


Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

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IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctor's Day 2023: July 1

- On July 1st National Doctor's Day 2023 is observed nationally all over India as an honoring event among the public.
- The theme for this year (2023) is "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands."
- In 1882, Bidhan Chandra Roy was born in Patna Bengal Presidency, British India, on July 1st.
- In 1901, Roy enrolled at the Calcutta Medical College and, upon graduating, left for England for further studies.
- In 1991, the first-ever Doctor's Day is celebrated in India in honour of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

World UFO Day 2023: July 2

- Every year on July 2nd, World UFO Day is commemorated to raise awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) spotted in several parts of the world and alien life forms.
- In 1561, a broadsheet reported widespread sightings of a celestial phenomenon over Nuremberg.
- July 2 is celebrated as World UFO Day to commemorate the supposed UFO crash incident in Roswell New Mexico in 1947.

World Sports Journalists Day 2023: July 2

- World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally on 2nd July every year to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work.
- From 1820 to the 1830s, Sports Journalism Took Off, and the era of sports journalism began.
- In 1883, the first full-time newspaper sports department was created in the "New York World."
- In 1924, the International Sports Press Association was founded in Paris, France during the Olympic Games.
- In 1994, World Sports Journalists Day was created by the A.I.P.S.

About A.I.P.S

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- President: Gianni Merlo.
- Founded: 1924.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023: July 3

- International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023 is observed on July 3 every year to motivate people to avoid using single-use plastic to eliminate plastic pollution.
- Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated the first International Plastic Bag Free Day which was observed on July 3, 2008.
- In 2015, the European Union also passed certain directives to reduce the usage of single-use plastic bags.
- Bangladesh became the first country to ban the use of single-use, thin plastic bags officially in 2022.
- Soon after, many more countries, including India, also banned single-use plastic.

World Zoonoses Day 2023: July 6

- Every year on June 6th, World Zoonoses Day is commemorated as the anniversary of the first-ever vaccine given for any zoonotic disease way back in 1885.
- In 2300 B.C., Rabies was first recorded and the Mosaic Esmuna Code of Babylon showed the first written account of rabies causing death in humans and dogs.
- On this day on 6th July 1885, a French biologist named Louise Pasteur who is also very known for his theory of pasteurization successfully administered the first-ever vaccination given for a zoonotic disease to a man named Joseph Meister who was bitten by a dog with rabies.

World Population Day 2023: July 11

- On July 11th of this current year, World Population Day 2023 is celebrated and observed all over the world as an awareness program
- The United Nations has chosen World Population Day 2023's theme as "Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."

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- In 2000, Just 40 years after it reached 3 billion, the population doubles to 6 billion.
- On April 24, 2017, statistical models estimated that the world population is at 7.5 billion.

World Malala Day 2023: July 12

- In honor of the young campaigner Malala Yousafzai, **the UN has declared July 12th to be World Malala Day.**
- **On July 12, 1997, Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan.**
- In 2007 the Taliban took over the city in which she lived and banned girls from attending school.
- In 2009, Malala writes for B.B.C. Urdu where she expresses her advocacy through the platform
- On the morning of October 9th, 2012, gunmen from the Taliban shot Malala Yousafzai in the head.
- On her 16th birthday, the young lady traveled to New York and spoke at the United Nations.

World Youth Skills Day 2023: July 15

- **On July 15th World Youth Skills Day 2023** is celebrated to mention the significance of developing skills among young people worldwide.
- The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023 is **Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.**
- **World Youth Skills Day was created by the United Nations General Assembly on November 11, 2014,** through a resolution initiated by Sri Lanka, and supported by some other countries.
- **The first World Youth Skills Day was celebrated on July 15, 2015.**

World Day for International Justice 2023: July 17

- **World Day for International Justice 2023** is celebrated and observed all over the world on **July 17th** of this current year.
- 2023 Theme: **“Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”**
- **On July 10, 2012, Congolese criminal warlord, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, was the first person to be convicted and sentenced by the ICC and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison.**

Nelson Mandela International Day 2023: July 18

- **On July 18th of this current year(2023), Nelson Mandela International Day 2023** is celebrated and observed worldwide as an honouring event.
- Nelson Mandela International Day (also known as Mandela Day) is a yearly international celebration honouring Mandela that is observed on his birthday, July 18th.
- The theme of **International Nelson Mandela Day** for the year 2023 is: **“The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food and Solidarity”.**
- **On July 18, 2009, The first Nelson Mandela International Day was held in New York.**

World Chess Day 2023: July 20

- **World Chess Day is globally celebrated on July 20th** every year to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- World Chess Day is celebrated on July 20th every year to commemorate the founding of the **International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924.**
- **The Global Chess Alliance (FIDE) was established in Paris, France in 1924** by the public chess organizations of Argentina, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.

