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MAY 2023

# BAZOOKA

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched the “**City Beauty Competition**” **portal** to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces. Under the competition, wards and public spaces in cities would be judged against five broad pillars like: Accessibility, Amenities, Activities, Aesthetics and Ecology.  
The competition would felicitate the most beautiful wards and public spaces in the cities.

2. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the **National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2023-24** held at NASC Complex, **New Delhi**.

**Objective:** To review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons and fix crop-wise targets for Kharif season in consultation with State Governments, ensure supply of critical inputs and facilitate adoption of innovative technologies with a view to enhance production and productivity of the crops.

**National target for 2023-24:**

- A national target of **3320 lakh tonnes** has been fixed for the **total food grain production** for the year 2023-24.
  - The target of **pulses production** has been set at **292.5 lakh tonnes** as against 278.1 lakh tonnes this year.
  - **Oilseeds production** will be increased from 400 to **440 lakh tonnes** in 2023-24.
  - **Shree Anna** aims to increase the total production from 159.1 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 to **170.0 lakh tonnes** in 2023-24.
3. Union Minister has also launched the ‘**Krishi Mapper**’, an integrated app for Geospatial Data in Agriculture.

It is noteworthy that agriculture accounts for about **19 percent** of the GDP and about two-thirds of the population is dependent on the agriculture sector.

**Note:** As per the 2nd Advance Estimates (2022-23), production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 3235 lakh tonnes which is higher by 79 lakh tonnes than the production of foodgrains during 2021-22.

4. The **7<sup>th</sup> edition** of joint military exercise “**AJEYA WARRIOR-23**” between **India** and the **United Kingdom** has been conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023.

**Participants:** Soldiers of the 2 Royal Gorkha Rifles from the United Kingdom and Indian Army soldiers from the BIHAR Regiment.

**Objective:** To build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking company-level sub-conventional operations in urban and semi-urban environments under UN mandate, in addition to developing inter-operability, bonhomie, camaraderie, and friendship between the two armies.

**Scope:** A Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX).

**Note:** The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021.

5. The 96 cables on the first cable-stayed bridge of India, the **Anji Khad Bridge**, have been fully installed in a record time of 11 months. The bridge will get ready in May 2023.
- It is constructed over the **Anji River**, a tributary of the Chenab River between Katra and Reasi.
  - The bridge will connect tunnel T2 structure (on the **Katra** side) and tunnel T3 (on the **Reasi** side).
  - The cost of the project is around **Rs.450 crore**.
  - The total length is 473.25 metres and its height (from the river bed to the formation) is 196 metres.

**Cable-stayed bridge:**

A cable-stayed bridge is one which has one (or more) tower(s) from which cables support the bridge deck. The unique characteristic is the cables, which run directly from the tower to the deck.

6. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched the **Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET)** initiative to be better prepared for future outbreaks of a similar scale and devastation as the COVID-19 pandemic.

This initiative has been launched at the Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The PRET Initiative aims to provide guidance on integrated planning for responding to any respiratory pathogen such as influenza or coronaviruses.

The first module focuses on respiratory pathogens, including influenza, coronaviruses, and respiratory syncytial virus.

7. **India** will join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (**CORSIA**) and Long-Term Aspirational Goals (**LTAG**) from **2027**.

This announcement has been made in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament of the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the chairmanship of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

ICAO has adopted goals of **2%** annual fuel efficiency improvement through **2050**, carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards, and net zero by **2050**.

8. Defence Minister of India **Rajnath Singh** has visited **Maldives** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 on the invitation of his Maldivian Counterpart Defence Minister **Mariya Didi**.

**Key highlights of the visit:**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi, has laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) Coast Guard **'Ekatha Harbour'**.
  - He has also handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel and a Landing Craft Assault ship to MNDF.
  - He has asserted that the ties emanate from the twin policies of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
9. The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has launched the **"CU- Chayan"** portal, a new unified platform to hire faculty members in central universities. The portal will provide a consolidated list of job openings across all 46 central universities under the Union Ministry of Education.
- The portal will provide a common platform for listing of vacancies, advertisements and jobs across all CUs.
10. **Dr. Chintan Vaishnav**, Chair Startup20, G20 along with Durga Jasraj founder of Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation has launched the **"UPAJ: A Festival of Innovations in Arts"** in NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

The UPAJ festival is scheduled for the first week of July 2023 when the G20 Startup20 summit meeting is planned.

The event has been a part of the World Intellectual Property (IP) Day 2023 (26<sup>th</sup> April 2023) celebration organized by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks.

**Startup20:**



It is a platform for entrepreneurship and innovation leaders from the G20 countries to collaborate and formulate policy recommendations to support the development of startup ecosystems.

- 11.** The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Magar**, the lead ship of Magar-class amphibious warfare vessels of the Indian Navy, has recently been decommissioned after 36 years of service. The decommissioning ceremony has been held at Southern Naval Command, Kochi in Kerala.

**INS Magar:**

- It is the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large) of the Indian Navy.
- It was indigenously built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 18 July 1987 by late Admiral R H Tahiliani.
- It has been named after a species of crocodile.
- It has participated in numerous operations, amphibious exercises, and humanitarian missions, noteworthy of them being Operation Samudra Setu.

- 12.** A mutual firefighting Exercise named '**Agni Daman-23**' has been conducted to spread awareness and train the personnel of both civil and military agencies on firefighting at 29 Field Ammunition Depot, Dehu Road under the aegis of Headquarter Southern Command in **Pune, Maharashtra.**

The exercise has been conducted along with 56 firefighting columns, including 32 from civil agencies.

The exercise aims to enhance synergy among firemen to work together effectively in the event of major fire incidents in and around the city.

- 13.** The Government of India (GoI) has formed an **11-member high-level committee** under the chairmanship of **Sanjay Garg**, Additional Secretary (AS) of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DPRE) & Secretary, ICAR, to restructure the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) and reduce its size.

The committee will submit the report within 30 days.

**Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):**

ICAR is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It was established on 16th July 1929 in the name of Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

- 14.** The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has launched a new introductory-level online training programme called '**Space Science and Technology Awareness Training**

**(STARTY)** aimed at post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.

START will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.

The programme will be delivered by the scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.

15. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme/ Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS), has organized a meeting of Range Countries to strengthen conservation efforts for migratory birds and their habitats in the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** in New Delhi.

Flyways are areas used by groups of birds during their annual cycle which includes breeding areas, stop-over areas and wintering areas.

**CAF:**

It is one among the nine flyways identified under Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as **Bonn Convention**. It covers a large area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans. This flyway comprises several important migration routes of birds. There are 30 countries (including India) under the Central Asian Flyway.

16. The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has renamed the existing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (**NPCCDS**) programme as **National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)**.

It has been renamed to subsume all types of NCDs.

- NP-NCD was launched in 2010 with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral.
- It is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the country.

MoHFW has also renamed the Comprehensive Primary Healthcare Non-Communicable Disease (CPHC NCD IT) system as the **National NCD Portal** to cover a wider population for screening and management of NCD.

17. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications of Myanmar Admiral Tin Aung San have jointly inaugurated the **Sittwe Port** in Rakhine State of **Myanmar**.
- This port has been developed as a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) funded under grant in aid assistance from Government of India.
  - The waterway and road components of KMTTP will link the East coast of India to the North-eastern states through the Sittwe port.

During this event, they received the first Indian Cargo ship which has been flagged off from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.

18. Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, has introduced the **SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management)**, a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- SAKSHAM is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in India.
  - This digital learning platform has been developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi.
19. **MyGov** has joined hands with the **Ministry of Culture** to launch '**Yuva Pratibha – Singing Talent Hunt**' to promote Indian music at the grassroots level on a national scale by identifying and recognising new and young talent in various singing genres.

**Reward & Recognition:**

- 1st Winner: Rs.1,00,000/- + Trophy + Certificate
- 2nd Winner: Rs.75,000/- + Trophy + Certificate
- 3rd Winner: Rs.50,000/- + Trophy + Certificate
- Following 17 Contestants in the finale will be rewarded with a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000 /- each.

**Mentorship:** Top three winners will be mentored for a period of one month with a mentorship stipend.

**Other collaboration:**

MyGov, in collaboration with the Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa, has launched the '**YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt**'. The aim is to bring out the lost recipes of India and promote the culinary talents of youth, and to create awareness of the contribution of nutri-cereals (millets) for food security and nutrition.

20. India's Commerce & Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has hosted the **CEOs (Chief Executive Officers) roundtable** in Toronto, Canada, along with **Mary Ng**, Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development.
- The Business Council of Canada (**BCC**) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) have organised the CEOs roundtable.
  - During the event, BCC & FICCI have announced a new partnership to connect business leaders from both countries, promote bilateral economic ties, and enhance cooperation as partners in the Indo-Pacific region.



Both ministers have also co-chaired the sixth Canada-India ministerial dialogue on trade and investment and discussed an **Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)**. The two countries are expected to sign EPTA within 2023.

21. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various development projects of Land Ports Authority of India (**LPAI**) and Border Security Force (**BSF**) in West Bengal.

He has also inaugurated Maitridwar at ICP Petrapole, BSF's newly constructed Border Outposts (BOPs) and other buildings, virtually.

**Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI):**

- LPAI is a **statutory body**, under **Ministry of Home Affairs**, to develop and manage facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along international borders.
- LPAI is responsible for establishing, operating and managing Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along land borders of India.
- There are currently **nine Land Ports** operational in India at *Attari, Agartala, Petrapole, Raxaul, Jogbani, Moreh, Sutarkandi, Srimantapur and PTB at Dera Baba Nanak.*

In 2021-22, LPAI facilitated trade worth Rs. 77,572.99 crore.

22. The **35<sup>th</sup>** edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (**Indo-Thai CORPAT**) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy has been held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the **Andaman Sea**.

**Participants:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L) and His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies.

**Indo-Thai CORPAT:**

The Indo-Thai CORPAT is a bi-annual coordinated patrol conducted by the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy. It aims to reinforce maritime linkages between India and Thailand and ensure the safety and security of the international trade route in the Indian Ocean.

23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects related to scientific and technological advancement worth more than **Rs.5800 crores** to mark the commencement of the celebration of the 25th year of National Technology Day held from 11th to 14th May 2023.

**Foundation stone:**

- **Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory – India (LIGO-India):** Hingoli, Maharashtra
- Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre: Jatni, Odisha
- Platinum Jubilee Block of Tata Memorial Hospital: Mumbai, Maharashtra

#### Projects dedicated to the nation:

- **Fission Molybdenum-99 Production Facility:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Plant:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Radiological Research Unit: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Women & Children Cancer Hospital Building: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also released a commemorative stamp and coin to mark the occasion of National Technology Day (11th May).

24. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has lowered the threshold of the turnover of the companies that are mandated to generate **electronic or e-invoicing** for all business-to-business (B2B) transactions to **Rs.5 crore** from Rs.10 crore with effect from **1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**.

#### Applicability of e-invoicing:

- Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for B2B transactions was made mandatory for companies with turnover of over Rs.500 crore from October 1, 2020.
- It was then extended to those with turnover of over Rs 100 crore effective January 1, 2021.
- From April 1, 2021, companies with turnover of over Rs 50 crore were generating B2B e-invoices, and the threshold was brought down to Rs.20 crore beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- From October 1, 2022, the threshold was further lowered to Rs.10 crore.

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25. India has recently observed the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the successful **Pokhran II** nuclear tests conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

- India successfully conducted three nuclear bomb test explosions at the testing site in Pokhran on **May 11, 1998**.
- The code name of Pokhran II was **Operation Shakti**.
- These tests enabled India to build fission and thermonuclear weapons with yield up to 200 kt (kilotons).
- These tests showcased India's capability to build nuclear weapons.

India conducted its first nuclear test at Pokhran, known as Pokhran-I or **Operation Smiling Buddha** in 1974. The test was described as a peaceful nuclear explosion but faced international condemnation and sanctions.

26. The Ministry of Finance has notified changes in the **Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA) 2022**, widening its ambit to include the financial transactions facilitated by the chartered accountants (**CA**), company secretaries (**CS**), and cost and works accountants (**CWA**).

With this, the financial transitions by these professionals including operating and managing their client firms and trusts, and buying and selling business entities will now covered under the anti-money laundering law.

27. **Dhruva Space Private Limited** has successfully tested the qualification of its 2 satellite orbital deployers- 3U Satellite Orbital Deployer (**DSOD-3U**), 6U Satellite Orbital Deployer (**DSOD-6U**), and its orbital link Dhruva Space Orbital Link (DSOL) launched aboard Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) PSLV-C55 mission.
28. Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur, has flagged off **MV-ITT LION (V-273)** from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata as the inaugural shipment to operationalize the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State of **Myanmar**.

The Port has been built under a grant assistance from the Government of India as part of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP).

29. U.S.-based Rocket Lab Electron has successfully launched a pair of **NASA storm-monitoring satellites** into space from its New Zealand spaceport, and are deployed into Low Earth Orbit (LEO), about 340 miles above Earth.

This pair of satellite is named **"Rocket Life a Hurricane"**.

30. The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has successfully carried out the first test of a **semi-cryogenic engine** at the newly commissioned semi-cryogenic integrated engine and

stage test facility at the ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

The test is a step towards developing a **2000 kN** thrust engine, which works on **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene** propellant combination, for future launch vehicles.

- 31.** The Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud** has launched the '**e-filing 2.0**' and '**e-Sewa Kendra and Facilitation Centre**' in the Supreme Court.
- 'E-filing 2.0' facilities will be available to all lawyers 24X7.
  - 'e-Sewa Kendra' aims to provide litigants and lawyers with a one-stop solution for all their needs related to filing cases and assessing information on cases pending or disposed of in any court across India.
- 32.** The **Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)** has observed its **57<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day** at Hotel The Lalit, Andheri, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- During the occasion, IIP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various prestigious institutions, universities & government bodies including The Bihar Agriculture University, Bhagalpur, Bihar, The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Sonapat, Haryana, The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Thanjavur, The Tamilnadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) and The North East Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation (NHDC), Guwahati.
- 33.** **Netherlands** has emerged as **India's third largest export destination** after the United States (US) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) in FY23 on account of a surge in the shipment of goods like petroleum products, electronic items, chemicals and aluminium goods.
- India's trade surplus with Netherlands has increased from USD 8 billion in FY22 to **USD 13 billion** in FY23.
- Netherlands has surpassed UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, and Germany.
- India's exports to the Netherlands has increased by about 48 percent to USD 18.52 billion during 2022-23 as against USD 12.5 billion in 2021-22.
- 34.** **Arjun Ram Meghwal**, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, has been assigned the portfolio of the **Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Law & Justice**. He has replaced **Kiren Rijiju**, who has been assigned the portfolio of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

**Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel** has been assigned as Minister of State in the Health and Family Welfare Ministry. He was serving as Minister of State in the Law and Justice Ministry.

**As per the Indian constitution:**

- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of People (Article 75).

- A Minister holds office at the pleasure of the President. President allocates portfolio on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The President administers the oath of office and secrecy to the Ministers.

**35. India & Bangladesh** have launched a '**50 Start-ups Exchange Programme**'.

Under this programme, 50 Start-ups from Bangladesh and 50 Start-ups from India will exchange visits to each other's countries for exploring partnerships, expanding business relations, sharing experience and knowledge, and expanding youth and entrepreneurial cooperation.

**36.** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Communications (MoC), has launched the "**Sanchar Saathi**" portal to allow users to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India.

The portal is a citizen-centric initiative of the **Department of Telecommunications** to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security and increase awareness about citizen-centric initiatives of the Government.

It has various modules like:

- **CEIR** (Central Equipment Identity Register) module facilitates tracing of the lost/stolen mobile devices.
- **TAF COP** (Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection) module facilitates a mobile subscriber to check the number of mobile connections taken in his/her name.
- **Know Your Mobile** to check the number of mobile connections taken in a subscriber's name.
- **ASTR** (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) to identify fraudulent subscribers.

**37.** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a new portal, the **UTSAH (Undertaking Transformative Strategies and Actions in Higher Education) Portal**, and the **Professor of Practice (PoP) Portal** to promote quality education in India.

**UTSAH portal:**

This portal will monitor the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs). It is a comprehensive platform that provides detailed information about UGC's initiatives for qualitative reforms in higher education.

**PoP portal:**

It is a new initiative that aims to facilitate the appointment of experienced professional experts as faculty members in higher education institutions. The portal will provide a platform for institutions to connect with experienced professionals and invite them to apply for faculty positions.



38. Indian Navy has successfully test-fired **BrahMos Supersonic cruise missile** from the guided missile destroyer **INS** (Indian Naval Ship) **Mormugao**.

**BrahMos Missile:**

- It is a type of **supersonic** cruise missile
- It is designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture of India and Russia
- It operates on fire and forget principal
- It can be launched from land, aircraft, ships, and even submarines
- It is two-stage missile, the first one being solid and the second one ramjet liquid propellant.
- The missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

39. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise **Samudra Shakti-23** has been conducted at Batam, Indonesia between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy from 14<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Objective:** To enhance interoperability, jointness, and mutual cooperation between both navies.

**Participants:**

- **Indian Navy:** INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed and built ASW Corvette, Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft, and Chetak helicopter
- **Indonesian Navy:** KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter

The exercise consists of Harbour phase and sea phase.

**Note:** Exercise Samudra Shakti was initiated in 2018.

40. The **Ministry of Defence** has approved the **4<sup>th</sup> Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** of 928 strategically- important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Spares & Components, including high-end materials & spares, with import substitution value worth **Rs 715 crore**.

**Objective:** To promote 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence & minimize imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

**Positive Indigenisation List**

- It lists items that armed forces will procure only from domestic manufacturers.
- These manufacturers could be from private sector or DPSUs.

41. The Inter-governmental body **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members** have unanimously adopted India's proposal for developing **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
- India has developed DPI like unified payment interface, Aadhaar etc. to make services available to people in a convenient manner.
  - The proposal has been accepted during a meeting of the SCO ministers responsible for the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) chaired by India.

DPI refers to a set of shared digital building blocks, such as applications, systems, and platforms, powered by interoperable open standards or specifications.

### **SCO Members:**

The SCO comprises: 8 Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), 4 Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and 6 'Dialogue Partners' (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).

42. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has prepared the **"Model Prisons Act 2023"** to replace the current 130-year-old **'Prisons Act, 1894'**, with a focus on rehabilitation and reform of prisoners instead of retributive deterrence.

The current prison system focuses more on punishment than rehabilitation, which leads to high recidivism rates. A new act should emphasize the need for rehabilitation programs and better integration of prisoners into society upon release.

The new act allows security assessment and segregation of prisons, separate wards for women and transgenders, and punishment for conniving jail staff among other provisions.

**Note:** As per the provisions of the Constitution of India, 'prisons'/ 'persons detained therein' is a 'State' subject.

43. The Ministry of Finance has omitted **Rule 7** in the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules 2000 under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and included the International Credit Cards (ICCs) spendings outside India under the RBI's **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** and also be subjected it to a higher rate of **20% Tax Collected at Source (TCS)** effective after **1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**.

Till 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, a 5% TCS would be levied on ICCs transactions

### **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):**

The RBI introduced the LRS scheme or Liberalised Remittance Scheme to facilitate hassle-free foreign exchange. Under this scheme, an Indian resident can transfer funds of up to **USD 250,000** in a financial year outside India.

- 44. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has established the **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)** to centralise the process of striking off companies from the MCA Register.
- The C-PACE institution, established under sub-section (1) of section 396, shall be in operation through the Registrar of Companies (RoC) for the purposes of exercising functional jurisdiction of processing and disposal of applications.
  - The C-PACE office will work under the supervision/administration of Director General of Corporate Affairs. (DGCoA), New Delhi.
  - The centre is situated at the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) in Manesar, Haryana.**
  - C-PACE facilitates the faster voluntary winding up of companies, reducing the current timeline of 2 years to less than 6 months.
  - It also facilitates the quick and procedure-bound deletion of businesses from public records and to provide stakeholders with more usable data.

**Harihara Sahoo**, Indian Corporate Law Services (ICLS), has been appointed as first Registrar of the office of C-PACE.

**Note:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the establishment of a Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) in the **Union Budget 2022-23.**

- 45. Gajraj Corps** of the Indian Army has conducted a Joint Flood Relief '**Exercise Jal Rahat**' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, **Assam** to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.

**Participants:** Sashastra Seema Bal, National and State Disaster Response Force, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and police representatives.

The exercise aimed to strengthen collaboration and coordination among different agencies involved in flood relief operations.

Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan has launched a Test bed project called '**Open Radio Access Network (ORAN)**' for conformance, certification and interoperability testing of O-RAN based solutions at a function in New Delhi.

- This has been launched on the occasion of World Telecom Day (17<sup>th</sup> May).
- It will facilitate testing of ORAN elements and will facilitate development of 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 Ministry of Communications.

46. The **sixth Scorpene Submarine of Project-75**, Yard 11880, Indian Navy's Kalvari class, '**Vaghsheer**' has commenced its sea trials. The submarine will now undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, these include propulsion systems, weapons, and sensors.

**INS Vaghsheer:**

- It is named after the Sand Fish– a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
  - The submarine was launched on April 20, 2022, from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
  - It is manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**.
  - It is a **diesel-electric attack submarine**.
  - It is designed to operate in all theatres of operation, showcasing interoperability with other components of a Naval Task Force.
47. The Government of India (GoI) has formulated rules under the provision of section 40 of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016** to establish accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Under this provision, 20 ministries are involved in making Accessibility guidelines/standards for their respective sector.

The formulations of these guidelines/standards are regularly monitored by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

48. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a new initiative titled '**NEP SAARTHI-Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India**' to involve students in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

UGC aims to create an environment where students could engage and participate to make effective use of the provisions of NEP 2020.

49. INS Tarkash and INS Subhadra have participated in the second edition of the naval exercise known as '**AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023**' conducted from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 off **Port Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia**. This year, the naval exercise also includes the participation of a maritime patrol aircraft.

The inaugural edition of the exercise was successfully conducted in 2021.

**50.** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has visited Japan from 19<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at the invitation of **Fumio Kishida**, Prime Minister of Japan. During his visit, he has participated in the **49<sup>th</sup> G7 Summit** held in **Hiroshima** under the Japanese Presidency.

He has also participated in the **QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Leaders' summit** held in Hiroshima. QUAD is the grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, the US, and Japan.

He has unveiled a 42-inch tall bronze bust of **Mahatma Gandhi** in **Hiroshima, Japan**. The bust has been sculpted by Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar.

**Group of Seven (G7):**

It is an intergovernmental organization that was formed in 1975. It meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy. The G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat.

The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.

**51.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the **NVS - 01** next-generation navigation satellite on-board the **Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle or GSLV Mk-II** rocket from the second launch pad at Sathish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO aims to augment the continuity of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) services with this mission.

**NVS - 01:**

- NVS-01 is first of the India's second-generation NavIC satellites that accompany enhanced features including terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation, precision agriculture, location-based services in mobile devices and marine fisheries.
- The satellite would provide real-time positioning and timing services over India and a region approximately 1,500 km around the mainland.

This mission is the sixth operational flight of the GSLV with indigenous cryogenic stage. The mission life of NVS-01 is expected to be better than 12 years.

**52.** An Indian Navy **MiG-29K fighter** jet has recently (May 2023) landed on the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant for the first time at night. This is indicative of Indian navy's impetus towards Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance).

**53.** India's AI Supercomputer '**Airawat**' has been ranked **75<sup>th</sup>** in the 61<sup>st</sup> edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List at the International Supercomputing Conference held in Germany.

- Airawat is installed at C-DAC, Pune under the National Program on AI (NPAI) by the Government of India.



- Airawat is India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system, with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops (Rpeak).

