Madhav and published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. This book offers great insights into the events that unfolded during 1905 and the pre-independence era. Ram Madhav is an Indian Politician, Author, and thinker. His other books: Uneasy Neighbours: India and China After 50 Years of the War and Asahaj Pados

14. A book titled, "**RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond**" will be released by **Dr Shashi Tharoor**.

Note: This book was written by **Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group and former MP Dr Vijay Darda**. It is a captivating compilation of Darda's weekly articles, which were published in the Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other prominent national and regional dailies of the country between 2011 and 2016

15. **Five books published under the Nayi Pahal** scheme for new writers, were released by **Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai** in a function at Raj Bhavan.

Note: The five books released were authored by Sanjay Ramesh Salelkar (Konkani), Pallavi Polekar (Marathi), Manohar Adpaikar (Marathi), and Pachu Menon (two books in English). The five titles are the first of 100 odd books that the Raj Bhavan plans on publishing in 22 different languages through its innovative scheme.

April 2023

1. A new book titled **Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta ('Gandhi: Politics and Communalism')** was released in Hindi.

Note: This book was written by **journalist-turned-author Piyush Babele**. Currently, he is the head of the Madhya Pradesh Congress' media department. He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar's book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources and claims to contextualize the developments leading up to India's Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right-wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition.

2. "**Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire**" is a book written by **Nandini Das**.

Note: She is a professor of **English Literature at the University of Liverpool**. The book explores the complex relationship between England and Mughal India in the early modern period. This book also focuses on the cultural and literary exchanges that took place between these two worlds.

3. A book entitled "**War and Women**", authored by **Dr. M A Hasan** was released.

Note: It was launched during the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. This book highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.

4. **Vani Tripathi Tikoo**, an actor and member of the Indian censor board, has written her debut children's book titled "**Why Can't Elephants be Red??**".

Note: It was published by **Niyogi Books**. The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore.

5. A new book titled '**Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema**' has been released.

Note: This book chronicles the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker **Basu Chatterjee**. It is written by **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee** and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

6. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched its **coffee table book** titled "**The Banker to Every Indian**", which celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and the 200-year history of SBI.

Note: The coffee table book details the Bank's history ever since independence. The book is a tribute to the spirit of India's independence and SBI's contribution to nation-building.

7. **Pattabhi Ram & Sabyasachee Dash** has co-authored a new book titled "**The Great Bank Robbery: NPAs, Scams and the Future of Regulation**".

Note: This book discusses **11 scams** that have rocked **India since its Independence (1947)**. The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.

8. A book titled, 'In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations Under Six Prime Ministers' is a memoir of **Satinder Kumar Lambah**.

Note: It was forwarded by former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh. Satinder Kumar Lambah had served two tenures in Pakistan as Deputy Chief of Mission and High Commissioner and was Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board. He also served as a Special Representative for Afghanistan under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

9. Francois 'Faf' du Plessis's memoir 'Faf Through Fire' is all set to release in India in May 2023, is cricketer of **South African cricketer**.
Note: The book is published by Penguin Random House India. Presently, he is the captain of the Indian Premier League's Royal Challengers Bangalore team. He is also the former Captain of the South African National Cricket team. In his upcoming memoir, he has shared his journey as a cricketer, love for the game, and also reveals his struggles and triumphs.
10. World Book Day is celebrated annually on **April 23** to promote the love for reading, writing, publishing, and copyright.
Note: This day is also known as World Book and Copyright Day. The theme for World Book Day 2023 is 'Indigenous Languages.' This theme focuses on promoting the diversity in native languages of a country. It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
11. A new book titled, 'A Resurgent Northeast: Narratives of Change', is authored by **Ashish Kundra**.
Note: The book was launched in the presence of Kiren Rijiju (Union Minister of Law and Justice); Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas), Pema Khandu (CM of Arunachal Pradesh), and Amitabh Kant. Senior bureaucrat-author Ashish Kundra served in the Northeast for eight years.
12. A new book 'Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories', is authored by **Amitav Ghosh**.
Note: This book explores the opium trade's effect on world history and how it continues to hugely impact our lives today. The book will be published by HarperCollins India's Fourth Estate imprint. Other Notable works: The Shadow Lines, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, Gun Island, and The Great Derangement
13. **PM Narendra Modi** has launched the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih' by Shree Somnath Sanskrit University during the closing ceremony of 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam'.
Note: PM Modi addressed the closing ceremony via video conferencing. The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam takes forward this vision by celebrating the shared culture and heritage between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. The 10-day confluence saw more than 3000 Saurashtrian Tamils come to Somnath on a special train.
14. At the 100th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', a book called 'Collective Spirit, Concrete Action' was launched, is authored by **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**.
Note: Shashi Shekhar Vempati is a former CEO of Prasar Bharat. According to the author, 'Mann Ki Baat' is a combination of the power of radio and the vision of a nation's leader. Over the course of 15 chapters, the book special also offers insights and perspectives from grassroots change-makers and iconic personalities.

-----0-----

All The best for your Exam.

Features :



Live Classes by
Top Faculty



Comprehensive Study
Material



Daily Study Plan



Latest Pattern Test Series



Complete Doubt
Resolution



Regular Assessments with
Report Card