**Other India's Supercomputers in Top 500 list:** PARAM Siddhi-AI: 131<sup>st</sup>; Pratyush: 169<sup>th</sup>; and Mihir: 316<sup>th</sup>

### World's Top 3 Supercomputers

Rank	System	Country
1	Frontier	USA
2	Supercomputer Fugaku	Japan
3	LUMI	Finland

- 54.** The Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer **INS Mormugao** has successfully carried out the engagement of a sea-skimming supersonic target. This maiden endeavour showcases Indian Navy's future proof combat readiness & commitment towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

#### Sea-skimming:

It is a technique which is used by many anti-ship missiles and some fighter or strike aircraft in order to avoid radar and infrared detection. It is also used to keep the lower probability of being shot down during their approach to the target.

#### INS Mormugao:

- The ship is named after the port city of Goa as it took its first sortie on December 19, 2021, when the state celebrated its 60 years of liberation from Portuguese rule.
  - The ship measures 163m in length, 17 m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes.
  - It is a second ship of the Vishakhapatnam-class Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
  - It was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 55.** The Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh has launched the "**SAMARTH**" campaign to promote digital transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats under the Amrit Mahotsav in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It was started on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and will continue till 15 August 2023 under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - The key objective is to **promote Digital Transactions** in rural areas, particularly among women.

Notably, the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have decreased from 9.58% in 2013 to below 2% presently.

56. The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya has unveiled the **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023**, and launched the **Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices** during the inaugural event of the 8th International Conference on Pharma and Medical Device Sector in New Delhi.

He has also launched a scheme titled '**Assistance for Medical Devices clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)**'. This scheme aims to establish and strengthen common infrastructure facilities in the medical devices clusters and fortify testing facilities for medical devices.

57. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched a global network '**International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN)**' to help detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.

The IPSN, with a Secretariat hosted by the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, is a platform to connect countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analyzing samples, using these data to drive public health decision-making, and sharing that information more broadly.

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58. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) **Sarbananda Sonowal** has announced 5 major announcements collectively named as '**Panch Karma Sankalp**' during the second Chintan Shibir held in Munnar, Kerala.

**'Panch Karma Sankalp':**

- MoPSW to provide **30%** financial support for the promotion of **Green Shipping**;
- Under the Green Tug Transition Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, VO Chidambaranar Port, Paradip Port, and Deendayal Port, Kandla will procure two tugs each;
- Deendayal Port and VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin to be developed as Green Hydrogen Hub;
- Single Window Portal to facilitate and monitor river and sea cruises;
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port and VO Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin to become smart port by 2024.

59. The **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** have released the **Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan** at **INS Garuda** in Kochi. The aim of the Gaganyaan mission is to send Indian astronauts to space for the first time – to low earth orbit (LEO) for a week and they will be on board a spacecraft `Gaganyaan`.
60. The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S. Puri has launched a campaign named **“Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar”** to promote the RRRs (3Rs) of waste management: **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**.
- This nationwide campaign aims to highlight cities to setup RRR Centres, one stop collection centres, for citizens to contribute clothes, shoes, old books, toys and used plastic to be reused or recycled.
  - The campaign will culminate on 5th June, 2023 with the Pledge for LiFE.
  - This three-week campaign will support Mission LiFE’s objective of taking collective action for the protection and conservation of the environment by adopting sustainable daily habits.
61. Union Minister of AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** has visited Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and inaugurated the **“e-Office portal of PCIM&H”** and **“Online portal”**.
- This online portal is for selling the softcopies of pharmacopoeial monographs.
  - It will promote the hassle free reach of pharmacopoeia monographs among the stakeholders across the world.

**Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H):**

It is a subordinate office under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. It is actively engaged in Standardization and Quality Control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Homoeopathic (ASU&H) drugs and is publishing the standards in the form of Pharmacopoeias.

- **Headquarters:** Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- **Director:** Dr Raman Mohan Singh

62. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has visited **Sydney, Australia** at the invitation of his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese. During his visit, he has laid the foundation stone of the **‘Little India’ Gateway** to be built in **Harris Park** in Western Sydney as a symbol of the friendship between the two nations and to recognize the diaspora’s immense contribution.

Harris Park is home to a large Indian community and is well-established as a unique destination for Indian cuisine, and Indian-owned businesses.

A street in Western Sydney, Australia has been officially renamed as "Little India" by PM Narendra Modi.

**India-Australia Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA)** has also been signed to promote the two-way exchange of students, graduates, researchers, and business people, and expand people-to-people ties.

63. Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh and Union Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh together have launched the **website and logo** for the 14<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial and 8<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation meetings.

India will host the **14<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial** and **8<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation** meeting alongside G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial in **Goa** from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 2023.

The theme for CEM-14 / MI-8 is "**Advancing Clean Energy Together**".

**Clean Energy Ministerial:**

CEM was established in 2009 as a high-level global forum to promote policies and programmes that advance clean energy technology. It has **29 members**: the European Commission and 28 governments.

**Mission Innovation (MI):**

- It is a Ministerial-level global forum of **23 Countries** and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) to accelerate Clean Energy revolution and progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and pathways to Net Zero.
- The term 'MI' was coined by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **India** was one of the founding members of MI.
- The first phase of Mission Innovation (MI) (**2015-2020**) was announced at **COP21** on November 30, 2015, as world leaders came together in Paris to commit the ambitious efforts to combat climate change.
- The second phase of Mission Innovation (MI2.0) was launched on June 2, 2021.

64. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has recently visited **Papua New Guinea**. This is his first visit, and it also marks the first-ever visit by any Indian Prime Minister to Papua New Guinea.

During his visit, he has released the translation of the Tamil classic '**Thirukkural**' in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) indigenous language **Tok Pisin**.

The translation has been co-authored by Subha Sasindran and Governor Sasindran Muthuvel of West New Britain Province.

65. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has constituted an **11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee** to oversee the implementation of **'Project Cheetah'**.

**Rajesh Gopal**, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its chairman. The move comes following the death of 6 cheetahs, including three newborn cubs, within a period of two and half months at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh. The committee shall be in force for a period of **two years** and will hold at least one meeting every month.

**National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):**

It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

66. India's first polarimetry mission named **'XPoSat' (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite)**, developed in collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and the Raman Research Institute (**RRI**), will be launched later in 2023.

**Aim:** To study the polarisation of cosmic X-rays.

It is world's second polarimetry mission (first was NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)).

XPoSat will carry two scientific payloads in a low earth orbit:

- **POLIX** (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays): It will study 40 bright astronomical sources of different categories
- **XSPECT** (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing): It will study X-ray pulsars, black hole binaries, low-magnetic field neutron stars, active galactic nuclei (AGNs), magnetars.

67. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **new building of Parliament House**, which is part of the Central Vista redevelopment project and dedicated it to the nation and installed the Sengol with Nandi at the top facing East-West direction in the new Parliament House on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

- He has installed a historic sceptre **'Sengol'** next to the Lok Sabha Speaker's seat in the new building. He has decided to adopt it as a national symbol of the Amrit Kaal.
- He has also unveiled a commemorative stamp and a special **Rs.75 coin** during the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

**Features of New Parliament Building:**

- It consists of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Central Lounge, Central Hall for joint session, constitutional hall, open courtyard and offices.



- It has a built up area of about **65,000 square metre** and is built alongside the existing Parliament building.
- It has a **triangular shape** which ensures optimum space utilization.
- **Lok Sabha:** It has a seating capacity of **888 members**, almost thrice the number compared to the current chamber of 552 seats. It is based on Peacock theme, the National Bird.
- **Rajya Sabha:** It has a seating capacity of **384 members** compared to the current chamber of 245 seats. It is based on **Lotus theme**, the National Flower.
- The Parliament premises have the national tree Banyan.
- The building features the Ashoka Chakra on the exterior and inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers.
- The new building is a platinum-rated green building.

## STATES AFFAIRS

**68. Pushkaralu festival** is observed in India once every **12 years**. The festival is dedicated to the worship of the **12 sacred rivers** in which the God Pushkar appears every 12 years.

Each river is associated with a zodiac sign, and the festival is based on the position of Jupiter at the time.

It is a festival of **Telugu-speaking** people.

**Rivers:** Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Bhima, Tapti, Narmada, Saraswati, Tungbhadra, Sindhu, and Pranhita.

In 2023, the festival has been observed from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

**69.** The state of Gujarat has observed its **63<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day** on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 as "Gujarat Gaurav Diwas" during a function held in Jamnagar in the presence of Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

During the event, a **21 feet** tall bronze statue of **Maharana Pratap** has also been unveiled. Gujarat was formed after the bifurcation of erstwhile Bombay state in 1960.

- 70.** The state of Maharashtra has observed its **63rd Foundation Day** as 'Maharashtra Din'. During the event, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde has paid tribute to the martyrs of the Samyukta Maharashtra Andolan in Mumbai.
- He has inaugurated **Apla Dawakhana and Urban Arogyavardhini Centres**, a special health scheme in the state.
- Maharashtra was formed in 1960 after the Bombay Reorganization Act was enacted by the Parliament.
- 71.** The Government of **Uttarakhand** has approved the '**Chief Minister's Skill Upgradation and Global Employment Scheme**'. The scheme aims to groom youths of the state and make them ready for seeking jobs in foreign nations.
- In the first phase, selected candidates will be trained in hospitality and nursing sectors by institutions which have expertise in the field and expressed interest in training the youths of the state.
- 72.** The **Australian High Commission** in India has announced its Government Grant for a Project named "**Return to Roots**" in **Kargil, Ladakh**. This has been announced during a Special Meeting at Srinagar chaired by the Australian high commissioner to India, **Barry O'Farrell**.
- The project aims to integrate traditional knowledge with the current school science curriculum in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy which includes increasing scientific engagement among school children of the tribal background.
- 73.** Archaeologists have found many archaeological treasures from the **Bandhavgarh National Park (BNP)** in Madhya Pradesh. They unearthed paintings from the past, man-made waterbodies and a few other evidences.
- About 1,500-year old rock paintings and numerous 1,800-2,000-years old man-made water bodies are discovered in BNP.
- The presence of the waterbodies built at a height and used for collecting rainwater suggests the habitation had a modern society.
- Bandhavgarh National Park:**
- It is spread across the Vindhya hills in Umaria district in **Madhya Pradesh**.
  - It is known for the high density of Tigers. It is a famous natural hub for white tigers.
  - Its topography comprises of hills, valley, rivers, marshes and meadows to give rise to diverse vegetation.
  - It is best known for Evergreen Sal forest and mixed forest.
- 74.** The Indian Army has conducted a "**Buland Bharat**" exercise in **Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**. The exercise has been conducted at the newly operationalised High Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre in West Kameng and Tawang.

The exercise aimed at testing their integrated surveillance and firepower capabilities. The Artillery and Infantry collaborated with Special Forces, Aviation, and CAPF to combine their surveillance and firepower.

75. The Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh** Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has recently laid the foundation stone of the **Vizag Tech Park**, a subsidiary of Adani Group which will house 300-Megawatt (MW) data centres at Visakhapatnam.
- This will be India's 1st data park.
  - The park will facilitate the laying of a submarine cable from Singapore.
  - The Adani Group is setting up two data centres one of 200 MW and the other of 100 MW in the Rs 21,844 crore Vizag Tech Park.

76. Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian has launched a mobile app '**Tamil Nadu Food Safety Consumer**' and website of the Food Safety Department for grievances at an event held at the Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital at Omandurar Estate in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Through these consumers can find information on safe food and other details.

77. The state government of **Telangana** has announced an insurance scheme called '**Geetha Karmikula Bhima**' for toddy tappers. The scheme is on the lines of Rythu Bhima for farmers, which is currently being implemented in the state.

Under this scheme, the insurance amount of Rs.5 lakh would be deposited directly in the bank account of the respective family members in case any toddy tapper dies accidentally while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.

78. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala has launched the **Veterinary Council of India (VCI) portal** on World Veterinary Day (29<sup>th</sup> April 2023) in **New Delhi**.

He has also released the draft minimum standards of veterinary practices regulation (MSVPR) 2023, and a list of outstanding veterinarians in the event.

79. Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane has launched the **India Health Dialogue (IHD) platform** in New Delhi for enhancing MSMEs in healthcare and boost the export development in Health domain.

India Health dialogue (IHD) is a global initiative of India Chamber of Business and Commerce in partnership with Indian Council of Medical research, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and supported by the Ministry of MSME to build robust ecosystem to revolutionise health and health care sector for the future.

- 80.** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (**BMC**) and the Mahanagar Gas Limited (**MGL**) have collaborated to set up **Asia's largest bio-gas plant** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The plant will have a capacity to treat **1,000 tonnes** of wet waste daily.
  - This will be the largest bio-gas plant in Asia in terms of treatment capacity.
  - The BMC will provide a land parcel for setting up the plant, while MGL will carry out the capital expenditure.
- 81.** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai has inaugurated the **Dawki land port** in the West Jaintia Hills district of **Meghalaya** to promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh.
- The land port is expected to boost the tourism and business sectors.
- 82.** Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind **Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre** in **Chandigarh**. The centre depicts the IAF's role in various wars, including in 1965, 1971 and the Kargil War, and the Balakot air strike through murals and memorabilia.
- He has also inaugurated the Centre for Cyber Operations and Security (CenCOPS) of the Chandigarh Police at the Government Press building.
- 83.** The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City have launched the "**School Health Program**" making **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** the first Indian state to make digital health cards for children.
- Under this pilot project, 3 municipal schools including Aminabad Inter College, Kashmiri Mohalla Girls Inter College and Kashmiri Mohalla Montessori School have been given the responsibility of health checkup of 1765 children.
- 84.** The Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh** Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched the '**Him' data portal**, a common digital platform to improve the delivery of welfare schemes by integrating real-time and accurate data of all government bodies.
- The portal aims to serve as a one-stop platform to provide easy access to more than 200 datasets with all State specific information available at the highest accuracy including block and village-level information.
- 85.** The Central Government has recently issued a notification declaring the ancient temple of **Tungnath** as a *monument of national importance*.

**Tungnath Temple:**

- It is located in **Rudraprayag** district of **Uttarakhand**.

- It was founded by Arjuna (third of the Pandava brothers).
- It is the highest **Shiva temple** in the world nestled at an altitude of 3680 meters.
- It was built in the North Indian style of architecture and has a dozen shrines of other Gods surrounding the temple.
- It is also referred to as '**Tritiya Kedar**', since it is part of the '*Panch Kedar*' cluster of Shiva temples (including Kedarnath,
- Madhmaheshwar, Tungnath, Rudranath, Kalpnath) spread across the Garhwal Himalayas.

**86.** The Government of **Kerala** has launched the **Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)** to assess the level of higher education institutions in the state. The rankings will be issued annually.

KIRF is based on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). With this, Kerala has become the first state in India to implement its own ranking system for higher education.

KIRF will evaluate the higher educational institutions based on components, which are also followed by NIRF. These are:

- Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)
- Knowledge Dissemination and Research Excellence (KDRE)
- Graduation Outcome (GO)
- Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)

**87.** The Government of Telangana has launched the **Telangana State Robotics Framework**, a first-of-its-kind policy in India, with a vision to create a sustainable robotics ecosystem.

- The framework has been developed by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the ITE&C Department of Telangana in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association.
- The vision of the framework is to create a sustainable robotics ecosystem in Telangana that champions innovation, entrepreneurship, and research and development, positioning the state as a leader in the field of robotics.

**88.** **Punjab** has become the **first Indian state** to implement the '**Right to Walk**' by making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to provide footpaths and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones.

This is a part of the efforts of Punjab to control the number of accidents and deaths of pedestrians and cyclists.



89. The Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh** Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched "**Jaganannaku Chebudam**" (Let's tell Jagan brother), an improvised version of "Spandana", a platform for resolving people's grievances.

Under "Jaganannaku Chebudam", the state government will proactively reach out to people, gather their grievances in a focused manner and address them on mission mode. He has also launched 1902, a toll-free grievance redressal helpline number as part of this scheme.

90. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the development projects worth over **Rs.5,500 crore** at **Nathdwara** in **Rajasthan**. These include four national highways and three rail projects.

- He has laid the foundation stone for the re-development of Udaipur railway station, Gauge conversion project and a new line from Nathdwara to Nathdwara.
- He has dedicated three national highway projects to the nation, including 114 km long six-lane Udaipur to Shamlaji section of NH-48, 110 km long widening and strengthening of Bar-Bilara-Jodhpur Section of NH-25 and two lanes with paved shoulder section of NH 58E.

91. The **Monlam Chenmo**, also known as The Great Prayer Festival, is observed annually by Tibetan Buddhist in **Leh, Ladakh** for world peace and happiness.

- The event is being organised by the All Ladakh Gonpa Association.
- Monlam means "wish-path" – the Buddhist path of helping others through the prayers.
- Smonlam Chenmo is a major annual prayer of the Sangha Community of Ladakh gathered at one platform.
- The festival falls on 21st to 25th days of the third month of the Tibetan lunar calendar and it is being held since 1991.

92. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has launched the '**Addiction Free Odisha**' campaign of Brahma Kumaris Centre at Hatbadra, Mayurbhanj in Odisha. The aim is to make people aware about the ill effects of drug abuse.

She has also laid the foundation stone for the Skill Training Hub and Community Centre in Pahadpur village in Odisha.

93. Himachal Pradesh's **Kangra tea**, known for its quality, unique aroma, and tinge of fruity flavour, has been registered with the European Union (EU) as a protected Geographical Indication (GI). This means that tea can now be sold in Europe.

**Kangra tea:**

- Kangra tea is grown 900-1,400 meters above sea level, on the slopes of the **Dhauladhar mountain** range in the Western Himalayas.
- It is made up of whole leaf and flavour-enriched leaves with the highest content of **polyphenols (catechins)**.
- Kangra leaves are known to have Calcium, Zinc, Folic Acids, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2 and Vitamin B6.
- It was given GI status in the year **2005** by the Registrar of Geographical Indicators Chennai.

- 94.** The Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched a '**Patch Reporting App**'. This app will be used to capture photos of **potholed roads** from anywhere in the state and send them to the government.
- 95.** The Government of **Telangana** has launched an initiative towards making workplaces safer for women. The initiative named '**SAHAS**', which means Courage, is a programme that aims at strengthening the support ecosystem for women who face workplace sexual harassment.
- "SAHAS, is the first of its kind initiative in the country, involving a collaboration.
  - The initiative has been developed by Shikha Goel, DGP Women Safety Wing.
- 96. Railway Energy Management Company (REMC) Limited**, a subsidiary of RITES Limited, has set up a **National Energy Management Centre (NEMC)** for Indian Railways at its office in New Delhi.
- The centre will focus on optimizing scheduling and forecasting, integrating the generation profiles of both conventional and renewable power sources.

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- 97.** The Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh** Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has introduced the **Himcare** scheme for jail inmates, by providing Himcare cards to the prisoners at Model Central Jail Kanda in Shimla.

The initiative aims to cover the cost of premiums for inmates, easing their financial burden during their time in prison.

98. The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has launched an electronic service delivery system, '**e-Chits**', to regulate funds through online transactions. This will provide transparency in the chit-fund business and prevent duping of customers.
99. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation, several **railway projects** worth more than **Rs.8000 crore** in **Odisha**.

The projects includes:

- He has flagged off the state's first **Vande Bharat Express** between **Puri and Howrah**.
- He laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Puri and Cuttack railway stations.
- He has dedicated to the nation **100 percent** electrification of the rail network in Odisha.
- He has also dedicated: doubling of the Sambalpur-Titlagarh rail line, a new broad gauge rail line between Angul – Sukinda; the third line connecting Manoharpur – Rourkela – Jharsuguda – Jamga and a new broad-gauge line between Bichhupali – Jhartarbhha.

100. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**. The expo is being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 47<sup>th</sup> International Museum Day with the theme of the year 'Museums, Sustainability, and Well Being'.

The Museum Expo is designed to initiate a holistic conversation on Museums with museum professionals to enable them to evolve as cultural centers that play a pivotal role in India's cultural diplomacy.

- During the programme, he has inaugurated a virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum at the North and South Blocks.
- He has also unveiled the **Mascot of the International Museum Expo**, the Graphic Novel – A Day at the Museum, the Directory of Indian Museums, the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.
- The Mascot of the International Museum Expo is a contemporized version of the Dancing Girl made of wood in the **Chennapatnam art style** (Karnataka).

101. The Congress Legislative Party leader **Siddaramaiah** has taken oath as the **22<sup>nd</sup> Chief Minister of Karnataka** at the ceremony held at the Kanteereva Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This marks his **2<sup>nd</sup> term** as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Karnataka's Congress President **DK Shivkumar** has become the **Deputy Chief Minister** of Karnataka.

**Thaawarchand Gehlot**, Governor of Karnataka, has administered the oath of office and secrecy to both CM and Dy CM.

**Note:** There are 224 seats in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

**102. Kerala** has become the first State in India to have a **welfare fund** for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (**MGNREGS**) workers.

- The workers who have completed the age of 60 will be entitled for pension under the fund which will also provide financial assistance for medical treatment, education, marriage, among other benefits.
- Under this, the workers need to pay a nominal monthly amount of **Rs 50** as contribution to the fund and the government will also contribute an equal amount.
- The welfare fund has been formed as per the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021.

**103. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, in collaboration with Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University and Sanrachna Foundation, has observed **Rabindra Jayanti** Celebrations in New Delhi.

During the occasion, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture, has launched the '**Vigyan Vaibhav**' portal.

- The portal is dedicated to 75 Indian scientists.
- The portal is developed by Indira Ganhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- The portal identifies the contribution of women and men in equal numbers in the field of science.

### **Rabindra Jayanti:**

It is annually observed across India on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Bengali month of Boishakh to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali polymath. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his poetry collection, "Gitanjali", which was written in Bengali and later translated into English

**104.** The Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** Pushkar Singh Dhami has inaugurated the National Homoeopathic Convention '**Homeocon 2023**' at Doon University, Dehradun, and also launched a documentary on Homeopathy.

Homeopathy has been recognized as the second most practiced system of medicine in the world and its importance has been demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**105.** Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the **Integrated Biological Control Laboratory (BC Lab)** at the National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

- The new laboratory has state-of-the-art facilities for giving hands-on experience on production methodologies for bio pesticides, bio control agents like predators and parasitoids, entomopathogenic fungi, biofertilizers, NPV, pheromone and botanicals.
- The BC Lab will also have an insect Museum, Weed Museum, Exhibition Hall, Natural Farming Cell, etc.

**106.** The state cabinet of **Madhya Pradesh** chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced a new scheme named '**Mukhyamantri Sikho Kamao Yojana**' (**Chief Minister Learn and Earn Scheme**) to provide opportunities to learn skills for unemployed youths of the state.

Under the scheme, the youths will be taught about 700 different types of work in various sectors.

The scheme will also provide a stipend to the youths.

**107. Bhopal**, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, has become the **first city in India** to adopt the localization of the United Nations-mandated **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

- Bhopal will now have voluntary local reviews (VLR) to demonstrate the local government's capacity and commitment towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Bhopal's VLR is the result of collaboration between the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, UN-Habitat and a collective of over 23 local stakeholders to measurably demonstrate the city's aspirations for a sustainable and inclusive urban transformation.
- It incorporated a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches to the review of SDGs, with qualitative mapping of 56 developmental projects.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

The United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which consists of 17 goals and 169 targets to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all people by 2030.

- **GOAL 1:** No Poverty
- **GOAL 2:** Zero Hunger



- **GOAL 3:** Good Health and Well-being
- **GOAL 4: Quality Education**
- **GOAL 5: Gender Equality**
- **GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**
- **GOAL 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy
- **GOAL 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth
- **GOAL 9:** Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- **GOAL 10:** Reduced Inequality
- **GOAL 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **GOAL 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production
- **GOAL 13:** Climate Action
- **GOAL 14:** Life Below Water
- **GOAL 15:** Life on Land
- **GOAL 16:** Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- **GOAL 17:** Partnerships to achieve the Goal

**108. Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister MK Stalin has inaugurated a **570-meter** long and **4.2-meter** wide **Skywalk Bridge** connecting the Mambalam railway station and T Nagar bus terminus in Chennai.

The Skywalk, built by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) at a cost of Rs 28.45 crore under the Smart City funds, aims to decongest the traffic at Ranganathan Street, Madley Road, & Market Street.

This is the longest skywalk in the state and it is considered one of the longest skywalks in India.

**109.** The Chief Minister of **Odisha** Naveen Patnaik has launched the **“State Dashboard”**, a data and analytics-powered platform which will streamline performance monitoring of government schemes, aiding data-driven decision-making.

The State Dashboard consists of three critical components: CM Dashboard, Department Dashboard and Administrative Action Monitoring Portal.

**110.** The state government of **Rajasthan** has approved a proposal for developing **Geographic Information System (GIS)** based 3D models of 4 cities namely Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota, and Ajmer.

The financial proposal of **Rs.106.46 crore** has been made for the implementation of GIS-based 3D city and Rajdhara Satellite Imagery Repository projects in these four cities.

**111. Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state in India** to conduct pilgrimage by air on government expenditure under the Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana.

The Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan has flagged off a batch of 32 senior citizens on pilgrimage to Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) from Bhopal via flight.

**112. Visakhapatnam** district has launched the '**Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme**', a first of its kind initiative in Andhra Pradesh, to provide free medical services for special children i.e. children suffering from autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and multiple disabilities.

The district is implementing the scheme with the assistance of 'The Ability People Organization'.

**Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme:**

- The scheme is being operated by the Central Government through the National Trust under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The scheme offers a health insurance cover of up to **Rs.1 lakh** per beneficiary.
- The scheme is a single premium policy across different age groups.
- The scheme is available in the whole country.

**113.** The **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd**, one of India's premier defence shipyards and a Category 1 Mini Ratna Company, has launched '**GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme - 2023 or "GAINS 2023"**' in Kolkata, West Bengal to utilize the eco-system that tackles current and future challenges in the ship design and construction sector.

GAINS 2023 is a program to support and inspire new innovators, engineers, and designers in the field of shipbuilding in India.

The 'GAINS 2023' Challenge is a two-stage process to help generate a large number of ideas from which a few promising ones may be selected and nurtured.

**114.** The **Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation (UKMRC)** has unveiled the plans for the construction of state-of-the-art rapid transit systems in **Dehradun, Haridwar, and Rishikesh** within the next 4 years (by 2027) to overcome the traffic congestion in Uttarakhand.

It has been announced that:

- **India's first Neo Metro** will be implemented on 2 corridors in **Dehradun** (the North-South corridor from Inter-State Bus Terminal to Gandhi Park and the East-West corridor from Forest Research Institute to Raipur)
- **India's first Pod (Provide on Demand) taxi** will be introduced in **Haridwar** and two ropeways in Haridwar and Rishikesh.

The aim is to enhance connectivity and reduce traffic congestion in the respective regions.

**Pod Taxi:** The taxis are driverless electric vehicles that move on a specially designed track.

**Neo Metro:** It is the rubber tyre-based mass transit system that draws power from an overhead electric conductor and it runs on a dedicated elevated track.

**115. Durga Shankar Mishra**, Chief Secretary of Government of **Uttar Pradesh**, has inaugurated an online rural education programme '**Pahal**' at Government UP Sainik Inter College, Sarojini Nagar, in Lucknow.

This programme has been prepared by the Department of Secondary Education in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.

The initiative aims to provide educational opportunities to rural children who have limited access to quality education.

Under this program, in the initial phase, free online education will be provided in 10 government secondary schools of the state.

**116.** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the **Guwahati campus** of the **National Forensic Science University (NFSU)**. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> NFSU campus in the country apart from the one in Uganda.

The Guwahati campus of NFSU would be set up on a 50-acre land with an expenditure of nearly Rs.500 crores.

During the occasion, he has launched an **Assam Police Seva Setu interactive App** where citizens can get 26 types of services without visiting police stations including e-FIR.

He has also unveiled a book titled "**Analysis on Judicial Approach on Forensic Evidence**" written by **Dr J.M. Vyas**, vice chancellor of NFSU, on the use of forensic science in the judiciary.

**117.** The **Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC)** has received the organic certification for coffee and black pepper from the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

APEDA has given the organic certification for **Araku valley coffee** and pepper crops cultivated by 1,300 farmers on 21,104 acres in the Gondipakalu, Lammasingi, and Kappalu clusters in the Chintapalli division, **Andhra Pradesh**.

**118. Kerala** has become **India's first fully e-governed state** as it successfully digitized an extensive range of government services, ensuring prompt and transparent delivery to its citizens.

**E-Governance initiatives by Kerala government:**

- A single-window portal called **e-Sevanam** was launched to offer an extensive array of 900 services which would soon be extended to taluk-level offices.
- The **Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON)** project is being implemented to make the internet affordable or even free for the residents of Kerala.

- Kerala also established **India's first digital university** in Thiruvananthapuram worth Rs.1500 crore.

**119.** The first **Vande Bharat train** of the state of **Uttarakhand** has been flagged off by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. This train will run between **Dehradun** and **Delhi**.

- This will be the **6<sup>th</sup>** Vande Bharat train connecting Delhi from a different state.
- This also marks the **18<sup>th</sup>** Vande Bharat train in India.

**120.** The Government of **Odisha** has announced a housing scheme named '**Mo Ghara**' to provide credit-linked financial assistance to beneficiaries who face fund crunch to complete or upgrade their houses.

Under this scheme, a beneficiary can avail a housing loan of up to **Rs.3 lakh** which can be repaid in 10 years excluding 1 year moratorium period in easy instalments.

**121.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a commemorative stamp and a special **Rs.75 coin** to mark the inauguration of the **new parliament building**.

- The new Rs.75 coin is circular in shape with a diameter of 44mm.
- The composition of the coin is of a quaternary alloy — **50% silver, 40% copper, 5% nickel and 5% zinc**.
- The inscription "**Sansad Sankul**" is written in Devanagari script on the upper periphery while the words "Parliament Complex" in English on the lower periphery of the coin.
- The face of the coin shall bear the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre, with the legend "सत्यमेव जयते"(Satyameva Jayate) inscribed below.
- It is flanked on the left periphery with the word "भारत" (Bharat) in Devanagari script and on the right periphery the word "INDIA" in English.
- The other side of the coin displays an image of the new parliament building.

**122.** India issued its first commemorative coin series in **1964** in the honour of India's first Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru**. A Rs.1 coin was issued on November 14 in his memory and two other coins in the denomination of 50 paise were issued for general circulation.

**Note:** The government has the power to design and mint coins in various denominations. It has been given this right under the *Coinage Act, 2011*. These coins are minted by the *Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)*.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 123.** Dubai-based airline **Emirates** has unveiled the world's first robotic check-in assistant named '**Sara**'. The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store at the ICD Brookfield Place of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Dubai, UAE.
- The facility allows customers to drop their luggage as early as 24 hours and up to 4 hours before their flight, arriving at the airport at their leisure.
  - The robot is equipped with facial recognition technology and can print boarding passes, making the check-in process more efficient.

- 124.** The **first edition** of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**)-**India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2023** has been conducted from May 2 to May 8, 2023 to provide an opportunity for Indian Navy and ASEAN navies to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.

**Harbour Phase of AIME-2023:** Changi Naval Base, Singapore

**Sea Phase of AIME-2023:** South China Sea

**Indian vessel: INS Delhi**, India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer and **INS Satpura**, an indigenously-built guided missile stealth frigate have participated in the exercise. The vessels have also participated in International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) being hosted by Singapore.

- 125.** The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** government has launched the '**Machines Can See 2023**' **Summit**, one of the international conferences in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the whole region, held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai, UAE.

The conference has been held in partnership between Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office and 'Machines Can See' company.

The conference aims to bring together experts from around the world to discuss the future of AI and its potential in contributing to the UAE's vision of creating the next Silicon Valley. The one-day summit has been hosted in collaboration with Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism, and Dubai Future Foundation.

- 126.** The Scientific Balloon Program of the **National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)** has launched a second football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift **Super Pressure Balloon (SPB)** from Wānaka Airport, New Zealand, on a technology mission aimed for 100 days or more of flight in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

The aim is to test & qualify the SPB technology for flight.



The 18.8-million-cubic-foot (532,000-cubic-meter) balloon is helium-filled and about the size of a football stadium when fully inflated at its operational float altitude of about 110,000 feet (33.5 kilometers).

**Note:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**127.** California-based space startup **Vast** has planned to launch the world's first commercial space station, **Haven-1**, using the SpaceX **Falcon 9** rocket to low Earth orbit as soon as **August 2025**.

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. It is the first time in history that a commercial space station company has both a contracted launch for its space station as well as a visiting human spaceflight mission.

**128.** The first **India - EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** meeting has been held in **Brussels, Belgium**.

The meeting has been co-chaired by European Commission Executive Vice-Presidents **Margrethe Vestager** and **Valdis Dombrovskis**, with Indian External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**.

During the meeting, India and the European Union agreed to coordinate their policies with regard to the strategic semiconductor sector, with the aim of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding by September 2023.

**European Union (EU):**

EU is an organization of European countries to oversee their economic and political integration.

- **Members:** 27 member states
- **Presidency of the Council of the EU:** Sweden (1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

**129.** A 5,000-year-old '**Great Grandfather**' tree in **Chile** has been declared as the oldest tree in the world. It is believed to have survived several major climate changes over the centuries, including the Little Ice Age.

**Great Grandfather Tree:**

- It is a Patagonian cypress, also known as *Fitzroya cupressoides*.
- It is located in the Alerce Costero National Park in Chile.
- It is a massive specimen, measuring 28 meters tall and 4 meters in diameter.
- It is estimated to be between 5,000 and 6,500 years old.

**130. SpaceX** has successfully launched a Falcon 9 rocket topped with 22 second-generation “V2 mini” Starlink satellites into orbit, which was lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, USA, and landed the returning rocket at sea.

**131. Iran** has successfully test-launched a new surface-to-surface 4th generation Khorramshahr ballistic missile, a medium-range precision-guided projectile named ‘**Kheibar**’.

Kheibar is a liquid fuel missile with a range of 2,000 km (1,243 miles) and can carry a 1,500-kg (3,300-pound) warhead.

**132. South Korea** has successfully launched “**Next Generation Small Satellite 2 (NEXTSat 2)**”, the first commercial-grade satellite abroad Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle Two (KSLV-II), nicknamed **Nuri**, from the launch pad at Naro Space Centre in Goheung, South Jeolla Province, South of Seoul, South Korea.

This marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> launch of Korea's domestically developed Nuri rocket.

NEXTSat 2 is a microsatellite designed and developed at SaTReC (Satellite Technology Research Center) of KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology) for a X-band radar technology demonstration.

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**133.** The **United States of America (USA)** has hosted the **2<sup>nd</sup> edition** of the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** ministerial meeting in Detroit, Michigan.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** has virtually participated in the meeting.

At this meeting, negotiations under the Supply Chains (Pillar-II) have been substantially concluded while good progress is reported under the other IPEF Pillars.

**Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):**

- IPEF is a US led framework for 14 participating countries to solidify their relationships and engage in crucial economic and trade matters that concern the region.
- **IPEF Member countries:** The United States, India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chains (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).
- India has joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.

**134. SpaceX** has launched a big telecommunications satellite named **Arabsat Badr-8** using Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, USA into Earth's Orbit.

Badr-8 satellite will provide television broadcast services, video relay, and data services across the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, and Central Asia.

This mission marked the 195<sup>th</sup> successful landing for overall SpaceX between both Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets.

## REPORTS & INDICES

**135.** The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has released a report titled ***"Bridging the Gender Digital Divide: Challenges and an Urgent Call for Action for Equitable Digital Skills Development"***.

- The report states that **9** out of 10 adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 are offline in low-income countries as compared to 78% of adolescent boys and young men of the same age who do not use the internet.
- Among 54 countries and territories analysed, only eight have achieved gender parity in internet use among youth.
- For every 100 male youth who have digital skills, only 65 female youth do, across 32 countries and territories analysed.
- The maiden values for the share of female and male youth who have digital skills are 9% and 20% respectively, a difference of 11 percentage points.

**136.** The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has released the fourth edition of the **'Future of Jobs Report 2023'** which explores how jobs and skills will evolve over next five years (2023-2027).

It tracks labour-market impact of Fourth Industrial Revolution, green energy transitions, supply-chain shifts etc.

### **Key findings of the report:**

- The report shows that new 69 million jobs will be created by 2027 and 83 million will get eliminated.
- The key drivers of business transformation include technology adoption, followed by rising cost of living, slow economic growth, and green transition.
- 44% of workers' skills will be disrupted in next five years.

- 61% of Indian companies think broader applications of ESG standards will drive job growth, followed by increased adoption of new technologies and broadening digital access.
- 23% of jobs in next five years are expected to change.
- Strongest net job-creation effect is driven by green transition, broader application of ESG standards, and localization of supply chains.
- The key drivers of expected net job destruction are slower economic growth, supply shortages and rising cost of inputs, and rising cost of living for consumers.

**137.** The gross **Goods & Services Tax (GST)** revenue collected in the month of April, 2023 is **Rs.1,87,035 crore** of which CGST is **Rs.38,440 crore**, SGST is **Rs.47,412 crore**, IGST is **Rs.89,158 crore** (including Rs.34,972 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs.12,025 crore (including Rs. 901 crore collected on import of goods).

- The total revenue of Centre and the States in April 2023 after regular settlement is Rs. 84,304 crore for CGST and Rs.85,371 crore for the SGST.
- The revenues for the month of April 2023 are **12%** higher than the GST revenues in April 2022.
- For the first time gross GST collection has crossed Rs.1.75 lakh crore mark.
- The highest tax collected on a single day ever at **Rs. 68,228 crore** through 9. 8 lakh transactions on **20th April 2023**.

**138.** The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the **World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2023** has been released by France-based Reporters without Borders, an organisation that evaluates the environment for journalism across countries.

- **Norway** has been ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** for the seventh consecutive year, followed by Ireland (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Denmark (3<sup>rd</sup>).
- **India's** ranking has been slipped 11 positions from 2022, when it ranked 150, to **161<sup>st</sup> rank** out of 180 countries in terms of press freedom.
- The last 3 place are occupied solely by Asian countries: Vietnam (178<sup>th</sup>), China (179<sup>th</sup>), and North Korea (180<sup>th</sup>).

- According to the report, of the 180 countries and territories analysed the situation is “very serious” in 31 countries, “difficult” in 42, “problematic” in 55, and “good” or “satisfactory” in 52 countries.

**139.** The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and QED Investors have published a report titled **“Global Fintech 2023: Reimagining the Future of Finance”**. As per the report, the **Asia-Pacific (APAC) region**, spearheaded by India, China and Indonesia, will surpass the USA and become the world’s top fintech market by 2030, at a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 percent.

- The fintech sector, which currently holds around 2% share of global financial services revenue, is projected to reach USD 1.5 trillion in annual revenue by 2030, with banking-related fintech representing 25% all banking valuations.
- By 2030, global banking and insurance revenue pools are expected to reach USD 21.9 trillion, a 6% CAGR.

**140.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **“National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers”**, a joint study by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India has been released by Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Secretary, DST, Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).

- The Indian manufacturing sector has an overall IMII score of 28.17.
- The survey states that **Karnataka** is the most “innovative” state with index score of 33.41, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.
- Apart from North-eastern states except **Assam (19.69)**, low-performing states include Bihar (21.32), Jharkhand (22.78), and Odisha (23.05).
- **Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** have the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18% ,39.10% and 31.90%, respectively, with Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.
- **Uttarakhand (31.72)** has the highest score among the hill states, while DNH&DD has the highest score among the UTs.

**141.** An annual report named **Global Report on Food Crises 2023** has been published by the **Global Network against Food Crises (GNAFC)**. The report is the flagship publication of the GNAFC and is facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN).

**Key Highlights of the Report:**



- The number of people experiencing acute food insecurity increased for the fourth consecutive year in 2022.
- Around 258 million people in 58 countries and territories faced acute food insecurity in 2022.
- The key drivers are: Economic shocks (including due to COVID-19 and Ukraine War), Conflict/insecurity, Weather/Climate extremes etc.

### **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC):**

European Union, FAO and WFP launched the Global Network Against Food Crises at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). It is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors working together to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and support the Sustainable Development Goal to End Hunger (SDG 2).

- 142.** According to the latest data from the research firm Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE), **India's unemployment rate** has increased to **8.11%** in **April 2023**, compared to 7.8% in March 2023.

The rural unemployment rate has declined to 7.34% in April 2023 from 7.47% in March 2023 and the urban unemployment rate has increased to 9.81% in April from 8.51% in March 2023. The labour participation rate has increased slightly from 39.77% in March to 41.98% in April 2023.

- 143.** A new report titled '**The Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific**' has been released by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The report provides an outline of regional context of climate change and identifies actions that could be taken to support global climate agenda.

### **Key highlights**

- As per the report, over the past sixty years, warming in Asia and Pacific has exceeded the global mean.
- Across the region, average annual economic losses caused by natural and biological hazards are estimated at USD 780 billion.
- Asia- Pacific regions' greenhouse gas emissions have more than doubled between 1990 and 2020.

### **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):**

- It was established as Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in **1947** in **Shanghai**.
- It changed its name to ESCAP in 1976.
- It is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.
- It is based in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- **Members:** 53 member states and 9 associate members
- **India is also the member of ESCAP.**

**144. Fitch Ratings** has lowered India's **2023-24** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to **6%** from 6.2%, citing headwinds from elevated inflation and interest rates along with subdued global demand.

The projection for FY25 has also decreased to **6.7%** as opposed to 6.9% projected earlier. India's FY24 growth will be slower than the 7% expected in FY23, as weak domestic and global demand is induced.

**145. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has been ranked **second** among 66 ministries in the highly influential Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) assessment for 2022-2023 (Q3). The Ministry has achieved a score of 4.7 out of 5.

**Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI):**

DGQI is administered by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog. It aims 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 Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The DGQI assessment covers six key themes:

- Data Generation
- Data Quality
- Data Analysis, Utilization and Distribution
- Technology Utilization
- Data Security and HR Capacity
- Case Studies

**146. SpaceX** has successfully launched **51 Starlink** internet communications satellites that rode atop SpaceX's Falcon 9, whose first stage is successfully landed to Earth and the satellites are destined for insertion into low-Earth orbit.

- The **Falcon 9 rocket** carried 51 Starlink spacecraft lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA.
- It is SpaceX's 30<sup>th</sup> Falcon-class rocket launch of 2023.

- 147.** As per the recently released report by the aviation analytical firm Cirium, **GMR Hyderabad International Airport** has become the most punctual airport in the world.
- The report has recorded 90.43 percent On-Time Performance, for the month of March 2023.
  - It is the **only airport** in the world to cross the 90 percent mark.
  - Hyderabad airport has topped the charts both in the 'Global Airports' and 'Large Airports' categories.

- 148.** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched its first-ever comprehensive framework on reducing anaemia, calling on countries to accelerate action to reduce anaemia prevalence in women of reproductive age by **2025**.

The framework is launched during the International Maternal New born Health Conference 2023 held in Cape Town, South Africa.

The new framework sets forth ways to address the direct causes, risk factors, and broad social inequities that are fundamental drivers for anaemia.

**Anaemia:**

It is a serious global public health problem, affecting 571 million women and 269 million young children worldwide.

In 2019, anaemia affected 40% of children between 6 months and 5 years of age, 37% of pregnant women, and 30% of women 15 – 49 years of age.

It is most prevalent in low- and middle-income countries.

- 149.** The Ministry of Defence (MoD) in India has announced that the value of India's defence production has exceeded **Rs.1 lakh crore** (USD 12 billion) in the financial year **2022-23**, marking a significant milestone.

This marks a growth of over **12 percent** compared to FY 2021-22 when the value of defence production was Rs.95,000 crore.

The current value stands at **Rs.1,06,800 crore** and is expected to rise further as data is received from additional private defence industries.

**Note:** *MoD has set a target of achieving a turnover of USD 25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing by 2024-25, including an export target of USD 5 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) worth of military hardware.*

- 150.** The **United Nations (UN)** has released a report titled as **"World Economic Situation and Prospects"**. As per the report, India is expected to grow by **5.8 percent** in 2023 and **6.7 percent** in 2024. The growth will be supported by resilient domestic demand.

The report stated that inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5 percent in 2023 with the moderation of global commodity prices and slower currency depreciation.

**World economy:** It is projected to grow by **2.3 percent** in 2023 and **2.5 percent** in 2024.

**151.** India's **Ultra-High-Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI)** are estimated to increase **58.4%** in the next 5 years from 12,069 in 2022 to **19,119** individuals in **2027**. This is according to the report titled **"The Wealth Report 2023"** published by **Knight Frank**.

- In 2022, India's billionaire population grew to 161 individuals from 145 the previous year, and it is projected to reach 195 individuals by 2027.
- The population of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) in India, with assets valued at USD 1 million or more, increased to 797,714 last year from 763,674 in 2021.
- It is anticipated that the number of HNIs will reach 1,657,272 by 2027.

**152.** The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) has released a report namely **'Most Innovative Companies 2023: Reaching New Heights in Uncertain Times'** showcasing top 50 companies in 2023.

- In this list, **Tata Group** is the only Indian firm to be featured at **20<sup>th</sup> position**.
- **Apple** is the world's most innovative company of 2023.
- Apple is followed by Tesla, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft, Moderna, Samsung, Huawei, BYD Company and Siemens.
- Notably, tech companies continue to dominate the top 50, including the top 10, international energy companies hold five spots in 2023 list amid concerns over climate change.

**153.** **World Bank** has published its annual report **'State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023'**.

The report states that revenues collected from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) globally have reached a record high, about USD 95 billion in 2022 despite the challenging context for governments facing high inflation, fiscal pressures, and energy crises.

As per the report, there are currently 73 global carbon pricing instruments in operation, compared with 68 in May 2022.

The 73 Carbon Pricing initiatives covered 11.66 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e (gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent), representing 23% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**154.** The International property consultant Knight Frank has released a report titled **'Data Centre Q1 2023'** in partnership with leading data centre research and analytics platform DC Byte.

**Shanghai (2,692MW)** has emerged as the top Data Centre market in the Asia-Pacific region, followed by **Tokyo (2,575 MW)**, and **Mumbai (2,337MW)**.

The study focused on nine rapidly emerging markets in Asia Pacific Region- Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, and Tokyo.

The total market capacity recorded in Q1 2023 across all 9 markets stands around **13,400 MW**.

**155. World Bank** has released a report titled *“Thriving: Making Cities Green, Resilient, and Inclusive in a Changing Climate”* that provides guidance to local and national policymakers on how to create greener, more resilient, and inclusive cities.

**Key points:**

- Cities in high- and upper-middle-income countries contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Cities in low- and lower-middle-income countries face the highest exposure to climate change-related hazards.
- Cities in low- and middle-income countries have higher levels of air pollution, particularly PM2.5, compared to cities in high-income countries.
- Lack of inclusiveness contributes to the vulnerability and lack of resilience in cities of low- and lower-middle-income countries.

**156. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank Group** have released a report titled- *“Levels and trends in child malnutrition: Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME)”*, stating that in 2020, 18.7 % of Indian children were affected by Wasting caused by poor nutrient intake.

**Key findings:**

- According to estimates, around **45 million children** under 5 (6.8%) suffered from wasting of which 13.6 million (2.1%) suffer from severe wasting.
- Asia is considered to be home to three-fourths of all children with severe wasting while 22% of children with severe wasting are believed to live in Africa.
- The report also highlighted that India had a stunting rate of **31.7%** in 2022, down from 41.6% in 2012.
- 148.1 million children, which is equal to 22.3% of children under five worldwide, were affected by stunting in 2022. Of this, 52% lived in Asia and 43% lived in Africa.



- The Estimates noted that there are now 37 million children under 5 who are overweight across the globe, a rise of around 4 million since 2000.
- India's overweight percentage in India rose from 2.2% in 2012 to **2.8%** in 2022.
- The report reveals insufficient progress to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets and 2030 **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.2** (end all forms of malnutrition) targets.

**157.** The **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India has declined by **22 percent** to **USD 46 billion** in **FY 23** as compared to USD 58.77 billion during FY22, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data.

**Top investor in FY23:**

- **Singapore** has emerged as the top investor with USD 17.2 billion FDI.
- It is followed by Mauritius (USD 6.13 billion), the US (USD 6 billion), the UAE (USD 3.35 billion), the Netherlands (USD 2.5 billion), Japan (USD 1.8 billion), UK (USD 1.73 billion), Cyprus (USD 1.27 billion), Cayman island (USD 772 million), and Germany (USD 547 million).
- The FDI inflows have contracted in FY23 from Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands, the Cayman Islands, and Germany.

**Top Investing state in FY23:**

- **Maharashtra** has received the highest inflows of USD 14.8 billion in FY23.
- It is followed by Karnataka at 2<sup>nd</sup> with USD 10.42 billion, and Delhi at 3<sup>rd</sup> with USD 7.53 billion.

The computer software and hardware sector has attracted the highest inflows of USD 9.4 billion during FY23.

The FDI inflows have recorded growth in sectors including services (USD 8.7 billion), trading (USD 4.8 billion), telecommunications (USD 713 million), pharma (USD 8.7 billion), 2 billion), and chemicals (USD 1.85 billion).

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

**158.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed a programme marking **20 years** of completion of the **State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT)** Initiative in **Gujarat** via video conferencing.

**SWAGAT:**

- It was started by the Prime Minister in April 2003 when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- The aim is to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government by using technology to solve their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner.
- It is held on the fourth Thursday of every month.
- It has four components: the State SWAGAT, District SWAGAT, Taluka SWAGAT and Gram SWAGAT.

**159.** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has recently observed **1st May 2023** as **Ujjwala Diwas** to celebrate the achievements of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). The day was first observed in 2022.

**'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY):**

- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh with a target of releasing 8 crore connections by March 2020.
- This target was achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date.
- The scheme aims to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- Ujjwala 2.0 was launched in August 2021 at Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh making a provision for the release of additional one crore connections.

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**160.** NITI Aayog has released the "**Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium, 2023**" in collaboration with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** 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 75 best practices highlight models which are innovative, sustainable, replicable and impactful.

The report mentions about **“Prayatna”** project, a livelihood and enterprise training program for **transgenders** in Delhi-NCR.

- Prayatna aims to help beneficiaries to attain a basic quality of life and impart entrepreneurship skills to some of them.
- **Nodal agency:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**), through its implementing agency National Skill Development Centre (**NSDC**).
- The project receives funding through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (**PMKVY**).

The report also highlights several best practices from various other social sectors including:

Sector	Scheme/Initiative
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Cluster Development Programme (Haryana)</li> <li>• Climate resilient rice – fish farming (Assam)</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vidya Samiksha Kendra for monitoring of learning outcomes (Gujarat)</li> <li>• Academic Bank of Credits (MeitY)</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing Maternal and Newborn Deaths (ReMiND) (UP)</li> <li>• Nutri Garden Initiative (Rajasthan)</li> </ul>
<b>E-governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary 139 Information System (FRUITS) Karnataka</li> <li>• UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) by MeitY.</li> </ul>

- 161.** The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has launched the scheme, **“Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs”** for providing relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for COVID-19 period.

The scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24**.

Under the scheme, the ministries will refund performance security, bid security and liquidated damages forfeited/ deducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the scheme, the Ministry of Finance will give following additional benefits to eligible MSMEs:

- Refund of **95%** of the performance security forfeited, bid security, and liquidated damages (LD) deducted.
- 95% of the Risk Purchase amount realized shall be refunded.

- In case any firm has been debarred only due to default in execution of such contracts, such debarment shall also be revoked, by issuing an appropriate order by the procuring entity.
- No interest shall be paid on such refunded amount.

The relief will be provided to those MSMEs:

- Registered as a Medium, Small or Micro Enterprise as per relevant scheme of Ministry of MSME on the date of claim by supplier/ contractor.
- The original delivery period/ completion period stipulated in contract was between 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The scheme has been commenced from **17<sup>th</sup> April 2023** and the last date for submission of claims is 30 June 2023.

The eligible claims shall be processed only through Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

**162.** Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana have completed **8 years** on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. These schemes were launched under the Ministry of Finance on **9<sup>th</sup> May 2015** in **Kolkata**, West Bengal. The aim is to provide affordable and insurance and security to people from the unorganized section of the country.

#### **PMJJY:**

It is a one-year life insurance plan renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason. It is available to citizens (including NRIs) in the age group of **18 to 50 years** having a savings bank or post office account. It provides life insurance cover of **Rs.2 lakh** in case of death due to any reason against a premium of **Rs.436 per annum**.

**Achievements:** 16.19 crore enrolments (up to April 2023).

#### **PMSBY:**

It is a one-year accidental insurance plan renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to an accident. It is available to citizens (including NRIs) in the age group of **18 to 70 years** having a savings bank or post office account. It provides accidental insurance cover of **Rs.2 lakh** (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) in case of death or disability due to an accident against a premium of **Rs.20** per annum per member.

**Achievements:** 34.18 crore enrolments (up to April 2023).

#### **Atal Pension Yojana:**

It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India. It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). It is available to all bank account holders in the age group of **18 to 40 years**. It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to **Rs 5000** on attaining 60 years of age. **Achievements:** 5 crore registrations (up to April 2023).

**163.** Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, has launched the **third phase** of **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)** to commemorate the World Thalassemia Day (8<sup>th</sup> May).

The third phase of the program will continue to provide financial assistance for a package cost of 10 lakhs per Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT).

She has also launched the **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Portal** and has released the Standard Treatment Guidelines for Sickle Cell Anemia Disease, developed by **ICMR**.

- The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has been implementing the TBSY since **2017** under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- TBSY is being supported by **Coal India Limited** as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.
- The program has successfully completed **356 bone marrow** transplants for Thalassemia patients across 10 empanelled hospitals in India during the two phases.

The Coal India CSR-funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) program is a unique initiative aimed at providing a one-time cure opportunity to underprivileged Thalassemia patients who have a matched sibling donor but do not have the financial resources to cover the cost of the procedure.

**Note:** Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes a body to have less hemoglobin than normal.

**164.** Researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has collaborated with the Defence Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**) scientists to develop cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications, which will be advantageous to defence applications, especially in the Navy.

- The '**Piezoelectric MEMS (Micro Electro Mechanical System) technology**' is required to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo-thin films' into futuristic Naval Sensors and devices for underwater applications.
- The Piezo thin films are a vital component of piezo MEMS devices and are considered for acoustics and vibration-sensing applications.

**165.** Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Irani has launched a "**Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi**" program to provide better nutrition and education for children.



Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 that aims to create the world's largest universal high-quality preschool network, as suggested by the National Education Policy (NEP).

Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi program will provide for:

- Instruction in the mother tongue.
- Different types of teaching-learning material (visual aids, audio aids, audio-visual and bodily-kinesthetic aids) to Anganwadi Sevikas.
- Aid to build a Jan Andolan involving communities in strengthening the foundations of the country's future generations.

The ministry has allocated **Rs.600 crore** for the training of anganwadi workers to implement the ECCE.

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) has been roped in for the training of Anganwadi workers.

**166.** As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, **50%** of the total villages in India have acquired the **Open Defection Free (ODF) Plus** status under phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) initiative.

- An ODF Plus village is that village that successfully sustained its ODF status, in addition to implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- So far more than **2.96 lakh villages** have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a very positive development towards realising the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25.

**Top Performing State/UTs:**

- The states with the highest percentage of ODF Plus villages are **Telangana** with 100%, **Karnataka** with 99.5%, **Tamil Nadu** with 97.8%, and Uttar Pradesh with 95.2%.
- The top performing small states are Goa with 95.3% and Sikkim with 69.2%.
- Among the Union Territories, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Havelli & Daman Diu, and Lakshadweep have achieved 100% ODF Plus Model villages.

The year 2023 marks the **9 years** of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

**Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):**

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi introduced the Swachh Bharat Mission on **October 2nd, 2014**. The mission aimed to have all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States, and Union Territories in India become "open-defecation free" (ODF) by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India by October 2nd, 2019, which marked the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Phase -II of SBM-G was launched in **February 2020**. It is being implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25, & focuses on sustainability of ODF status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

The central government has allocated a total of **Rs.83,938 crore** to Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen between 2014-15 and 2021-22, with an allocation of **Rs.52,137 crore** for 2023-24.

**167.** The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), has organized a '**Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign**' from **1st May 2023** to **31st March, 2024**. The campaign aims to expand the benefit of Kisan Credit Card to all eligible animal husbandry, dairy and fishery farmers, so that they don't face any financial uncertainties and their income could grow up fast. The campaign is a part of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahostav.

**168.** Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** has launched a mobile application named '**Meri LiFE**' in New Delhi to activate youth action for climate change.

The app is inspired by the concept of LiFE, envisioned at COP 26, which emphasizes mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and wasteful consumption of natural resources.

The users will be guided to participate in a series of LiFE related tasks under the following **5 themes**, namely- *Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems, and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle*.

#### **Mission LiFE:**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Mission LiFE' on 20 October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat. The mission focuses on bringing about behaviour changes in individuals through simple and easy-to-do actions.

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** is the nodal ministry for national-level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE.

**169.** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT (Information Technology) Hardware**.

#### **Salient features:**

- PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware covers laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers, and ultra-small form factor devices
- The budgetary outlay of the scheme is **Rs.17,000 crore**
- The tenure of this scheme is **6 years**.
- Expected incremental production is Rs. 3.35 Lakh crore
- Expected incremental investment is Rs. 2,430 crore
- Expected incremental direct employment is 75,000

**Other Cabinet approvals (17<sup>th</sup> May 2023):**

- Cabinet has approved a signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between the **Department of Health Research (DHR)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for promoting access to high quality affordable assistive technology mainly through fostering research, innovation, and capacity building.
- Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) and Egyptian Competition Authority (**ECA**).
- Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (**ICAI**) and The Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (**CA Maldives**).

**170.** The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has launched the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) 5.1** to enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters.

The RCS-UDAN scheme is designed for helicopter routes for the first time.

**Features of UDAN 5.1:**

- An increase in the scope of operations for operators wherein the scheme will now allow routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area. Earlier both points had to be in priority areas.
- Airfare caps have been reduced by as much as **25%** to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** caps for the operators have been increased substantially for both single and twin-engine helicopters to enhance financial viability for operating the awarded routes.

**UDAN Scheme:**

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market.
- The scheme was launched in **October 2016** with the objective of fulfilling the aspirations of the common citizen, with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in **tier II and tier III cities**.
- The scheme UDAN envisages providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports.

- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.

**171.** The National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) at its fourth meeting held in New Delhi has decided that **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY)** should be taken up for continuation for another two years beyond **2025** i.e., till **2027**.

The extension aims to make up for implementation delays due to covid-19 and to further community behaviour change initiatives.

**Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY):**

- It is a Central Sector water conservation scheme, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It demonstrates community-led sustainable groundwater management which can be taken to scale.
- It improves the management of groundwater resources in select water-stressed areas in identified states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The scheme has an outlay of **Rs.6000 crores**.
- The funding is done 50:50 between the Government of India and the World Bank.

## **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

**172.** As per the market capitalization, **ITC Limited** has overtaken **Infosys Limited**, an Indian multinational information technology company, to become **India's sixth largest company**.

ITC's market cap stands at Rs.5.11 trillion (as of 24th April 2023) while the market cap of Infosys stands at Rs.5.08 trillion.

**India's 5 biggest companies:**

- Reliance Industries Limited is India's largest company with a market cap of Rs.16.07 lakh crore followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with Rs.11.62 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with Rs.9.28 lakh crore.
- ICICI Bank stands at the 4<sup>th</sup> position with an m-cap of Rs.6.38 lakh crore and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) stands at 5<sup>th</sup> place with an m-cap of Rs.5.85 lakh crore.

**173.** The **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Engineers** have designed a two-component system: a combination of Synthetic nanoparticles and a polymer that can be injected into the body and help form blood clots at the sites of internal injury.

The new technology mimics the actions of both platelets, the cells that initiate blood clotting and fibrinogen, a protein that helps forms clots.

**174. NLC India (NLCIL)**, a Navratna company under the Ministry of Coal, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Nature Conservancy India (TNC India)** to collaborate on research work pertaining to the repurposing of mined-out lands for setting up of renewable energy projects.

**175.** An incubated start-up from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi** has built a cost-effective Artificial Intelligence-based medical imaging solution that has the potential to revolutionise the early detection of respiratory abnormalities, hepatobiliary diseases and genetic disorders in children.

**176.** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has increased the **Administered Price Mechanism (APM)** domestic **natural gas price** for **May 2023** to more than 4% MoM (Month-over-month) to **USD 8.27 per mBtu** (million British Thermal Units) on Gross Calorific Value (GCV) basis from USD 7.92 per mBtu in April 2023.

The price from the nomination fields of ONGC and Oil India Limited will be subject to a ceiling of \$6.50 per mBtu.

The nominations fields are the assets that the government awarded to ONGC and OIL prior to 1999.

**177.** The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Navy** have conducted the successful maiden test trial of '**ADC-150**' from IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of **Goa**.

The trial has been conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick response to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships (under distress), which are deployed more than 2,000 kms from the coast.

**'ADC-150':**

- It is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with 150 kg payload capacity.
- 'ADC-150' has been developed by the 3 DRDO laboratories - Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam; Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra and Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

**178.** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **RITES Limited** for technical assistance for Solid Waste



Management (SWM) & Used Water Management (UWM) under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) of RITES will assist SBM-U for a period of 3 years.

- The concept of '**Used Water Management (UWM)**' has been introduced under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 as a newly funded component for towns with less than 1 lakh population.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 with a vision to create 'Garbage Free Cities'.

**179. Bharti Airtel Limited**, an Indian multinational telecommunications services company, and **Dialog Axiata PLC**, Sri Lanka's largest telecommunications service provider, have signed a binding term sheet for the merger of their Sri Lankan subsidiaries.

The binding is to combine the operations of Bharti Airtel Lanka (Private) Limited, Airtel's wholly-owned subsidiary, with Dialog, a subsidiary of Malaysian multinational telecommunications conglomerate Axiata Group Berhad.

The new entity is set to become the largest telecom provider in Sri Lanka.

**180.** The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) of the Republic of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**, under the Ministry of Defense of the State of **Israel** on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation with focus on several key technology areas.

The year 2023 marks the **30 years** of successful diplomatic relations between Indian and Israel.

**181.** The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has inked a pact with the **Military Engineer Services (MES) Jhansi** to transform Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses.

The pact aims to convert five MES Jhansi cantonment campuses into net zero carbon, energy, water, and waste stations in a phased approach.

**182. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)**, a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) of Ministry of Railways, has been granted **Navratna Status**. This will lead to enhanced delegation of powers, more operational freedom and financial autonomy which will give huge impetus to RVNL's progress.

RVNL has been assigned the following functions:

- Undertaking project development and execution of works covering full project life cycle.
- Creating Project specific SPVs for individual works, if required.

- On completion of a Railway project by RVNL, the concerned Zonal Railway will undertake its operation and maintenance.

Navratna status enables PSEs to invest up to Rs.1000 crore without any approval from the central government.

**Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL):**

RVNL was incorporated as Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) on **24th January, 2003**. The company began its operation in 2005 with the appointment of Board of Directors. The company was granted Mini-Ratna status in **September 2013**. The authorized share capital of the company is **Rs.3000 crore**, with paid up share capital of **Rs.2085 crore**.

- 183.** The Embassy of India, Kathmandu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sushila Thakur Memorial Health Foundation (STMHF) for the distribution of **LPG gas stoves and cylinders** in Mahottari District, Nepal with the Indian grant assistance of Rs.50 million (approx) under India-Nepal Development.

- 184.** Canada-based asset management firm **Brookfield** has acquired a **51%** stake in **Rostrum Realty**, a real estate joint venture firm in which Bharti Enterprises Limited will hold the balance of 49%.

The transaction had a value of **Rs.5000 crore**.

Rostrum Realty owns four commercial properties in Delhi, Gurugram, and Ludhiana, which were earlier wholly owned by Bharti Realty, a part of Bharti Enterprises.

- 185.** The **NTPC Limited**, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), has signed a supplementary joint venture agreement with another public sector company **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** to develop nuclear power projects.

**Note:** The Government of India aims to achieve 20 GW capacity of nuclear power generation by 2030.

- 186.** The Government of India has extended the deadline for obtaining the mandatory **electric vehicle (EV) battery safety test certification** from the Ministry of Heavy Industries by six months till **1<sup>st</sup> October 2023** from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The certification is mandatory for manufacturers if they wanted to be eligible for incentives under various EV promotion schemes.

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**187. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Emjay Control Systems** to jointly manufacture and develop business for electro-mechanical bollards for use in various Defence, Homeland Security, Paramilitary, and export projects.

**188. Air Vistara**, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of TATA Group and Singapore Airlines, has become the **first Indian airline** to operate a commercial domestic flight on a wide-body aircraft using **sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)**.

This historic feat has been achieved on Vistara's brand new **Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner**, flying from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai using a blend of 17% SAF with 83% conventional jet fuel.

**189. India Post** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Confederation of All India Traders (**CAIT**) and **Tripta Technologies** for **logistics** services.

This MoU will facilitate operationalization of Bharat EMart portal. The portal will provide facility of pick-up of consignments from premises of traders and will ensure delivery at the doorsteps of consignees across the country.

**190.** The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) and Ministry of Railways (**MoR**) have jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) for '**Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (Project-SMART)**'.

- The MoU has been inked for four High Speed Rail Stations: Sabarmati, & Surat in Gujarat and Virar & Thane in Maharashtra; out of 12 stations in-route.
- Surat, Virar and Thane are Green field while Sabarmati is a Brown field development.

**191. PTC India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Brookfield Renewables** to purchase **100 MW** of solar power on a long-term basis.

Brookfield Renewables is developing a 400 MW solar power project in Bikaner solar park in Rajasthan.

**192.** The **Ministry of AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to promote and collaborate on integrative health research.

This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific methods. This MoU will also strengthen research capacity through training of Ayush researchers.

**193. IBM** (International Business Machines), in collaboration with **NASA**, has unveiled a new geospatial foundation model 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.

The model **watsonx.ai** geospatial offering is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology developed by IBM.

The model helps facilitate the entire data and AI lifecycle, from data preparation to model development, deployment and monitoring.

**194. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Purdue University** of the **USA** for cooperation in capacity building, research & development (R&D) and industry participation.

The MoU has been signed in the presence of Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The MoU is valid for 5 years with the option of extension.

**195. The Foreign Minister of Israel Eli Cohen** has visited India from May 9 to 11, 2023. This is his first official visit to India. During his visit, he launched the project **World on Wheels (WOW) Bus** to facilitate digital literacy, personality development, and entrepreneurship training in rural parts of India.

- **India & Israel** have also inked an agreement that will allow **42,000 Indian workers** to work in the Jewish state in the fields of construction and nursing
- Eli Cohen has also participated in the India-Israel Business Forum (organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)).

**196. The Ministry of Ayush** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** to promote and collaborate on integrative health research. This cooperation will focus on identified areas of national importance in healthcare for promoting high impact research to generate evidence utilizing modern scientific methods. This MoU will also strengthen research capacity through training of Ayush researchers.

**197. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi** has tied with World Health Organization-South East Asian Regional Office (**WHO-SEARO**) and **Duke-NUS** to ensure patient safety and quality control.

- Under this association, a core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for the implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives across various departments.

- AllMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with the Duke-NUS (Institute of Patient Safety & Quality -IPSQ).

**198.** The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**, the flagship initiative of the Indian Ministry of Defence, has signed its **250<sup>th</sup>** contract with Thane (Maharashtra) based **InspeCity Space Laboratories Pvt Ltd** and **100<sup>th</sup> SPRINT (Navy)** contract with Pune (Maharashtra) based **Siliconia Technologies Pvt Ltd** in New Delhi.

It is the first contract under Mission DefSpace.

**199.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for '**Riverine based tourism Circuit**' being developed over **River Brahmaputra** has been signed between Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**), Sagarmala Development Company Limited (**SDCL**), Assam Tourism Development Corporation Limited (**ATDC**) and Directorate of Inland Water Transport (**DIWT**) Assam in Guwahati.

- The project is being developed under the Sagarmala Programme at an initial cost of **Rs.40-45 crores**.
- SDCL and IWAI will jointly contribute 55% of the project cost while the remaining will be provided by ATDC.
- This Sagarmala project will connect the seven historic temples namely Kamakhya, Pandunath, Ashwaktanta, DouL Govinda, Umananda, Chakreshwar and Auniati Satra situated in **Guwahati**.

**200.** **Spanish company Indra** has installed the naval version of its **Lanza-N 3D surveillance radar** in collaboration with its Indian partner company, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (**TASL**) on one of the Indian Navy's Destroyer Ship.

- Indra will supply three Lanza-N 3D radars to the Indian Navy, the first of which has been delivered and is being installed on a naval vessel.
- This is part of the contract signed by the company in 2020 with the Indian company TASL.

The Lanza radars will replace the ELM-2248 MF-STAR and RAWL-02/LW-08 radars on India's destroyers: Kolkata-class and Visakhapatnam-class.

The Lanza-N integrates a 3D primary surveillance radar that provides medium and long-range coverage up to 254 nautical miles. The radar detects aircraft, even under adverse conditions, including clutter. Target coordinates provided by the surveillance radar include target altitude (3D position).



**201.** The Government of Israel has collaborated with India through the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to establish an '**India - Israel Center of Water Technology (CoWT)**' in Water Resources Management and Water Technologies at **IIT Madras**.

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will collaborate with MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, to establish this new centre.

The objective of this new centre would be to ensure the implementation of Israel's best technologies being practiced in a tailor-made context for the Indian requirements and work on sustainable management solutions for the Indian water sector.

This will help the 'AMRUT' Mission of the MoHUA for achieving its overall targets.

**202. AirAsia India flight i5-767**, a part of the Tata group and a subsidiary of Air India, has become India's first commercial plane to successfully take off using an indigenously produced **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** blended Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from **Pune to Delhi**.

The aircraft blended fuel with **1 percent of SAF** to reduce the emissions produced by the aircraft.

The SAF was supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) in collaboration with Praj Industries Ltd. (Praj) using captive agricultural feedstock.

**Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):**

SAF is produced from renewable sources such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and forestry residues. SAF can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% as compared to conventional jet fuel.

**203. Embassy of India, Kathmandu** and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal have signed a Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for undertaking two High Impact Community Development Projects (**HICDPs**) in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India, one each in health care and education sectors, at a total estimated cost of **Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 80.33 million**.

These two projects are the construction of **Malagiri Shanti Yogashram**, Ramechhap district, Nepal and **Kedar Jyotipunja Multiple Campus**, Doti district of Nepal.

**204. NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HPCL Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL)** in New Delhi in the field of renewable energy and green hydrogen.

NGEL will provide 250 MW of Round-The-Clock (RTC) power sourced from renewable energy sources to meet the requirements of HMEL.

**205.** The **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce** have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for **5 years** to

enhance collaboration between American and Indian business communities across sectors including health, climate change, economic growth, education and women's empowerment.

**206.** Chennai-based **Garuda Aerospace** has partnered with **Naini Aerospace**, a wholly owned subsidiary of HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), to manufacture Advanced Precision Drones in India drones for various applications.

These drones will be able to carry a payload of around 25 kg and have a spray efficiency of 1500-2550 square metre/minute.

**207.** The Higher Education Department of **Odisha** Government has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Infosys Limited** and **Nasscom** to enhance the skills and employability of students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Odisha.

This MoU aims to provide learning and employment opportunities for students and promote equal access to education for passionate individuals, equipping them for the future.

**208.** The **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** has signed the **Kerala Healthcare Service Workers and Healthcare Service institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Amendment Ordinance** that brings in punishment for offences against health officials.

The new legislation introduces stringent punishments, including imprisonment of up to 7 years and fines of up to Rs.5 lakhs, for those found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to healthcare professionals.

**209.** The **Tamil Nadu Government** agencies has signed 6 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with institutions and companies based in **Singapore** during the Investment Conclave-Tamil Nadu Investor's first port of Call at Singapore.

#### **Details of the Six MoUs:**

- **Guidance Tamil Nadu** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries** for research and development (R&D) initiatives, collaboration between universities, government and private players, as well as assistance in exports from companies in Tamil Nadu.
- Guidance Tamil Nadu has signed an MoU with **Hi-P International** to invest Rs.312 crore to set up Hi-P International's facility and create employment for 700 people in TN in six years.

- SIPCOT and the Singapore-India Partnership Office have signed an MoU to establish cooperation in economic activities and development.
- The tripartite MoU has been signed among the Singapore India Partnership office, FaMeTN and StartupTN to enhance collaboration and cooperation in several areas of shared interest.
- The MoU between TN Skill Development Corporation and ITE Education Services of Singapore have been signed to establish a long-term partnership in the field of technical and vocational education and training.
- An MoU between the Singapore University of Technology and Design and Guidance TN have been signed to establish the former as a knowledge partner for futuristic and industry-ready curriculum and course development in technology and design.

**210.** The officials of the **Government of Goa** and the **Government of Uttarakhand** have recently (May 2023) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote bilateral cooperation in the travel and tourism sector and facilitate travel between the states to increase the number of tourists visiting Goa and Uttarakhand respectively.

**211. Uber** has partnered with public procurement portal **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** to provide taxi services to Govt. offices, Govt. agencies, and Public Sector Units (PSUs) on a pilot basis.

Under this, Uber will provide the cab service at a fixed price with zero cancellation charges and no surge pricing.

**212. Microsoft** has introduced "**Jugalbandi**", a generative AI-driven multilingual chatbot accessible via the popular messaging platform, WhatsApp.

The chatbot has been especially made to cover areas of **rural India** that aren't easily penetrated through media and lack access to government's welfare activities. The chatbot has been developed by AI4Bharat in collaboration with IIT Madras.

**213.** The Union Government has signed an agreement with 6 state governments of **Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** to conduct the **digital crop survey**.

On the occasion, a manual for web portal and mobile application for digital crop survey have also been unveiled.

- The project aims to create one verified source of truth about the farmer and his/her crop-sown data.
- Digital crop survey is part of the government's Agristack or India Digital Ecosystem for Agriculture (IDEA) that has been under development since 2020.

**214. Indian Steel Association (ISA)** has signed an agreement with **ASEAN Iron and Steel Council (AISC)** to unlock new avenues of growth and sustainability in steel sector.

ISA is the apex industry body which represents the issues and interests of the domestic steel industry

**215.** Mumbai-based **JSW Steel Limited** has signed an in-principle agreement to establish a 50:50 joint venture (JV) with Japan's **JFE Steel** to manufacture **cold rolled grain oriented electrical steel (CRGO)** at its proposed facilities at Vijayanagar, Karnataka.

The JV Company will be the first company to produce CRGO products with its entire chain of manufacturing processes in India.

**216.** The Territorial administration of **Puducherry** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Engineering Limited** to prepare a concept prepare, initiate consultations with stakeholders and a detailed report to develop the infrastructure of the tourism spots in Puducherry and Karaikal.

The MoU has been signed following the inclusion of Puducherry and Karaikal regions under the Government of India (GoI's) **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme** (SD2.0).

**217.** The **International Arbitration & Mediation Centre Hyderabad (IAMC Hyderabad)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Energy Disputes Arbitration Center (EDAC), Turkiye** to promote arbitration and mediation on an international scale.

**218.** The **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-led consortium**, consisting of Tejas Network Limited, and ITI Limited, has bagged a **Rs. 15,000-crore** contract from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) to deploy 4G network for the state-run telco.

As a part of the consortium, Tejas Networks will supply and service the **Radio Access Networks (RAN)** equipment.

## BANKING & FINANCE

**219. HDFC Bank** has introduced a digital distribution platform to connect Business Correspondents (BCs) and Business Facilitators (BFs) to the bank.

The platform named “**HDFC Bank Smart Saathi**” will contribute by making banking products and services available, especially credit for rural customers, which will help in the development of our country.

- 220.** The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has signed a pact with **IHub-Data**, IIT Hyderabad to support and facilitate FinTech and TechFin entities. This MoU will enable cooperation and collaboration on diverse initiatives regarding FinTech.
- 221.** The growth in **Asia and the Pacific** has been projected to increase to **4.6%** in **2023** from 3.8% in 2022, which is an increase of 0.3 percent from its October 2022 forecast of 4.3 percent. This is according to the **International Monetary Fund’s (IMF)** Regional Economic Outlook Asia and Pacific May 2023.
- Asia and the Pacific region will account for 70 percent of the global growth in 2023.
  - China and India will be key drivers of growth with an expansion of 5.2 percent and 5.9 percent respectively.
- 222.** The **WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund** has launched its new fund offer (NFO) '**WhiteOak Capital Multi Asset Allocation Fund**' which is an open-ended scheme that aims to offer a tax-efficient and hassle-free investment option in multiple asset classes through the Single Mutual Fund Scheme.
- The minimum application amount is Rs.500 and in multiples of Rs.1 thereafter.
  - Under the multi asset allocation approach, allocations will be based on relative attractiveness of various asset classes.
  - The NFO scheme is eligible for Long Term Capital Gain Tax, along with indexation benefit on holding for over 3 years.
- 223.** **Bank of India (BoI)** has recently launched a retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens named “Shubh Arambh Deposit”.
- The special FD scheme provides super senior citizens with 501-day fixed deposits at a high-interest rate of **7.80%**.
  - Other senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 80 can take part in the FD scheme at a rate of **7.65%**.
  - The bank is providing a **7.15%** interest rate on a 501-day term for the general public.
- 224.** The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Siddhartha Mohanty**, the current Managing Director of LIC, as the Chairperson of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) till 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024.



- After that, he will be the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LIC until 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- He has been serving as the interim Chairperson of LIC since 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. He replaced M R Kumar, who completed his term on March 13, 2023.
- There are three managing directors at LIC – M Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey and Mini Ipe.

The government has also approved the appointment of **Bishnu Charan Patnaik**, former Managing Director of LIC, for the post of **Whole-time Member** (Life), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**). His appointment will be from the date of assumption of the charge of the post till he attains the age of 62 years.

**225. Shivalik Small Finance Bank** has collaborated with grain commerce platform **Arya.ag** to drive financial inclusion for farmers and FPOs (Farmers Producers Organizations) and offer loans through Shivalik Small Finance Bank under Warehouse Receipt Finance.

**226.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Report 2022 has announced that **Pakistan** has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programmes/projects in Asia in the year 2022.

Pakistan received loans of **USD 5.58 billion** out of total disbursement of over USD 31.8 billion to 40 countries in 2022.

**227.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Debadatta Chand**, Executive Director of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BoB with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after **1<sup>st</sup> July 2023** for a period of 3 years. He will succeed Sanjiv Chadha, the incumbent MD & CEO of BoB.

The ACC has also approved the appointment of **Rajneesh Karnatak**, Executive Director of Union Bank of India as the MD & CEO of **Bank of India (BoI)** for a period of 3 years. He has succeeded Atanu Kumar Das whose tenure ended on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**Atul Kumar Goel** is the present MD & CEO of **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.

**228. Yes Bank** has collaborated with **Cashfree Payments** to offer '**Global Collections**', an international collection service for exporters, who are account holders of YES Bank.

This collaboration will enable the Yes Bank to collect payments in over 30 foreign currencies using the Global Collections service.

The payments service will include dedicated facilities in four currencies (USD, GBP, EUR and CAD).

- 229. Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, has signed a co-lending partnership with **India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd** (IndiaShelter), a Gurgaon based Housing Finance Company, to provide secured MSME loans to middle and low-income segment borrowers based in the semi-urban regions.
- 230. HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has promoted **Anuj Tyagi** and designated him as Joint Managing Director of the company. The elevation has been approved by the nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors of the company decided during their meeting in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 231.** The Executive Directors of the World Bank has selected **Ajay Banga**, the first-ever India-American and a former Mastercard CEO, as President of the World Bank for a five-year term beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. He will replace **David Malpass**. He has been elected as the **14th President** of the **World Bank**.

**President of the World Bank Group:**

- He is also the Chair of the Board of the Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- He is also ex officio chair of the Board of Directors of the International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and of the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Ajay Banga was awarded the **Padma Shri** by the President of India in 2016.

- 232.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has introduced the **Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP)**. It is a multi-donor financing partnership facility with goal of scaling-up finance for accelerated action against climate change in Asia and Pacific.
- IF-CAP is a landmark program of ADB with initial partners being Denmark, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.
  - This is the first time any multilateral development bank has adopted a program of this kind.

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**233. Airtel Payments Bank** has joined hands with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to roll out face authentication for the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) at its 5 lakh banking points.

With this launch, Airtel Payments Bank has become one of the first four banks to offer face authentication for AePS in India.

The authentication is processed using the Face Authentication RD Application by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

**234. Pine Labs India**, the Merchant commerce platform, has announced the acceptance of the digital Rupee on its PoS (point-of-sale) terminals in partnership with **ICICI Bank**. The technology integration between the two entities will now support Digital Rupee acceptance at Pine Labs' PoS terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

**235.** Mumbai-based **Dvara SmartGold Private Limited**, a fintech firm, has tied up with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to provide gold loans. The aim is to attract customers away from the traditional, unregulated channels dominated by moneylenders and pawnbrokers.

**236. BharatPe**, a fintech firm, has completed its acquisition of a majority stake in Trillion Loans, a renowned NBFC based out of Mumbai. It has acquired **51% stake** in Trillion Loans.

This acquisition is in line with BharatPe Group's vision to be at the forefront of addressing the credit gap for millions of businesses and consumers in the country.

**237. Max Life Insurance** has collaborated with an MSME representative body **Indian Industries Association (IIA)** to provide life insurance to employees working in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) based in **Uttar Pradesh**.

The insurance programme will cover more than 11 lakh MSME workers affiliated with IIA and their families in the state.

These activities will be undertaken with **Sana Insurance Brokers** as the enrolment partner to engage with the MSME workforce.

**238.** The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred five entities, including an employee of Life Insurance Corporation of India, from the securities market and impounded illegal gains of Rs.244.09 lakhs made by them in a case pertaining to front-running.

#### **Front-running:**

It refers to an **illegal practice in stock market** where an entity trades based on advanced information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to its clients. It is illegal in India.

The strategies commonly used to front-run trades are -- Buy-Buy-Sell and Sell-Sell-Buy.

- 239. GetVantage**, a fintech platform offering alternative financing solutions, has obtained a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- With this, GetVantage has become the first and only revenue-based financing and alternative funding platform in the country to do so.
  - Its lending operations will be managed by its NBFC subsidiary, GetGrowth Capital.
  - The company will capitalize the NBFC with Rs.50 crore and aims to raise Rs.200 crore in total to scale up its lending operations.
- 240. Visa**, the cards payment company, has introduced a **Cardholder Verification Value (CVV)** free online transactions for domestic tokenised credentials in India. This feature has allowed the merchants only to verify the three-digit CVV once when tokenising the card, thus eliminating the need for customers to enter it for every domestic transaction.
- 241. Capital Small Finance Bank (SFB)**, India's first SFB, has partnered with **Max Life Insurance** to provide life insurance offerings to Capital SFB's customers.
- Under this partnership, Capital SFB will offer a range of savings, protection, retirement, and group life insurance plans to Max Life to its customers.
- 242. HDFC Bank** has launched its customized retail banking initiative called '**Vishesh**' for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies. As a part of this, the bank plans to open more than 675 branches in these areas in FY24, onboard around 1 lakh new customers, and launch customized products and financial solutions for this market segment.
- Under this program, the bank will understand the different needs of 5 important segments viz. farmers, merchants, micro enterprises, government salaried people.
- 243. BharatPe Group**, a leading fintech, has announced the rebranding of its loyalty program, **PAYBACK India**, the largest multi-brand loyalty program, to "**Zillion**". This new brand identity is in line with the BharatPe's vision to make Zillion ubiquitous to loyalty and rewards across the country.
- 244.** The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced a **Group Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme** with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. This plan is a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Life, Group Savings Insurance product. The plan helps to meet the employer's obligation for Post-Retirement Medical Benefit to their employees.
- The plan is available for any employer with 50 or more employees.
- 245. RazorpayX**, the business banking platform of Razorpay, has introduced an automated **ESCROW+ solution** powered by Axis Trustee Services Ltd, RBL Bank & ICICI Bank. The aim is to support merchants and enables instant & secure money transfers for businesses.

**246. India** has extended a **USD 1 billion** credit line to **Sri Lanka** by one year until March 2024 thus providing a backup infusion of dollars for essential imports.

The credit line is part of about USD 4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis in 2022, which was scheduled to end in March 2023.

**247. RBL Bank** has gone live with '**Direct Tax Collections**' on behalf of the Government of India through the new Tax Information Network (**TIN 2.0**) portal. This is the second such offering from the Bank, following its empanelment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an 'Agency Bank' to conduct banking business for the Central and State Governments.

**248.** Unnati, an agritech company driven by FinTech, has declared its subsidiary **Ora Finance** has become the first company to be granted a Non-Banking Financial Company (**NBFC**) licence in the agritech space.

Ora Finance will enable the company to meet the financial needs of those in the agricultural sector, like farmers, retailers, traders, brands, and food processors.

**249.** The **All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA)**, the oldest and largest national trade union of bank employees in India, has planned to launch '**Bank Clinic**' to assist bank customers with grievance redress.

The Bank Clinic aims to assist customers with their complaints and to give feedback to banks on areas where there is a deficiency in service.

**250. Yes Bank** has launched a solar installation financing scheme named '**Yes Kiran**' to provide financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) manufacturers who wish to install solar panels at their premises.

The lender has collaborated with solar panel manufacturers like Tata Power Solar Systems, Goldi Solar, and Loom Solar, and Panasonic Solar Power System to facilitate MSME businesses for their transition to renewable energy solutions.

**251. Federal Bank** has partnered with the **National e-governance Services Limited (NeSL)** to launch an electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility for its customers. This will enable the customers to obtain a Bank Guarantee digitally, replacing the traditional paper-based process.

**252. RUKART**, which sells 'Subjee Cooler' to enhance shelf life of fruits and vegetables, has tied up with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to help potential customers in getting easy loan options to buy the product.



- Subjee Cooler is a cold chain storage system that requires only 20 liters of water a day to function.
- It increases the shelf life of fruits, flowers and vegetables by 4-6 days.
- The cost of the product is Rs.50,000 each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg.

**253. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has successfully re-domiciled Alchemy India Long Term Fund from Mauritius to GIFT City in Gandhinagar, India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

This is the first such FPI licence issued by a custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in India, to a fund incorporated in GIFT City, for relocation of an existing fund.

**254. The AU Small Finance Bank** has tied up with **RuPay** to introduce the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers.

The aim is to provide a diverse range of benefits to small businesses.

**255. Nextbillion Technology**, which runs investment platform **Groww**, has acquired the mutual fund business of **Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHFL)** for **Rs.175.6 crore** after receiving the necessary approvals

**256. Bank of Baroda** has introduced an **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)** on its **BarodaINSTA platform**, in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), a platform that provides for the issuance of Inland BGs through electronic mode.

**257. Profectus Capital Private Limited (PCPL)**, an NBFC backed by Actis, a global private equity firm, has received the Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) under the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to provide factoring services to Micro, Small, & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Factoring is a financial tool that provides the seller of goods (client) with an advance against the accounts receivable

**258. Quant Mutual Fund** has launched '**Quant Business Cycle Fund**', an open-ended equity scheme following business cycles-based investing theme.

- **Objective:** To generate long-term capital appreciation by investing with a focus on riding business cycles through allocation between sectors and stocks at different stages of business cycles.
- The performance of the scheme will be benchmarked against NSE 500 TRI.

**259. Zomato**, a food aggregator platform, has tied up with **ICICI Bank** to launch its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service called '**Zomato UPI**' for select users.

- This service will allow customers to make direct payments within the Zomato app by creating their own UPI ID, eliminating the need for redirection to external payment gateways like Phonepe, Google Pay, or any other third-party app.
- Users will be able to make both, peer-to-peer, as well as merchant payments using the service.

**260. The World Bank** has approved a grant of **Rs.51 crore** to set up an integrated road safety enforcement system in the **Shimla and Nurpur** police districts of Himachal Pradesh and also develop the Palampur-Sheela chowk in **Kangra** as a "safe corridor."

- For the first phase of the project, Shimla and Nurpur have been selected and a sum of **Rs.42 crore** will be spent on the twin police districts to strengthen their emergency response systems.
- The Palampur-Sheela chowk stretch of road in Kangra district has been chosen to be developed at a cost of **Rs.9 crore** as a safe corridor under the Safe Corridor Demonstration Programme (SCDP).

**261. PayNearby**, the branchless banking and digital network, has launched the "**PayNearby Mall**", a meta-commerce platform to enable the easy availability of goods and services, in an assisted mode at the last mile.

This will soon be integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.

**262. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has introduced an exclusive premium banking programme named '**Privy League**' targeting High Net-Worth Individuals (HNI). The program is designed to honour their customers' achievements.

- It includes **Signature LED Debit Card**, developed for the Privy League Platinum category, is India's first LED card.

- It also offers **Premium Metal Debit Card** for the Privy League black tier, designed by famous artist Arunanshu Chowdhury, offering complimentary airport lounge access, and many other privileges.

**263.** The Insurance & Regulatory Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a **5-member expert committee** comprising medical experts and insurers to provide advice on matters related to **mental health and insurance**.

- The committee is headed by **Pratima Murthy**, Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore.
- The committee will be in force for a period of two years.

**Aim:** To make a holistic examination of the various aspects involved such as types of conditions, types of treatments etc. from the insurance perspective to deal with products designed to cover mental illnesses and other related aspects.

**264.** The **World Bank's** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **USD 82 million loan** for Animal Health System Support for One Health Program that will support India's Livestock Health and Disease Control Program, which seeks to control animal diseases by adopting global best practices for animal health management to prevent, detect, and respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases.

- The loan has a maturity of 11.5 years with a grace period of 4.5 years.
- The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) uses the Program-for-Results (PforR) financing instrument that links the disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.

**265. JCB International Co. Ltd**, Japan's international payment brand, has collaborated with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to offer **40%** cashback to RuPay JCB cardholders on in-store purchases in the UAE, Thailand, Malaysia, and Spain.

In-store purchase means a face-to-face point of sale (PoS) transaction made at a merchant location.

- The offer will be valid from May 15 to August 15, 2023.
- The maximum cashback amount per transaction will be Rs.3,000, with an overall cap of Rs.15,000 per card during the offer period.

**266. Paytm**, in collaboration with **SBI Card** & the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), has launched the next-gen co-branded RuPay Credit Card named 'Paytm SBI Card' on the RuPay network.

The aim is to improve credit inclusion in India and make credit cards more accessible to young and digitally-evolved customers.

**267. ICICI LOMBARD General Insurance** has collaborated with **actyv.ai**, a Singapore-based enterprise SaaS platform with embedded B2B, BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later) and insurance, to co-create innovative insurance products for Small and Midsize enterprises (SMEs) and to design comprehensive insurance offerings for the entire supply chain ecosystem, encompassing distributors, retailers, and suppliers.

**268. Godrej Agrovet Limited** has tied up with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer loans to oil palm farmers for setting up micro irrigation facility and install fencing to protect crops from cattle and improvement of tube well at their oil palm farms.

The facility was initially launched for the oil palm farmers of Telangana, and now it enables Godrej Agrovet farmers from the states of Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to avail loans for around Rs.1 lakh to Rs.50 crore

**269.** The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has formed a task force to facilitate ease of doing Know Your Customer (**KYC**) by insurers using **Aadhaar**, the 12-digit individual identification number.

The 12-member task force has been headed by **Member (Finance & Investment), IRDAI**. The panel has been asked to suggest measures to ease of onboarding of customers using Aadhaar, and steps for fraud management at the underwriting and claims stages.

**270.** The Government of India (GoI) has appointed the three merchant bankers **IDBI Capital, BOB Capital and SBI Capital** to manage the initial public offer (**IPO**) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**).

- IDBI Capital is the lead banker for the transaction.
- **Saraf and Partners** has been appointed as the legal adviser for the IPO.
- The IPO, which is expected in FY24, will likely consist of a 10% stake sale by the government and 15% fresh equity issuance by the renewable energy project financier to fund its business growth.

**271. HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd** has launched the '**HDFC Defence Fund**' i.e. India's first mutual fund focussed on **defence sector** to provide investors an opportunity to participate in growth potential of this space.

- The fund will invest at least 80 percent of its net assets in defence and allied sector companies.
- Defence and allied sector stocks include stocks forming part of aerospace and defence; explosives, shipbuilding and allied services.

**272. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has launched a new debt fund called **ICICI Pru Constant Maturity Fund**. It is available with the insurer's Unit-linked insurance plans (ULIP). The fund carries a lock-in of five years.

This is the first-of-its-kind debt fund in the fixed income ULIP space in India's life insurance market.

The objective is to enable its customers to lock-in their investments at high current interest rates, build long-term wealth, and achieve financial goals.

**273. Yes Bank**, in collaboration with Mastercard and Worldline India, has launched **'YES PAY EASY'**, a mobile application (app) that enables small-scale merchants such as traders, retailers, and professionals, to accept instant cashless payments from their customers. It offers features such as Bharat QR, Tap-On-Phone, and SMS Pay.

**274. The National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, India's leading stock exchange, has recently launched the **rupee denominated** New York Mercantile Exchange's (NYMEX) West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment.

**275. Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, one of India's leading public sector banks, has introduced a Live Video Calling service - **bob Video Chat** and a Live Web Chat facility - **bob Live Chat** on its website to enhance the overall experience for customers and prospective customers.

Bank of Baroda is the **first PSU bank** to offer live video chat and live web chat services to its customers.

**276. The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)** of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Yes Bank** to provide financial support to the startups incubated at SIIC.

With this collaboration, both entities aim to enhance the startup ecosystem in India by granting them access to a diverse range of resources through YES Bank's curated startup-focused program - **YES Head-Startup**.

**277. Google Pay** has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to enable the integration of **RuPay credit cards** with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Now, the users can link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay (GPay) and make payments both online and offline at merchants accepting RuPay credit cards.



**278.** The **12 Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** cumulative profit has crossed the Rs. 1 lakh crore mark in the **FY23** by touching **Rs. 1,04,649 crore**. These 12 PSBs witnessed a 57% increase in total profit compared to Rs. 66,539.98 crore earned in 2021-22.

In percentage terms:

Pune-based **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** had the highest net profit growth with 126% to Rs. 2,602 crore, followed by UCO Bank with a 100% rise to Rs.1,862 crore and Bank of Baroda with a 94% increase to Rs.14,110 crore.

In absolute terms, **SBI** has reported an annual profit of Rs.50,232 crore in 2022-23, showing an increase of 59% over the preceding financial year.

The PSBs which reported an annual profit in excess of Rs.10,000 crore are Bank of Baroda (Rs.14,110 crore) and Canara Bank (Rs.10,604 crore).

Other lenders like Punjab and Sind Bank posted an annual profit growth 26% (Rs.1,313 crore), Central Bank of India 51% (Rs.1,582 crore), Indian Overseas Bank 23% (Rs.2,099 crore), Bank of India 18% (Rs.4,023 crore), Indian Bank 34% (Rs.5,282 crore) and Union Bank of India 61% (Rs.8,433 crore).

**279. Aditya Birla Capital**, the financial services business of the Aditya Birla Group, through its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, has launched '**Udyog Plus**', an innovative one-stop business platform, designed for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) customers.

This new B2B digital platform offers a wide range of solutions for MSMEs, including financing, protection, investments, advisory and value-added services for managing and growing their businesses.

**280.** The Board of Directors of **Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Bank Limited** has approved the appointment of **Jayakumar S. Pillai** as **Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** on the Board of IDBI for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of his taking charge as specified in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval received in this regard.

**281. Paytm Money**, a SEBI registered stockbroker, and an Investment Advisor, has launched a bonds platform for retail investors in India. The platform will enable retail investors to invest in three types of bonds - **government, corporate and tax-free**.

**Additional Information:**

Paytm Money is an investment and wealth management platform that offers mutual fund advisory and equity brokerage solutions for investors and traders. Paytm Money was founded in 2017.

- **CEO:** Varun Sridhar

**282. Tide**, the UK's leading SME-focused business financial platform in partnership with **Transcorp International Limited**, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulated Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) license holder, has launched **India's first recycled Poly Vinyl Chloride (rPVC) Rupay card**, along with MCT Cards & Technology Pvt Ltd and NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).

PVC cards are more durable than paper-based cards and can last longer without getting damaged or torn, along with security features.

Each rPVC card will save 7g of carbon and save 3.18g of plastic.

**283.** Recently, the Central government has introduced a digital communication mechanism between **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) banks** and the **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)** to check the **default on loans**. Under this mechanism, CEIB will send a report digitally regarding borrowers to the PSU banks for a loan amount of **Rs.50 crore** or higher at pre-approval stage within **15 days** of request.

**284. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company** has launched India's first small-cap fund in the Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) segment namely '**Bajaj Allianz Life Small Cap Fund**' that offers customers the opportunity to achieve capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of small-cap stocks.

The benchmark index is the Nifty Small Cap 100 index.

**285.** The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced a new **Risk Disclosure framework** for **individual traders** in the equity Futures & Options (F&O) segment.

The aim is to enhance investor protection and promote informed decision-making.

This framework will come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

**Key points:**

- Under this new framework, all stock brokers are obligated to display risk disclosures on their websites and inform their clients in a specified manner.
- The risk disclosures must be displayed prominently, covering at least 50% of the screen.
- Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) have been directed to maintain the Profit and Loss (P&L) data of their clients on a continuous basis.

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**286. RuPay**, the Indian payment network developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has rolled out a new feature that enables its cardholders to make **Card Verification Value (CVV)-less** payments if they have tokenized their debit, credit or prepaid cards on the merchant application or webpage.

**Note:** RuPay went live on Card on File Tokenization in 2021.

**287. Karnataka Bank** has appointed **Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma** as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bank for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date of his assuming charge.

He has succeeded Sekhar Rao (interim MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank).

**288.** The State Bank of India's (SBI) latest research report, **Ecwrap**, has projected India's growth in the **fourth quarter** of **FY23** to be **5.5 percent**. India's growth for FY23 is projected at **7.1 percent** due to growth in manufacturing sector.

This is in line with the advance estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in January that pegged the growth for the year ended March 31, 2023, at 7 percent. RBI has estimated Q4 FY23 Real GDP growth to be 5.1 percent.

**289.** The Government of India has signed a **USD 141.12 million** loan agreement with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for the development of infrastructure in three industrial clusters in the Visakhapatnam and Srikalahasthi-Chittoor nodes situated in **Andhra Pradesh**.

This financing is the second tranche of the USD 500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the programme approved by ADB in 2016.

**290. Indian Bank** has signed a pact with **Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd. (ICCL)** as its Clearing and Settlement Bank. Indian Bank will now facilitate banking services to members of BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) for clearing and settlement operations.

The clearing members can now open settlement accounts with the Bank for funds settlement under the equity derivatives segment.

**291. HDFC Bank Limited** has launched the '**Future Bankers 2.0**' in association with the **Manipal Global Academy** of BFSI (Banking, financial services, and insurance).

- Future Bankers 2.0 is a one-year professional diploma that aims to create a robust, future-ready talent pipeline for HDFC Bank's retail banking business.
- The programme provides 8 months of paid internship and on-the-job training at HDFC Bank's branch locations.

**292. Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the re-appointment of **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** as part-time Chairman of PPBL

for a period of 1 year starting from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. This marks his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as the chairman of PPBL.

**293. CCAvenue**, a payment aggregator, has tied up with **PayPal**, the global fintech and payments services provider to offer international payment acceptance services in the Middle East and Northern Africa (**MENA**) region.

With this, businesses in the MENA region will have access to the global network of 435 million active PayPal accounts across 200-plus countries, eliminating the need of having a US bank account.

**294. Axis Bank** has launched '**Sarathi**', a first of its kind digital onboarding journey to enable Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or Point of Sale (POS) for merchants.

Sarathi provides a seamless and hassle-free experience for merchants unlike the cumbersome traditional onboarding process that can take several days.

**295. Plotch**, the SaaS (Software as a Service) firm, has launched an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)-focused payment solution **NodePe** in collaboration with **IDFC FIRST Bank**.

The NodePe could be used to route the payments between buyer and seller apps based on transaction-level contracts agreed upon by network participants.

**296. SBI General Insurance (SBIG)**, the non-life insurance arm of the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the '**General Surety Bond Bima (Conditional & Unconditional)**' insurance product for **infrastructure projects**.

Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal (contract awarding authority).

## RBI IN NEWS

**297.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a data on the '**Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit – March 2023**'. As per the data, **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** have registered a growth of **15.4%** in **FY23** as compared to the 9.7% in FY23.

- Personal loans registered a growth of **20.6%** (year-on-year) in March 2023 compared to 12.6% a year ago, driven by housing loans.
- The data also stated that credit to industry registered a growth of **5.7%** (y-o-y) in March 2023 from 7.5% in March 2022.
- Credit to large industries rose by **3%** compared to 2% a year ago.
- Credit growth of medium industries was **19.6%** against 54.4%.

- Credit to micro and small industries registered a growth of **12.3%** in March 2023 against 23.0%.
- Loans to agriculture and allied activities rose by **15.4%** (y-o-y) in March 2023 from 9.9% in March 2022.

**298.** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) has released a **"Report on Currency & Finance 2022-23."** The theme of the report is **'Towards a Greener Cleaner India'**.

**Key findings:**

- The cumulative total expenditure for adapting to climate change in India is estimated to reach **USD 85.6 lakh crore** (at 2011-12 prices) by 2030.
- India's goal of achieving the net zero target by **2070** would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by about 5% annually and a significant improvement in its energy mix in favour of renewables to about 80% by 2070-71.
- India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least **2.5%** of GDP annually till 2030 to address the infrastructure gap caused by climate events.
- The results of a climate stress test reveal that public sector banks (PSBs) may be more vulnerable than private sector banks.

**299.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Innovation Hub** have jointly launched the **'2023 G20 TechSprint'**, a global technology competition.

- This is the **4th edition** of the G20 TechSprint.
- The focus will be on developing innovative technology solutions for **cross-border payments**.
- The competition is open for developers around the world.
- The shortlisted teams will be invited to develop their solutions over a six-week period and each team will be eligible for a stipend of Rs.8 lakh approximately USD 10,000.
- The winners for each problem statement will receive an award of Rs.40 lakh approximately USD 50,000.



**300.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities to take steps to ensure a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (**LIBOR**) from **1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**.

After 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) will cease to publish Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR).

**London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR):**

- LIBOR is a benchmark interest rate at which global banks lend to and borrow from one another in the interbank market for short-term loans.
- It is administered by the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).
- It is published daily across five currencies including the US dollar, the Euro, the British pound, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc, with seven different maturities namely overnight, 1 week, 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

**301.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the banks will commence a special 100-day campaign, '**100 Days 100 Pays**', to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits in every bank in every district within 100 days.

The banks will commence the campaign on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

According to the RBI data, as of the end of February 2023, the total amount of unclaimed deposits transferred to the RBI by Public Sector Banks in respect of deposits that have not been operated for 10 years or more was **Rs.35,012 crore**.

**Unclaimed Deposits:**

Balances in savings/current accounts that are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity are classified as "Unclaimed Deposits". These amounts are transferred by banks to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) fund maintained by RBI.

**302.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the withdrawal of **Rs.2000** denomination banknotes from circulation and directed banks to stop issuing this banknote with immediate effect.

With this, the public needs to deposit and/or exchange Rs.2000 banknotes with bank branches or 19 Regional Offices (ROs) of RBI within 4 months i.e. from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 to, on or before **30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**.

The limit for the exchange facility is **Rs.20000**.

Rs.2000 notes still be considered legal tender after this too.

**303.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given **SBI Funds Management (SBIFML)** -a joint venture between State Bank of India and France's AMUNDI, permission to purchase up to a

**9.99% stake in HDFC Bank** and has recommended the company to do so within six months i.e. 15 November 2023.

**304.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its board meeting has approved the transfer of **Rs.87,416 crore** as surplus to the **Central Government** for the year **2022-23** at the 602<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RBI's Central Board of Directors, Chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das. It has also decided to raise the contingency risk buffer to **6%** from 5.5%.

**305.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sanctioned the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of **Maratha Sahakari Bank** with **The Cosmos Co-operative Bank**, the second largest urban cooperative bank of India, with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, in exercise of its powers conferred under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.

All the 7 branches of Maratha Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra) will function as branches of The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune (Maharashtra).

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**306.** UK-based Sanskrit scholar, **Dr M.N. Nandakumara**, has been awarded the honorary **MBE** (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by **King Charles III** for his services to Indian classical arts in Britain.

He is the Executive Director of the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Centre in London and hails from the Indian state of Karnataka.

**307.** Socialist leader & former Lok Sabha MP **Pandit Ramkishan** has been honoured with the title of **Shatabdi Purush** (Man of the Century) in New Delhi. He has been recognized during the event organized to mark the birth centenary celebrations of socialist ideologue and ace parliamentarian Madhu Limaye.

- He had actively participated in the movements launched by socialist leaders Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia, and was put behind bars several times, including during the Emergency.
- He was elected once to the Lok Sabha in 1977 and four times to Rajasthan Assembly in 1962, 1967, 1974 and 1990.

**308. Meera Syal**, a UK-based Indian-origin actor, screenwriter, and novelist, has received the **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Fellowship**. She is best known for her work in television shows such as 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42'.

**BAFTA Fellowship:**

It is awarded annually to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to film, games or television. It was first awarded in 1971, and Alfred Hitchcock was the first recipient of the award.

- **Presented by:** British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)
- **Country:** United Kingdom

**309. Maria Stepanova**, a Jewish author from Russia who was born in Moscow in 1972 and is currently living in exile in Germany, has won the **Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding** in 2023. She has been recognized for her volume of poetry, *'Girls Without Clothes'*.

The poet described the hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression.

**Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding:**

It is one of the most prestigious literature prizes in Germany. It has been awarded annually since 1994 and comes with prize money of 20,000 euros.

**310. Fatimah Asghar**, a South Asian American poet and screenwriter, has won the inaugural Carol Shields Prize for Fiction 2023 for her debut novel *"When We Were Sisters"*, published by One World/Random House.

**Carol Shields Prize for Fiction:**

It is a new English-language literary award to celebrate creativity and excellence in fiction by women and non-binary writers in Canada and the United States. The award carries a cash prize of USD 150,000. The prize was named after American-Canadian novelist Carol Ann Shields.

**311.** The three student teams from India have won the **NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) 2023 competition** held near NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Project Review Award:**

- College/University Division: Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, India

**Social Media Award:**

- High School Division: Young Tinker Educational Foundation, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
- College/University Division: KIET Group of Institutions, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

**NASA HERC:**

It is an annual engineering competition for teams of students to design, develop, build, and test human-powered rovers capable of traversing challenging terrain and a task tool for the completion of various mission tasks.

**312.** Ramnath Kovind, the former President of India, has awarded the **13th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award** to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Yogi Adityanath** for creating a fear-free Uttar Pradesh.

The award ceremony has been organized at Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai where member of the UP legislative council Lalji Prasad Nirmal received the award on behalf of Yogi Adityanath.

**Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award:**

The award was established in 1992 and is administered by the Dr Ambedkar Foundation to people or organizations for their outstanding work. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakhs and a citation.

**313.** The winners of the **2023 Pulitzer Prize** in Journalism; Books; Drama, and Music; and Special Citations have been announced.

- The Pulitzer Prize, the most prestigious prize in US journalism, was first awarded in 1917.
- The prize recognises the work in 22 categories, i.e. 15 journalism categories; seven arts categories and one special citation.

Category	Winners of 2023 Pulitzer Prize (Journalism)
Public Service	Associated Press, for the work of Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Los Angeles Times
Investigative Reporting	Staff of The Wall Street Journal
Explanatory Reporting	Caitlin Dickerson of The Atlantic
Local Reporting	Anna Wolfe of Mississippi Today, Ridgeland, Miss.
National Reporting	Caroline Kitchener of The Washington Post
International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
Feature Writing	Eli Saslow of The Washington Post
Commentary	Kyle Whitmire of AL.com, Birmingham
Criticism	Andrea Long Chu of New York magazine

<b>Editorial Writing</b>	Nancy Ancrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangel and Lauren Costantino of the Miami Herald
<b>Illustrated Reporting and Commentary</b>	Mona Chalabi, contributor, The New York Times
<b>Breaking News Photography</b>	Photography Staff of Associated Press
<b>Feature Photography</b>	Christina House of the Los Angeles Times
<b>Audio Reporting</b>	Staff of Gimlet Media, notably Connie Walker

<b>Category</b>	<b>2023 Pulitzer Prize (Books, Drama, &amp; Music)</b>
<b>Fiction</b>	"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper)
<b>Fiction</b>	"Trust" by Hernan Diaz (Riverhead Books)
<b>Drama</b>	"English" by Sanaz Toossi
<b>History</b>	"Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power" by Jefferson Cowie (Basic Books)
<b>Biography</b>	"G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century" by Beverly Gage (Viking)
<b>Memoir or Autobiography</b>	"Stay True" by Hua Hsu (Doubleday)
<b>Poetry</b>	"Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020" by Carl Phillips (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
<b>General Nonfiction</b>	"His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice" by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa (Viking) (Moved by the Board from the Biography category.)
<b>Music</b>	"Omar" by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

- 314.** Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, has launched the **'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023** to achieve the larger vision of achieving the Zero Carbon Emission Goal and promote environmental-friendly practices across all ports.



- **Objective:** To minimize waste through Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle and to attain zero waste discharge from port operations and promote monitoring, based on Environmental Performance Indicators.
- The guidelines envisages ecosystem dynamics in port development, operation and maintenance while aligning with 'Working with Nature' concept and minimizing impact on biotic components of harbor ecosystem.

The '**Sagar Shreshtha Samman**' awards have also been conferred to major ports for their exceptional achievements in various operational parameters during FY22-23.

Award Category	Port
Best Absolute Performance for handling highest cargo of 137.56 MMT	Deendayal Port, Kandla
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Port of the year 2022-23</li> <li>• Best incremental performance for attaining the highest cargo growth rate of 16.56% in FY23</li> <li>• Performance shield on Ship Berth Day Output</li> </ul>	Paradip Port, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha
A major milestone in Turn Around Time	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai, Maharashtra
Best Pre-Berthing Detention time	Kamarajar Port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Best Ship Berth Day Output	Mormugao Port
Performance shield in turn-around-time (non-container port)	Cochin Port, Kerala

**315.** The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the **India Business Leader Awards 2023**, hosted by CNBC-TV18, has been presented at Jio World Convention Centre at BKC in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The annual awards has been presented by Standard Chartered in partnership with Hindustan Times.

Category	Winners of IBLA 2023
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Brand Campaign of the Year	Dove
Young Turk Startup of the Year	Skyroot
Young Turk of the Year	OfBusiness
The Disruptor	Idea Forge
Social Impact Icon	Late Ela Ramesh Bhatt
Lifetime Achievement Award	Venu Srinivasan (Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor)
Hall of Fame	Azim Premji (Founder and former Chairman of WIPRO Limited)
In Memoriam	Cyrus Mistry, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, Vikram Kirloskar, Rajeev Luthra
Sports Leader of the Year	Nikhat Zareen
Game Changer of the Year	BCCI (Jay Shah)
Entertainment Leader of the Year	Alia Bhatt
Outstanding Contribution to Brand India	Dilip Asbe (NPCI)
Outstanding Company of the Year	Infosys (Salil Parekh)
Outstanding Business Leader of the Year	TV Narendran (MD of Tata Steel)

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**316.** Nigerian writer **Arinze Ifeakandu** has won the **2023 Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize** for his debut book titled *"God's Children Are Little Broken Things"*, a short-fiction collection in English Language.

He has been awarded the prestigious **20000 Pounds** Prize at a ceremony held in Swansea in the UK on the 70<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Dylan Thomas.

**Dylan Thomas Prize:**

It is one of the **UK's** most prestigious literary prizes as well as one of the world's largest literary prizes for young writers. It is awarded for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under. The prize is named after the Swansea-born writer, Dylan Thomas. It was launched in 2006.

- 317. Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar**, an astronomer, the founding director of IUCAA, Pune, and also a former President of the ASI, has been conferred the **first Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award 2022** instituted by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).

He has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics in India.

Pakistani-Canadian author, translator, and storyteller, **Musharraf Ali Farooqi**, who translated Siddique Alam's short story collection *"The Kettledrum & Other Stories"* from Urdu to English, has won the inaugural edition of the **Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature in Translation**.

- 318. N Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons, has been honoured with the **Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur** (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French Civilian award, for his substantial role in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.

**Legion of Honour:**

It was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. The Légion d'Honneur ("the Legion of Honour") is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients. The President of the French Republic is the Grand Master of the Order of the Legion of Honour.

*"Gauri"*, a documentary based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, directed by **Kavitha Lankesh**, has won the **"Best Long Documentary Award"** at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023.

The film portrays the life of Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017 due to her criticism of right-wing Hindutva politics.

The documentary film "Gauri" has been commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam.

- 319. The Trichy International Airport's** new terminal project of ITD Cementation India Limited has been awarded the **international safety award** by the British Safety Council in the first-class merit category.

The award has been given for demonstrating a strong commitment to good health and safety management during 2022.

The terminal building is being constructed as per the standards of 'GRIHA' (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment).

**320. Kerala Startup Mission** has been ranked as the **World's Top Public Business Incubator** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the UBI Global World Rankings of business incubators and accelerators (World Ranking Report 21/22). KSUM has been honoured for its role in making Kerala a vibrant Startup hub.

The honour for the same has been received by the Secretary (Electronics & IT), Kerala, **Rathan U Kelkar**, and KSUM CEO **Anoop Ambika** at the UBI Global World Rankings 2021-2022 event held as part of the World Incubation Summit in Ghent, Belgium.

**Other Awardees:**

- **Public/Private Business Accelerator:** EIT Health Accelerator, Europe
- **University Business Incubator:** ITU Cekirdek, Turkiye
- **University Business Accelerator:** Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC), Belgium

**321. Papua New Guinea** has conferred its highest civilian award '**Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu**' to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** for his work championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of the global south.

The country of **Fiji** has also conferred its highest civilian award **Companion of the Order to PM Narendra Modi** on the sidelines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit.

He has also received the '**Ebaki Award**' of Palau.

**322.** Bulgarian writer **Georgi Gospodinov** and translator **Angela Rodel** have won the **International Booker Prize 2023** for the novel "**Time Shelter**". This becomes the first novel originally published in Bulgarian to win the prize.

The novel revolves around a 'clinic for the past' that offers a promising treatment for Alzheimer's sufferers:

each floor reproduces a decade in minute detail, transporting patients back in time.

**International Booker Prize:**

It is awarded annually since 2005 for the finest single work of fiction from around the world which has been translated into English and published in the UK and Ireland.

**323. Three Indian UN peacekeepers** have been honoured posthumously with the **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** for their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty at a solemn ceremony held in New York, USA.

The three Indians include Border Security Force personnel head Constables **Shishupal Singh and Samwali Ram Vishnoi**, who served with the Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and **Shaber Taher Ali**, who was employed in a civilian capacity with the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq.

The Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ambassador **Ruchira Kamboj**, has received the medals on behalf of the Indian peacekeepers.

**Dag Hammarskjöld Medal:**

It is a posthumous award given by the **United Nations (UN)** to military personnel, police, or civilians who lose their lives while serving in a UN's peacekeeping operation. The medal is named after Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, who died in a plane crash in what is now Zambia in September 1961.

**324.** The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of **NEXA International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2023** has been held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**Hrithik Roshan** has won the trophy of Best Actor in a Leading Role for his action-packed performance in Vikram Vedha.

**Alia Bhatt** has won the trophy of Best Actress in a Leading Role for her role in Gangubai Kathiawadi.

**Other awardees:**

<b>Best Film</b>	Drishyam 2
<b>Best Director</b>	R Madhavan for Rocketry The Nambi Effect
<b>Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)</b>	Mouni Roy for Brahmastra Part One - Shiva
<b>Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)</b>	Anil Kapoor for Jugg Jugg Jeeyo
<b>Outstanding Achievement for Fashion in Cinema</b>	Manish Malhotra
<b>Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema</b>	Kamal Haasan
<b>Best Adapted Story</b>	Aamil Keeyan Khan and Abhishek Pathak for Drishyam 2
<b>Best Original Story</b>	Perveez Sheikh and Jasmeet Reen for Darlings
<b>Outstanding Achievement in Regional Cinema</b>	Marathi film Ved directed by Riteish Deshmukh



<b>Best Debut (Male)</b>	Shantanu Maheshwari for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Babil Khan for Qala
<b>Best Debut (Female)</b>	Khushali Kumar for Dhoka Around the Corner
<b>Best Playback Singer (Female)</b>	Shreya Ghoshal for the song Rasiya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
<b>Best Playback Singer (Male)</b>	Arijit Singh for the song Kesariya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
<b>Best Music Direction</b>	Pritam for Brahmastra:Part One - Shiva
<b>Best Lyricist</b>	Amitabh Bhattacharya for the song Kesarya from Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva
<b>Best Cinematography</b>	Gangubai Kathiawadi
<b>Best Screenplay</b>	Gangubai Kathiawadi
<b>Best Dialogue</b>	Gangubai Kathiawadi
<b>Best Choreography for title track</b>	Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
<b>Best Sound Design</b>	Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
<b>Best Editing</b>	Drishyam 2
<b>Best Special Effects (Visual)</b>	Brahmastra: Part one - Shiva
<b>Best Background Score</b>	Vikram Vedha
<b>Best Sound Mixing</b>	Monica O My Darling

**325.** The **76<sup>th</sup> annual Cannes International Film Festival** has been held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in **Cannes, France**.

French Film director **Justine Triet's** French courtroom thriller "**Anatomy of a Fall**" has won the top award of the 2023- 'Palme d'Or' for best feature film.

**Cannes 2023 Winners:**

**Palme d'Or:** Anatomy of A Fall, directed by Justine Triet

**Grand Prix:** The Zone of Interest Director: Jonathan Glazer

**Jury Prize:** Fallen Leaves, directed by Aki Kaurismaki

**Best Director:** Tran Anh Hung for The Pot-Au-Feu

**Best Screenplay:** Monster, written by Yuji Sakamoto

**Best Actress:** Merve Dizdar, About Dry Grasses

**Best Actor:** Kōji Yakusho, Perfect Days

**Camera d'Or:** Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell, directed by Thien An Pham

**Short Film Palme d'Or:** 27, directed by Flóra Anna Buda

**Queer Palm:** Monster

**Honorary Palme d'Or:** Michael Douglas

**Cannes International Film Festival:**

It is held annually in Cannes, France. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Cannes Film Festival has been held in 1946.

**326. Princess Sophia Duleep Singh**, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh, the last ruler of the Sikh empire, and the goddaughter of Queen Victoria, has been honoured with a commemorative **Blue Plaque** in London, UK.

The blue plaque is erected at Faraday House, 37 Hampton Court Road, Richmond, London, where Princess Sophia Duleep Singh lived for over five decades.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the significance of particular buildings associated with historical figures.

**327.** The Commonwealth Foundation has announced the regional winners of the **2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize**. The prize is awarded annually since 2012 for the best piece of unpublished short fiction from the Commonwealth.

Winners of 2023 Commonwealth Short Story Prize	Region	Story
Hana Gammon	South Africa, Africa	The Undertaker's Apprentice
Agnes Chew	Singapore, Asia	Oceans Away from My Homeland
Himali McInnes	New Zealand, Pacific	Kilinochchi
Rue Baldry	United Kingdom, Canada, and Europe	Lech, Prince, and the Nice Things
Kwame McPherson	Jamaica, Caribbean	Ocoee

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

**328. Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, former CEO of Prasar Bharati (2017-2022), has authored a book titled '**Collective Spirit, Concrete Actions**'. The book is focussed on 'Mann Ki Baat', a radio broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and its impact on India.

The book has been released during a day-long National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100 held in New Delhi.

**329.** Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, has launched a book called **"Reflections"** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The book is written by the eminent banker **Narayanan Vaghul**, former Chairman of ICICI Bank. The book provides a detailed account of his experiences in the financial landscape of India over several decades.

**Note:** Narayanan Vaghul was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the Trade and Industry category in 2010.

**330.** Former IAS officer **Amitabh Kant**, who served as the CEO of NITI Aayog, has authored a book titled as **"MADE IN INDIA: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise"**. The book is published by the Rupa Publications India. This book is an excellent account of how India's enterprises, once laggards at the world stage, are amongst the most competitive now.

**Other books written by him:** Incredible India 2.0: Synergies for Growth and Governance (2019) and Branding India: An Incredible Story (2008), and the editor of The Path Ahead: Transformative Ideas for India (2018).

**331.** A new book titled **"Sachin@50: Celebrating a Maestro"** has been authored by **Boria Majumdar**, a renowned sports & historian and TV show host. The book is published by Simon & Schuster Publishers India Pvt Ltd. The book covers Sachin Tendulkar's journey to success, beginning with his teenage debut, when he rose to fame after his bloodied nose incident in Pakistan in 1989.

**332.** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami has released a book titled **"Cyber Encounters: Cops Adventures With Online Criminals"** at St Joseph's Academy, Rajpur Road, Dehradun in Uttarakhand. This version has been published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.

The book was originally written in English by **Ashok Kumar**, the Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttarakhand, and co-authored by **OP Manocha**, a former scientist of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and published by Ebury Press.

**333. Ajai Chowdhry**, one of the six founding members of HCL, has authored a new book titled as **"Just Aspire: Notes on Technology, Entrepreneurship, and the Future"**. The book is published by Harper Business.

The book focuses on the importance of having a positive mindset, setting goals, and taking action to achieve them.

**334. Sandeep Marwah**, the Chancellor of AAFT University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh has presented the first Copy of the Book- **"8 Years of Modi Sarkar: A Compilation of Achievements"** to Ram Nath Kovind, the former President of India.

The book documents the achievements of the Modi Government over the past 8 years.

**335.** The embassy of Lithuania has released a comic titled **“First Lithuanian Travelers in India”** to mark the strong relations between the two countries. The comic depicts some of the historical characters who came to India years ago and it also reflects India-Lithuania relations.

**Diana Mickeviciene** is the Ambassador of Lithuania to India.

**336. Ruskin Bond**, an Indian author, has authored a book titled **“The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life”**. The book is published by HarperCollins India. The book is about the last 20 to 30 years of his life.

**Awards:**

- Sahitya Akademi Award in 1992
- Padma Shri in 1999
- Padma Bhushan in 2014

**Other books written by him:** The Room on the Roof, These are a Few of My Favourite Things, Koki's Song, How to Be a Writer, The Enchanted Cottage and How to Live Your Life.

**337.** A compendium of three volumes with Judgments spanning from the year 1988 till 2022 covering Arbitration Act 1940 and 1996, the book titled **‘Supreme Court on Commercial Arbitration’**, authored by **Dr. Manoj Kumar**, has been released.

The foreword of the book is written by **R Venkataramani** (Attorney General of India) and is published by Legal Matrix Publication.

**338. Gulab Chand Kataria**, Governor of Assam, has released a book titled **“Partitioned Freedom”**. The book is authored by **Ram Madhav** and published by Prabhat Prakashan Pvt Ltd in Guwahati, Assam.

The book offers profound insights into the events that unfolded during 1905 and the pre-independence era.

**Other books written by him:** “Asahaj Padosi”, and “Uneasy Neighbours: India and China After 50 Years of the War”

**339.** A new book titled **“RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond”** has been written by Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group and former MP **Dr Vijay Darda**. The book has been released by renowned author and Congress MP Dr Shashi Tharoor.

This book is a reflection of contemporary political, social, cultural, and other significant happenings and developments.

**340.** The Governor of Goa **P S Sreedharan Pillai** has launched the **five books** published under the Raj Bhavan's book sponsoring scheme **‘Nayi Pahal’**.

- The books have been unveiled in the presence of Jnanpith Award winner Goan writer Damodar Mauzo.
- The books are by authors Sanjay Ramesh Salelkar (Konkani), Pallavi Polekar (Marathi), Advocate Manohar Adpaikar (Marathi) and two books by Pachu Menon in English.

## PERSON IN NEWS

- 341.** The Central Government has appointed **Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti** as the **Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court** with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. He has succeeded Justice S. Manikumar who retired on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.
- 342. Shantanu Roy** has been recommended as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **BEML Limited**, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence. He is currently serving as Director (Mining & Construction Business) in BEML Limited.
- 343. Santiago Pena**, candidate of right-wing Colorado Party and former IMF economist, has become the new **President of Paraguay** after defeating centre-left challenger Efrain Alegre in the general elections. He has secured 43 percent of the vote to 27.5 percent for Efrain Alegre.
- He will take office on **15<sup>th</sup> August 2023** and will succeed Mario Abdo Benítez.
- 344. Ajit Kumar Mohanty**, who is a well-known physicist and also serves as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), has been appointed as the new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- He has succeeded **K N Vyas** to the posts.
  - He has been appointed to a tenure up to the age of 66 years i.e. till 10th October 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- 345.** Air Marshal **Saju Balakrishnan** has been appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the **Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN)**. He is the 17<sup>th</sup> Commander-in-Chief of CINCAN. He has succeeded Lt Gen Ajai Singh.
- 346. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam**, the senior most judge of the Calcutta High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Calcutta High Court**. He is currently serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court.



**347. Vineet Joshi**, a 1992 Manipur cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as the new **Chief Secretary in Manipur** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has replaced Dr Rajesh Kumar.

**348. Accenture** has appointed **Ajay Vij** to the newly created role of Country Managing Director (MD) and **Sandeep Dutta** will take over as the lead for its India Market Unit.

**Rekha Menon**, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India, is set to retire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The primary responsibilities of the chairperson will now be undertaken by the new appointees.

**349. Wesley W Simina** has been elected as the new and **10<sup>th</sup> President** of the **Federated States of Micronesia**. He will succeed David Panuelo.

**Other appointments:**

- Vice President: Aren Palik
- Speaker: Esmond Moses
- Vice-Speaker: Robson Romolow
- Floor Leader: Quincy Lawrence

**350. Rajiv Dhar** has been appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director (MD) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (**NIIFL**). He has replaced **Sujoy Bose**, who has been serving as the MD & CEO of NIIFL since its inception in 2016.

**351. Alia Bhatt**, a Bollywood actress, producer, and entrepreneur, has become the first Indian global ambassador of **Gucci**, a high-end luxury fashion house based in Florence, Italy. She has made her first appearance as the brand's latest global ambassador at the Gucci Cruise 2024 show held in Seoul, South Korea.

The other brand endorsed by Alia Bhatt are Cadbury, Make My Trip, Blenders Pride, Manyavar, Titan Raga, Cornetto, PhonePe, Philips, Lay's, Caprese, etc.

**352. Linda Yaccarino**, the head of advertising at NBC Universal, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Twitter**. She has succeeded Elon Musk as the CEO of both Twitter and X Corp, a technology company.

She is the first female Twitter CEO and also the first to come from a non-tech background.

**Twitter:**

It is an online social media and social networking platform owned and operated by American company X Corp., the legal successor of Twitter, Inc. The platform was founded by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams in March 2006.

- 353.** Indian-American **Geeta Rao Gupta** has been appointed by the US Senate as the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues in the **US State Department**. She will promote women's and girl child's rights keeping in mind the US foreign policy.
- 354.** The high-powered selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed Karnataka director general of police (DGP) **Praveen Sood** as the new director of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for a period of 2 years.
- He will replace Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, whose fixed tenure ends on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. He is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. He originally hails from Himachal Pradesh.

- 355.** **Amy E. Pope** of the United States of America (**USA**) has been elected as the next **Director-General** of the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**. She will take over as the **11<sup>th</sup>** DG of IOM for a 5-year term beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

With this, she has become the **1<sup>st</sup> women** Director General (DG) of IOM. She has defeated the incumbent DG of IOM **Antonio Vitorino**.

- 356.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Coal Secretary **Anil Kumar Jain** as the new Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (**PNGRB**).

He has been appointed for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders. He is a 1986-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer.

- 357.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Ravneet Kaur**, a 1988 Punjab cadre IAS officer, as the new Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**). She has been appointed for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders.
- With this, she has become the **first woman and non-secretary bureaucrat** to be appointed as CCI Chairman.
  - She will replace CCI member Sangeeta Verma who has been serving as the interim (acting) chairperson of CCI since October 2022.

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**358. Mawlawi Abdul Kabir** has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister and interim head of the cabinet of **Afghanistan**.

The decision has been taken by the supreme leader of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Haibitullah Akhund, owing to the ill health of Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, the acting head of the Taliban regime.

**359. Duroflex Private Limited**, a mattress and sleep products maker, has appointed former Indian captain, and one of the best batters of the current era, **Virat Kohli** as its brand ambassador.

He will appeal to a wider audience, inspiring individuals to prioritize their sleep for a healthier tomorrow through the company's campaign '*Great Sleep Great Health*'.

**360. Ludovit Odor**, a Slovak economist and former Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, has been appointed as the interim Prime Minister of Slovakia. He will head the 15-member cabinet of Slovakia till the elections. Which will be held in September 2023.

He takes over as the PM from Eduard Heger, who resigned from the post on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**361.** One97 Communications Ltd, which operates Paytm, has appointed **Bhavesh Gupta** as President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Paytm. He will be reporting to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.

**362. Raheja QBE General Insurance Company** has appointed **Rajeev Dogra** as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following regulatory approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

He has succeeded **Pankaj Arora**.

**363. Manoj Soni** has become the new Chairman of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. The oath of office & secrecy has been administered by Smita Nagaraj, a senior most Member of the Commission. He has replaced Pradeep Kumar Joshi.

**364.** Air Marshal **Ashutosh Dixit**, who was commissioned in the fighter stream in the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1986, has been appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. He has succeeded Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari.

**365. Pramod Bhasin**, the founder of Genpact and current Chairman of ICRIER, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), effective from April 1, 2023.

He has succeeded Rajendra S Pawar.

**366. Justice S. Vaidyanathan**, the senior most judge of the Madras High Court (HC), has been appointed as the **acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court** by Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. He has succeeded ACJ, T. Raja, who retired from service on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**367. Realme**, a Chinese smartphone maker, has appointed Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** as its new brand ambassador for their innovative range of smartphones. He will endorse the Realme 11 Pro Series 5G, which will soon be released in June 2023 in the Indian market.

**368. Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of Greece, has appointed senior judge **Ioannis Sarmas** as the caretaker Prime Minister of **Greece** to lead the caretaker government until the repeat election on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

He has replaced Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

**369. R Dinesh**, executive VC of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has become the new **President** of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the year **2023-24**. He has succeeded Sanjiv Bajaj.

**Other appointments:**

- Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Limited, has been named President-designate of CII for 2023-24.
- Rajiv Memani, CMD EY (India), has been named Vice-President of CII for 2023-24.

**370. Parminder Chopra** has become the **first woman** Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of the **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)**, India's largest non-banking financial company (NBFC) and a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power.

She has succeeded Ravinder Singh Dhillon.

**371. Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries, has been appointed as a **member** of the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (**COP28**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He is the only Indian, other than Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, on the Advisory Committee to the President of COP28.

**UAE** will host the 28th session of COP 28 to the UNFCCC from November 30, 2023 to December 12, 2023. It will be held at Dubai Expo City.

**372.** The President of India (GoI) Droupadi Murmu, in exercise of the power conferred by Article 217 of the Indian constitution, has appointed Chief Justices to **5 High Courts**: Bombay, Madras, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Rajasthan.

These appointments have been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud.

High Court	New Chief Justice	Previous Chief Justice
Bombay	Ramesh D Dhanuka	Sanjay V Gangapurwala
Madras	Sanjay V Gangapurwala	S. Vaidyanathan
Himachal Pradesh	M.S. Ramchandra Rao	Tarlok Singh Chauhan
Kerala	Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti	S. Manikumar
Rajasthan	Augustine George Masih	Manindra Mohan Shrivastava

**373. Praveen Kumar Srivastava**, a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has recently (May 2023) sworn in by President Droupadi Murmu, as the new **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)**.

Since December 2022, he had been working as the acting CVC following the completion of his predecessor **Suresh N. Patel's** tenure.

**374.** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-elected as the external auditor of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.

He is already holding this position at WHO for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

**375. Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu**, the former governor of Lagos (Nigeria), has become the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the Federal Republic of **Nigeria**. He has succeeded Muhammadu Buhari.

Kashim Shettima, a Nigerian Politician, has been appointed as the Vice-President of Nigeria.

## OBITUARIES

**376.** Indian historian **Ranajit Guha** has recently passed away in Vienna Woods, Austria. He was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1923 in Siddhakati, British India (present day Bangladesh). He was one of the early pioneers of the **Subaltern Studies group**, a methodology of South Asian Studies focused on post-colonial and post-imperial societies, studying them from the perspective of the underclasses.

**Subaltern school:**



- The term “subaltern” was first coined by **Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci** to refer to any class of people subject to the hegemony of another, more powerful class.
- The word subaltern has been used as a general attribute of subordination in South Asian society expressed in terms of caste, class, gender and office.
- Subaltern school looks at history from perspective of subaltern groups (peasants, untouchables, women, and traditionally non-dominant communities).

**377. Arun Manilal Gandhi**, a South African-born Indian-American author, & socio-political activist, has recently passed away in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. He was born on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1934 in Durban, Natal Province, in South Africa. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> grandson of nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi.

He penned several books including: *'A Patch of White and Legacy of Love: My education in the path of non-violence'*, *'The Forgotten Woman: The Untold Story of Kastur'*, *'the Wife of Mahatma Gandhi'*, and *'Grandfather Gandhi with Bethany Hegedus'*

**378. Tori Bowie**, an American track and field athlete, has recently passed away in Horizon West, Florida, the USA at the age of 32. She was born on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1990 at Sand Hill, Rankin County, Mississippi, USA.

**Achievements:**

- She won the silver medal in the 100 m and bronze in the 200 m at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- She won the bronze and gold in the 100 m at the 2015 and 2017 World Championships, respectively.
- She won the gold medals as part of U.S. women's 4 × 100 m relays at both the 2016 Olympic Games and 2017 World Championships.

**379.** Noted Bengali writer **Samaresh Majumdar** has recently passed away at the age of 79 in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1944 in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

- He made his writing debut with the novel titled *"Dour" (Run)*, which was published in "Desh", a Bengali literary magazine, in 1976.
- His novels include *Aath Kuthuri Noy Daraja*, *Bandinibash*, *Daybadhha*, *Buno Haansher Palak*, and *Saatkahon*.
- He was best known for his Animesh series of novels, the second of which (Kalbela) won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1984.

**380. Padma Desai**, an Indian-American development economist, has recently passed away in New York, USA. She was born in Surat, Gujarat in 1931. She is well known for her scholarship on Soviet and Indian industrial policy.

**Books authored by her:** "India: Planning for Industrialization" (with Jagdish Bhagwati) in 1968; "Perestroika in Perspective: The Design and Dilemmas of Soviet Reform"; "Financial Crisis, Contagion, and Containment: From Asia to Argentina"; "Breaking Out: An Indian Woman's American Journey", etc.

She was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in **2009**.

**381. Kalyani Kazi**, the noted **singer** and the youngest daughter-in-law of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, has recently passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.

She was a member of the advisory council of Poschimbongo Kazi Nazrul Islam Akademi. She was honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award from West Bengal in 2015.

**382. Antonio Carbajal**, the Mexican football goalkeeper who became the first player to appear in five World Cups, has recently passed away at the age of 93 in Leon, Mexico. He was born on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1929 in Mexico.

He played 47 games for the Mexican national team and appeared in World Cups in Brazil in 1950, Switzerland in 1954, Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962, and England in 1966.

**383. Robert E. Lucas Jr.**, a pioneering economist, has recently passed away in Chicago, Illinois, United States of America (USA). He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1937 in Yakima, Washington DC, USA.

He won the **Nobel Prize in Economics** in **1995** "for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations, and thereby having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy".

**384. Chow Tewa Mein**, the former Arunachal Pradesh minister, has recently passed away after a prolonged illness. He hails from Chongkham village of **Arunachal Pradesh**. He served as MLA from Chowkham constituency in 1995, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

He served as the horticulture minister in 1995 while in 1998 he served as the PHE&WS (Public Health Engineering & Water Supply) minister.

**385.** The India-born British industrialist and Chairman of the Hinduja Group, **Srichand Parmanand Hinduja (SP Hinduja)**, has recently passed away at the age of 87 in London, United Kingdom. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1935 in Karachi, Sindh province, British India (now Pakistan).

In 2022, he topped the **Sunday Times Rich List** with an estimated wealth of £28.472 billion sterling.

He founded the only Indian-owned Swiss bank, **SP Hinduja Banquee Privee** in 1994, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

He also became a leading business tycoon in India alongside Tata's, Birla's, Bajaj's, and Ambani's.

**386. Rattan Lal Kataria**, a Member of Parliament (MP), Lok Sabha, from Ambala (Haryana) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, has passed away in Chandigarh at the age of 72. He was born on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1951 in Yamunanagar, Haryana.

**387.** Australian tennis player **Owen Davidson**, who won 13 Grand Slam titles, has recently passed away at the age of 79 in Conroe, Texas, the USA. He was born on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1943 in Melbourne, Australia.

He won **11 major titles** in **mixed doubles** and **two** in **men's doubles** during his career that spanned from the early 1960s to mid-1970s.

**Books authored by him:** "Lawn Tennis: The Great Ones and Great Women Tennis Players" and "Tackle Lawn Tennis Way".

**388. Martin Louis Amis**, a renowned British **Novelist**, has recently passed away in Lake Worth, Florida, United States of America (USA) at the age of 73. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1949 in England, UK.

He was the son of British writer Kingsley Amis, a Booker prize-winner in 1986 for the novel "The Old Devils".

He is best known for his novels "Money", "London Fields", and "A High Wind in Jamaica". His last novel is "Inside Story", published in 2020.

**389.** Noted Telugu writer, novelist, and Sahitya Akademi awardee **Kethu Viswanatha Reddy** has recently passed away in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh. He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1939.

He won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in **Telugu** in 1996 for his short story Kethu Viswanatha Reddy Kathalu.

He is well known for his short stories and novels depicting the culture and ethos of Rayalaseema, southern region of Andhra Pradesh in the same dialect.

**390.** Renowned **Kannada writer**, critic, and Sahitya Akademi award winner, **Govindaray H. Nayak** has recently passed away in Mysuru, Karnataka. He was born in Surve village near Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka in 1935.

He was awarded the Central Sahitya Akademi Award for his work "*Sanskrit Chintana*" in 2014. His major works include: 'Samakalina', 'Nirapekshe', 'Matte Matte Pampa', 'Uttarardha', etc.

## SPORTS

**391.** The Indian pair of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** has created history by becoming the first-ever Indian men's doubles pair to win gold medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2023. They have defeated the eighth-seeded Malaysian pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee in the final held in Dubai, UAE.

This is India's second gold medal at the event. **Dinesh Khanna** won the men's singles gold in Lucknow in 1965 after beating Thailand's Sangob Rattanusorn.

**392.** Commander **Abhilash Tomy**, a retired Naval Officer, has become the 1st Indian and Asian to complete the Golden Globe Race, a solo around-the-world sailing race, which started on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022 from Les Sables d'Olonne in France. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> taking 236 days, 14 hours, 46 minutes, 34 seconds to complete this feat.

**Kirsten Neuschafer** from South Africa has become the 1<sup>st</sup> woman ever to win a solo around the world race, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Golden Globe Race 2022. The 2022 Golden Globe Race is the third edition of the original Sunday Times Golden Globe Race.

**393.** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a two-member ad-hoc committee consisting of **Bhupendra Singh Bajwa**, Member of the Executive Council of the IOA and **Suma Shirur**, a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit from the IOA, to manage the office of the **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**, the governing body of wrestling in India.

The IOA will also appoint a retired High Court Judge to the ad-hoc committee for fair and transparent elections.

**394.** **Ding Liren** from China has recently won the **FIDE World Chess Championship 2023** held in Astana, Kazakhstan. He has defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tie-breaker game.

- He has become the **17<sup>th</sup> world chess champion** & the **first from China**.
- He has taken the world championship title from Norway's Magnus Carlsen, the five-time champion.

**395.** Indian tennis player **Sumit Nagal** has won the men's singles title at the **2023 Roma Garden Open**, a part of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Challengers Tour 2023, after defeating Jesper De Jong of the Netherlands in the final match held in Rome, Italy.

This marks his 3<sup>rd</sup> Challenger title and his 1<sup>st</sup> title since 2019.

**396.** Red Bull's **Sergio Pérez** has won the **2023 Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix** held at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan. This his sixth career win. He has become the first driver to win the Azerbaijan Grand Prix twice after his win in 2021.

Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has finished second and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has finished third in the race.

**397. Indian cricket team**, led by Rohit Sharma, has surpassed **Australia** to become the **number one Test team** in the latest rankings released by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

India stands at top with 121 points, with Australia in the second spot with 116 points. England (116 points), South Africa (104) and reigning champion New Zealand (100) occupy third, fourth and fifth spots respectively.

**398. South African cricketer Shabnim Ismail**, the fastest bowler in women's cricket, has announced his retirement from the international cricket. She played in 241 international matches across all formats, including one-day internationals, Twenty20s, and tests. She also played for the UP Warriorz in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League.

**399.** The **Global Chess League (GCL)**, the world's largest and first franchise-based chess league, has announced **Dubai, UAE** as the venue for its inaugural edition.

- GCL is a joint venture between FIDE (International Chess Federation) and Tech Mahindra.
- The Host Partner will be Dubai Sports Council.
- It will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023, featuring six teams with six players each, including a minimum of two female players and one icon player per team.
- GCL will be the world's largest and first franchise-based chess league.

**400.** India's Tokyo 2020 Olympic javelin throw champion **Neeraj Chopra** has won the Gold at the **Doha Diamond League 2023** by registering a distance of 88.67m. He has defeated **Jakub Vadlejch** of Czech Republic in the event held at Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

This is the second time Neeraj Chopra won a Diamond League Meeting in his career. His first victory came in Lausanne in 2022.

**401.** As per the Forbes' highest-paid athletes list in 2023, Footballer **Cristiano Ronaldo** from Portugal has become the world's highest-paid athlete in 2023 after he moved to Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr in January 2023, after his exit from Manchester United, nearly doubling his annual salary to an estimated USD 75 million.

- He has topped the list with a total earning of USD 136 million.
- He is followed by Paris St-Germain Lionel Messi (Argentina) with a total earning of USD 130 million and Paris St-Germain Kylian Mbappe with a total earning of USD 120 million.



**402.** Dutch-Belgian racing driver **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull maintains the world championship by clinching the Miami Grand Prix 2023 which has been held at the Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida.

He is followed by Mexico's Sergio Pérez (Red Bull), and Spain's Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin).

**403. Babar Azam**, the captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has become the fastest player to score **5000 runs** in **One Day International (ODI) cricket**. He has achieved this feat in 97 innings, breaking the previous record set by South Africa's Hashim Amla, who reached the 5000 run mark in 101 innings.

He is the 14<sup>th</sup> Pakistani to complete 5000 or more runs in ODI cricket.

**404.** The winners of the 2023 Laureus World Sports Awards, the most prestigious honours in sport, have been honoured in the ceremony held in Paris, France.

Category	Winner	Sports
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	<b>Lionel Messi</b> (Argentina)	Football
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	<b>Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce</b> (Jamaica)	Athletics-track and field sprinter
Laureus World Team of the Year	Argentina Men's Football Team	Football
Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Tennis
Laureus World Comeback of the Year	Christian Eriksen (Denmark)	Football
Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability	Catherine Debrunner (Switzerland)	Para Athletics-wheelchair racer
Laureus World Action Sportsperson of the Year	Eileen Gu (China)	Freestyle Skiing
Laureus Sport for Good	Teamup	Global

**405.** Indian weightlifters have finished the **Asian Weightlifting Championships 2023** in Jinju, South Korea, with **three silver medals**. A total of six Indian weightlifters competed at the continental championships, which is second in the series of qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

- **Bindyarani Devi**, hailing from Manipur, has won 2 silver medals in overall and clean & jerk under the women's 55kg category.
- **Jeremy Lalrinnunga**, hailing from Mizoram, has won silver in snatch under the men's 67kg.

The Asian Weightlifting Championships is a weightlifting championship organised by the Asian Weightlifting Federation for competitors from the Asian countries. It has been held since 1969 for men and 1988 for women.

**406.** Indian Wushu athletes has won a total of **17 medals** (10 Gold, 4 Silver, and 3 Bronze) at the **Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2023** held in Moscow, Russia from 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The girls bagged medals in the junior girls, sub-junior girls and senior girl's categories across Sanda (Fight) and Taolu in Moscow.

**Note:** Wushu athlete and 2018 Arjuna Awardee **Pooja Kadian** was the first woman gold medallist from the Wushu World Championships (2017).

**407. Omar Rashid**, Joint Secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), has been appointed as the Chair for the Technical Officials Committee of **Badminton Asia** for the term 2023-2025.

He will oversee the development and implementation of rules and regulations, elevating the standards of officiating in badminton tournaments nationwide.

**408.** The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that the Badminton legends **Lin Dan** from China and **Lee Chong Wei** from Malaysia have been elected to the **BWF Hall of Fame for 2023**.

They will be inducted into the hall of fame at a ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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**409.** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has declared **23<sup>rd</sup> June** as the '**AIFF Grassroots Day**' to honour the legacy of Indian football icon **Pradip Kumar Banerjee**, India's captain in 1960 Rome Olympics and popularly known as PK.

- PK Banerjee was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1936 in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
- He played a pivotal role in India's historic Gold Medal finish in the 1962 Asian Games.
- He played two Olympics (1956, 1960) and three Asian Games (1958, 1962, 1966).
- He was the first footballer to receive the prestigious Arjuna Award in the year of its inception, 1961.
- He was conferred with Padma Shri in 1990.

- He passed away on March 20, 2020, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

**410.** The 2023 Italian Open, a professional tennis tournament, has been held at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy. It is the 80<sup>th</sup> edition of the Italian Open.

Winners of 2023 Italian Open	
<b>Men's singles</b>	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
<b>Women's singles</b>	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
<b>Men's doubles</b>	Hugo Nys (Monaco) & Jan Zielinski (Poland)
<b>Women's doubles</b>	Storm Hunter (Australia) & Elise Mertens (Belgium)

**411. Prraneeth Vuppala**, a 15-year-old chess player from Telangana, has become the **82<sup>nd</sup> Grandmaster (GM)** of India. He has achieved this title by defeating GM Hans Niemann from USA in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023, which took place from 4-12 May in Baku Crystal Hall, Baku, Azerbaijan.

He is the sixth Grandmaster from the Telangana state.

Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca has won the Baku Open 2023 title by defeating Prraneeth Vuppala in the final round of Baku Open 2023.

**412. Hockey Haryana** has won the **13<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2023** after defeating Hockey Jharkhand 3-2 in the final match held at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Odisha.

**Hockey Jharkhand** has finished second.

The Hockey Association of Odisha has secured third place in the tournament after defeating Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

The 11-day tournament featured 28 teams.

**413.** Indian rifle and pistol shooters have finished the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2023** held in Baku, Azerbaijan with **4 medals** (1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze).

- **China** has topped the medal tally with 7 medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze).
- India has secured the **2<sup>nd</sup> position** with 4 medals, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (3<sup>rd</sup>) with 2 medals (1 Gold and 1 Silver).

**Indian winners of ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2023:**

Event	Winners	Medal
10 m air pistol mixed team	Sarabjot Singh Divya TS	Gold
Men's 10 m air rifle	Hriday Hazarika	Silver
Women's 10 m air rifle	Nancy Mandhotra	Silver
Women's 10 m air pistol	Rhythm Sangwan	Bronze

**414.** Indian athlete **Shaili Singh** has clinched a **bronze** medal at the **Golden Grand Prix 2023** athletics meet in the **women's long jump** event held in Yokohama, Japan. She has attempted a jump of 6.65 meter.

Maryse Luzolo of Germany has won the gold medal with an effort of 6.79 meter while Brooke Buschkuehl of Australia has bagged the silver medal with a 6.77 meter leap. In 2021, Shaili Singh had won a silver medal win at the World Athletics UNDER-20 Championships in Nairobi.

**415. Sony Sports Network**, also known as Sony TEN, has appointed former Indian professional tennis player **Sania Mirza** as a Tennis ambassador for the broadcaster. She will be seen as an expert panellist on the network.

Sony Sports Network has launched a campaign called **Home of Tennis**, which showcases Sania Mirza, Sony Sports Network, and the three Grand Slams as a perfect match and celebrated the journey of Sania Mirza.

**416. Sourav Ganguly**, former BCCI president and captain of the India men's national cricket team, has been named as the brand ambassador of **Tripura Tourism**.

Tripura is the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest state in India known for its diverse culture, archaeology, handicrafts, and music.

**417.** The **Perodua Malaysia Masters 2023**, a badminton tournament, has been held at the Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 23 to 28 May 2023. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the tournament.

Category	Winners
Men's single	<b>H.S. Prannoy</b> (India)
Women's single	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's double	Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung-jae (South Korea)
Women's double	Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee

	(South Korea)
<b>Mixed doubles</b>	Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)

**418.** Red Bull's **Max Verstappen**, a Dutch-Belgian racer, has won the **2023 Formula 1 - Monaco Grand Prix** held at Circuit de Monaco in Monaco. This marks his 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Monaco GP title, he previously won the title in 2021.

Aston Martin's **Fernando Alonso (Spain)** has finished second and Alpine's Esteban Ocan (France) has finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament.

**419.** The 16<sup>th</sup> season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), a franchise Twenty20 cricket league in India, has been organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, led by MS Dhoni, has won the **2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) title** by defeating Gujarat Titans, led by Hardik Pandya, by 5 wickets in the final match held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- This is CSK's 5<sup>th</sup> IPL title.
- The CSK has been awarded a prize money of Rs.20 crore and runner-up Gujarat Titans has been awarded a prize money of Rs.12.5 crore
- Player of the match (finals): **Devon Conway** (Chennai Super Kings)

**List of award winners:**

<b>Orange Cap award</b>	<b>Shubman Gill (890)</b> (Gujarat Titans)
<b>Purple Cap award</b>	<b>Mohammad Shami (28)</b> (Gujarat Titans)
<b>Fairplay of the Season award</b>	Delhi Capitals
<b>Catch of the Season award</b>	Rashid Khan (Gujarat Titans)
<b>Longest Six of the Season award</b>	Faf du Plessis (115m) (Royal Challengers Bangalore)
<b>Most Fours award</b>	Shubman Gill (84)



<b>Most Valuable Player of the Season award</b>	Shubman Gill
<b>Gamechanger of the Season award</b>	Shubman Gill
<b>Super Striker of the Season award</b>	Glenn Maxwell (Royal Challengers Bangalore)
<b>Emerging Player of the Year award</b>	Yashasvi Jaiswal (Rajasthan Royals)
<b>Best Venues of the Season</b>	Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) Eden Gardens and Mumbai Indians' (MI) home ground Wankhede Stadium.

**420.** Veteran Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batter **Ambati Rayudu** has announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League (IPL). He has been part of the CSK since 2018. He represented Mumbai Indians in IPL from 2010 to 2017. He has scored 4,329 runs in 203 matches in the IPL, at an average of 28.29, while striking at 127.29.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**421. Ayushman Bharat Diwas** is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> April** to commemorate the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) by the Government of India. The day also aims to promote the significance of providing medical facilities to all remote areas and to provide quality healthcare to every citizen in India.

**Theme 2023:** *"Swasthya Amrit"*

### **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):**

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It was launched in September 2018 from Ranchi, Jharkhand and recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The aim is to provide quality healthcare services through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

**422. International Labour Day** is observed annually on **1<sup>st</sup> May** to spread awareness about labour rights and to recognize the efforts of the working class. It is also known as International Workers Day or May Day or Antarashtriya Shramik Diwas or 'Uzhaopalar Naal' in Tamil or 'Kamgar Diwas' in Marathi.

The day also commemorate the **Haymarket Riot Chicago** in 1886.

Labour Day was celebrated for the first time in India in **1923**. The first formal celebration of the Labour Day in India was organised by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on 1st May 1923, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**423. World Tuna Day** is observed annually on **2<sup>nd</sup> May** to spread awareness about the importance of **tuna fish**. The day was established by United Nations in 2016 by the UN General Assembly to preserve the Tuna fish.

Tuna is an important source of food for humans as fish has many rich properties like omega 3, vitamin B12, protein and other minerals.

**424. World Asthma Day** is observed annually across the globe on the **first Tuesday of May** month to spread awareness about asthma, a condition in which a person's airways become inflamed, narrow and swell and produce extra mucus, which makes it difficult to breathe. The day was first observed in 1998.

The day is annually organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).  
In 2023, the day falls on **2<sup>nd</sup> May**.

**Theme 2023:** "*Asthma care for all*"

**425. World Press Freedom Day** is observed annually on **3<sup>rd</sup> May** to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess the state of press freedom around the world, defend the media against the attacks on its independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while performing their duty.

**Theme 2023:** 'Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights'

The 2023 year marks the **30th anniversary** of World Press Freedom Day.

**426. International Firefighters' Day** is observed annually on **4<sup>th</sup> May** to recognise and honour the sacrifices of firefighter's who risk their lives for others. The day also marks the feast day of St Florian, the patron saint of fire-fighters, chimney sweeps, and brewers. The day was first observed in 1999.

The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon. The red colour symbolises fire and blue symbolises water.

**427. Coal Miners Day** is observed annually on **4<sup>th</sup> May** to recognize and honour the contributions and sacrifices made by coal miners. The day was announced by the Indian government in 2010.

India's first coal mine was established in **1774**.

The first underground coal mine in India was inaugurated at **Raniganj, West Bengal**, in 1907.

The first coal mine was opened in Scotland in 1575.

**428. World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed annually on **5<sup>th</sup> May** to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. It is annually led by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The campaign theme of World Hand Hygiene Day 2023 is a "Together, we can accelerate action to prevent infections and antimicrobial resistance in health care and build a culture of safety and quality in which hand hygiene improvement is given high priority", and the slogan is "**Accelerate action together. SAVE LIVES – Clean Your Hands**"

'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' was launched by WHO in 2009. It is now celebrated as World Hand Hygiene Day.

**429.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has observed its **64<sup>th</sup> raising day** on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023. During the occasion, Project Dantak of BRO, in association with the Bhutan Olympic Committee, has organized the 10th mega edition of the Enduring Friendship Mountain bike challenge at Thimphu in Bhutan.

**Project DANTAK:**

It was established on 24th April 1961. It was a result of the visionary leadership of the third King of Bhutan and then Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru. The project was tasked to construct the pioneering motorable roads.

**Border Roads Organisation (BRO):**

BRO was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with *Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam* as its motto.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Director General:** Rajeev Chaudhary

**430. World Athletics Day** is observed annually on **7<sup>th</sup> May** to spread awareness among youth and children regarding the importance of sports and fitness. The day is a part of a project named 'Athletics for a Greater World' which was initiated by World Athletics, formerly known as International Amateur Athletics Federations (IAAF). The day was first observed in 1996 by Primo Nebiolo who was the then-president of IAAF.

**431. World Thalassemia Day** is observed annually on **8<sup>th</sup> May** to spread awareness to honour the struggle of patients suffering from this disease. The day was created in 1994 by Panos Englezos, president and the founder of the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF), in the loving memory of his son George and the other thalassemia patients who fought this disease.

**Theme 2023:** 'Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap'

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that doesn't let the body to create enough haemoglobin. The disease weakens and destroys the blood cells. There are two types of

thalassemia, alpha and beta, along with Thalassemia minor, intermedia and major as its subcategories.

**432.** United Nation's **International Day of Argania** is observed annually on **10<sup>th</sup> May** to recognize the significance of the Argan tree in achieving the 3 dimensions, Economic, Social, and Environmental, of sustainable development at the local level. The day was first observed in 2021.

**Theme 2023:** "Socio-economic development & sustainability of the Argan ecosystem"

**Argan trees:**

The Argan trees (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of **Morocco**. It grows in arid and semiarid areas. It's the defining species of a woodland ecosystem, also known as Arganeraie, which is rich in endemic flora. Argan oil is one of the rarest oils in the world and is hailed as the "liquid gold" of Morocco.

**433. World Lupus Day** is a global health event commemorated on **10<sup>th</sup> May** annually to raise awareness about the seriousness of this lupus disease. The day was created by Lupus Canada in 2004.

**Theme 2023:** "Make Lupus Visible"

**Lupus:**

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation in any part of the body including the heart, kidneys, lungs, blood, joints and skin. In the skin, lupus presents as a **butterfly rash** on the cheeks. Lupus is caused when the **immune system** attacks its own tissue, resulting in destroying healthy tissue and causing pain and inflammation in all parts of the body.

**434. National Technology Day** is observed annually across India on **11<sup>th</sup> May** to honour the contributions of India's scientific community including scientists, researchers and engineers. The day was first observed in **1999**.

The day commemorates the anniversary of the **Pokhran II Tests (1998) code-named Operation Shakti** which were a series of five explosions conducted under the guidance of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the Indian Army's Pokhran Range, Rajasthan. After the tests, the then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihar Vajpayee declared India a nuclear state, making it the 6<sup>th</sup> country to join the elite nuclear club.

**Theme 2023:** 'School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'

**435. International Nurses Day** is observed annually on **12<sup>th</sup> May** to recognize the strong commitment, compassion and dedication that Nurses display in the practice of their profession. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**, the English social reformer, statistician and founder of modern nursing. She was also known as Lady with the Lamp.

- **Theme 2023:** 'Our Nurses. Our Future'
- The day was first observed by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 1965.

**Note:** International Nurses Week has been observed from 6 to 12 May 2023.

**436. World Migratory Bird Day** is observed twice a year since its inauguration in 2006. The day is celebrated bi-annually on the **second Saturday** in May and in October. This year, the day falls on **13 May** and **14 October**. It is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

**Theme 2023:** "Water: Sustaining Bird Life"

**437. International Day of Families** is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> May** to raise awareness about the importance of families and the role of the international community in the development of families. The day was first observed in 1994.

**Theme 2023:** "Demographic Trends and Families"

**438. International Day of Light** is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> May** to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**.

The day also promotes awareness for the appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, art, education, and sustainable development. The day was first observed by UNESCO in 2018.

**439. National Dengue Day** is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> May** to spread awareness about Dengue and to intensify the preventive measures and preparedness for the control of dengue in India. The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that has been working towards the prevention and control of viral fever in various states in the country.

**Dengue:**

It is a viral disease which is caused by Dengue Virus (DENV, 1-4 serotypes). It is transmitted by the bite of **Aedes aegypti** mosquito infected with any one of the four dengue viruses. Aedes aegypti mosquito bites only during daylight hours.

**440. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** is observed annually on **17<sup>th</sup> May** to help create awareness in generating possibilities of using the internet and other information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide.

The day also commemorates the first International Telegraph Convention's signing and the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The day was first observed in 2007.

**Theme 2023:** "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies"



**441. International Museum Day** is observed annually on **18<sup>th</sup> May** to spread awareness about the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding and cooperation. The day is organized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The day was first observed in 1977.

**Theme 2023:** 'Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing'

Each year since 2020, the International Museum Day supports a set of Goals from the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. In 2023, it focusses on:

- **Goal 3:** Global Health and Wellbeing
- **Goal 13:** Climate Action
- **Goal 15:** Life on Land

**442. World Bee Day** is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> May** to spread awareness about the essential roles bees play in supporting people and the environment.

The day also marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734. She was considered the pioneer of beekeeping. The day was first observed in 2018.

**Theme 2023:** 'Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production'

**443. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> May** to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development.

This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

**444. Anti-Terrorism Day** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> May** to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**.

He was assassinated on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1991, by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) terrorists while campaigning for the Congress Party at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. He served as the sixth Prime Minister of the country. The day also promotes peace and harmony.

**445. International Day for Biological Diversity** is observed annually on **22<sup>nd</sup> May** to increase awareness and understanding of the issues of biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential for sustaining the balance of the planet. The day was first observed in 2001.

**Theme 2023:** *'From agreement to action: Build back biodiversity'*

**446. World Turtle Day** is observed annually on **23<sup>rd</sup> May** to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. The day was started

by a non-profit organization called American Tortoise Rescue (ATR). This organization was founded in 1990 and the World Turtle Day was first observed in 2001. The year 2022 marks the 22nd International World Turtle Day.

**Theme 2023:** "I Love Turtles!"

**447. Commonwealth Day** is observed annually on the **second Monday of March** in most of the 54 countries of the Commonwealth, with the British queen delivering a speech on the radio.

However, India and a few other countries celebrate it on **24<sup>th</sup> May**. The day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain.

**Theme 2023:** 'Forging a sustainable and peaceful common future'

**Historical Background:**

The Commonwealth Day was earlier known as Empire Day. Empire Day was first observed in 1901, following the death of Queen Victoria on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901. The inaugural Empire Day was observed on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1902, the late Queen's birth anniversary. Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day in 1958.

**448. World Thyroid Day** is observed annually on **25<sup>th</sup> May** to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention, and treatments. The day was established in 2008 during the congress of the European Thyroid Association (ETA). The day also marks the anniversary of ETA's foundation in 1965.

Blue paisley ribbon is the international symbol of thyroid awareness.

**449.** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution to designate **November 26** every year as **World Sustainable Transport Day**.

- The day has been initiated by **Turkmenistan**.
- The day aims to create awareness and educate the general public about the importance of international cooperation in addressing issues related to transport sustainability.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> November has been chosen to mark the anniversary of the first United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

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**450. World Hunger Day** is observed annually on **28<sup>th</sup> May** to highlight the importance of ending hunger. The day was founded by The Hunger Project in 2011 to call attention to the global food crisis.

The year 2023 marks the **13<sup>th</sup> edition** of World Hunger Day.

**Theme 2023:** "Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty"

**451. International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers** is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> May** to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 135 last year.

The day was first observed in 2003.

The United Nations celebrates **75 years** of Peacekeeping under the theme "**Peace Begins with Me.**"

The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on **29<sup>th</sup> May 1948** when the Security Council deployed a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with the objective to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

**452. World Vape Day** is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> May** to raise awareness about the alternatives to harmful tobacco products and highlights the relative safety of e-cigarettes and their potential as harm reduction and smoking cessation tools.

The day was launched by the World Vapers' Alliance (WVA).

**453. World No Tobacco Day** is observed annually on **31<sup>st</sup> May** to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what the World Health Organization (WHO) is doing to fight tobacco use, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living.

**Theme 2023:** "We need food, not Tobacco"

In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day every year on 31 May.

Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2023
International Labour Day	1 <sup>st</sup> May	
Ujjwala Diwas	1 <sup>st</sup> May	
World Tuna Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	

World Asthma Day	First Tuesday of May (2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023)	Asthma care for all
World Press Freedom Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights
International Leopard Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	
Coal Miners Day	4 <sup>th</sup> May	
International Firefighters' Day	4 <sup>th</sup> May	
World Hand Hygiene Day	5 <sup>th</sup> May	
World Portuguese Language Day	5 <sup>th</sup> May	
World Cartoonist's Day	5 <sup>th</sup> May	
African World Heritage Day	5 <sup>th</sup> May	
International Day of Midwife	5 <sup>th</sup> May	Together again: from evidence to reality
International No Diet Day	6 <sup>th</sup> May	
World Laughter Day	First Sunday of May (7 <sup>th</sup> May 2023)	
Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2023
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Everything we do comes #from the heart'
World Thalassaemia Day	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap
International Day of Argania	10 <sup>th</sup> May	Socio-economic development & sustainability of the Argan ecosystem
World Lupus Day	10 <sup>th</sup> May	Make Lupus Visible
National Technology Day	11 <sup>th</sup> May	School to Startups- Igniting Young Minds to Innovate
International Day of Plant Health	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Health for Environmental Protection
International Nurses Day	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Our Nurses. Our Future
International Nurses Week	6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May	
World Migratory Bird Day	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Water: Sustaining Bird Life

International Day of Families	15th May	Demographic Trends and Families
Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2023
International Day of Living Together in Peace	16th May	
International Day of Light	16th May	
National Dengue Day	16th May	
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	17th May	Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies
World Hypertension Day	17th May	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia	17th May	Together Always: United in Diversity
International Museum Day	18th May	Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing
World AIDS Vaccine Day	18th May	
World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day (IBD)	19th May	
National Endangered Species Day	Third Friday of May (19th May 2023)	
World Bee Day	20th May	Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production
World Metrology Day	20th May	Measurements supporting the global food system
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	21st May	
Anti-Terrorism Day	21st May	
International Tea Day	21st May	
Global Road Safety Week	15th to 21st May	StreetsforLife #RethinkMobility
International Day for Biological Diversity	22nd May	From agreement to action: Build back biodiversity
Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2023
World Turtle Day	23rd May	I Love Turtles!
International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	23rd May	20 years on – progress but not enough! Act now to end fistula by 2030!
Commonwealth Day	24th May	Forging a sustainable and peaceful common future



World Schizophrenia Day	24th May	
World Thyroid Day	25th May	
International Missing Children's Day	25th May	
Africa Day	25th May	Our Africa Our Future
International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	25th to 31st May	
World Menstrual Hygiene Day	28th May	
International Day of Action for Women's Health	28th May	Our Voices, Our Actions, Our Demand: Uphold Women's Health and Rights Now
World Hunger Day	28th May	Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty
International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers	29th May	Peace begins with me
International Everest Day	29th May	
World Digestive Health Day	29th May	Your Digestive Health: A Healthy Gut From the Start
World Vape Day	30th May	
World No Tobacco Day	31st May	We need food, not Tobacco

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