About FIDE

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founded: 20 July 1924
- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- Membership: 200 national associations

International Moon Day 2023: July 20

- **International Moon Day is celebrated every year on July 20th** to commemorate the anniversary of **Neil Armstrong’s landing on the Moon** as part of the Apollo 11 mission and to promote international cooperation in space exploration.

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- The first global celebration of International Moon Day took place on July 20, 2022.

World Brain Day 2023: July 22

- Every year on July 22nd World Brain Day is celebrated by people worldwide to prevent brain disabilities and treat and rehabilitate them.
- World Brain Day's 2023 theme is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind."
- World Brain Day 2023 was discovered by the World Federation of Neurology for the first time.

National Broadcasting Day 2023: July 23, 2023

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 every year in India.
- The day aims to remind us about the impact of radio on our lives.
- On July 23, 1927, the India Broadcasting Company came into existence and became the first radio company in India.
- All India Radio (AIR) has been officially known since 1956 as 'Akashvani'.
- The name Akashvani (voice or announcement from the skies) was formally adopted by the national broadcaster in 1956.

Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023- July 26

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated annually across the country on July 26th to pay tribute to the bravery and valour of the Indian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during the Kargil War in 1999.
- This year marks the 24th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- The day commemorates the victory of Operation Vijay, which was a significant military victory over Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999.

World Nature Conservation Day 2023: July 28

- On July 28th, World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is celebrated and observed all over the world as an awareness program to conserve Nature.
- The theme of World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

International Tiger Day 2023: July 29

- International Tiger Day 2023 is celebrated and observed worldwide as an awareness program on July 29.
- The primary objective of this day is to draw attention to the alarming reduction in wild tiger populations, which has brought them close to extinction.
- In 1973, India launched Project Tiger to revive the tiger population.
- In 2023, The WWF aims to double the number of wild tigers in 2023.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2023: July 30

- Every year, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is observed on 30th July to build awareness of the anxiety of human trafficking victims and to promote and protect their rights.
- The theme of World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind".

World Ranger Day 2023: July 31

- Every year World Ranger Day is celebrated on the 31st of July to commemorate Rangers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.
- The 2023 World Ranger Day theme is '30 by 30'
- The first World Ranger Day took place in 2007, the date representing the 15th anniversary of when the IRF was founded.
- IRF stands for the International Ranger Federation.
- This organization was founded in 1992.

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NATIONAL NEWS

India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India is unveiled by the Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi:

- Union Minister of Mines, **Pralhad Joshi**, has unveiled India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India.
- The report identifies **30 critical minerals** essential for sectors including defence, agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, and telecom.
- This comprehensive list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in mineral resources, **aligning with the vision of achieving 'Net Zero' targets.**
- Mr Joshi highlighted the country's inclusion as the newest partner in the Mineral Security Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the United States.
- The list aims to guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and investment decisions in the mining sector.

The National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, has received approval from the centre

- **The union government has decided to bring the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023** to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
- The Bill approved by the **Union Cabinet will pave the way to establish NRF to seed, grow and promote research and development** and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, and research institutions.
- The Minister informed that the bill has a provision to establish NRF, **an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country at a total estimated cost of 50 thousand crore rupees during the next five years.**

About NRF

- CEO: Matthew R. Shay
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Founded: June 1911
- President: Matthew R. Shay

The union government has asked banks to increase financing for MSMEs to meet a one trillion-dollar merchandise export objective by 2030.

- The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has asked the **Indian banks to ensure enhanced and affordable credit to MSMEs to achieve the target of one trillion dollar merchandise exports by 2030.**
- Mr Goyal stated this in a meeting called to discuss the issue of increasing the availability of export credit to the MSME exporters.
- It was attended by the **top officials of 21 banks including State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Central Bank of India.**
- He advised the banks to take advantage of the scheme and extend adequate and affordable export credit to MSME exporters and this **will enable the country to achieve its target of one trillion dollar merchandise exports by 2030.**

A Tunnel to save mangroves to raise bullet train project cost to ₹10,000 crore in Maharashtra

- **A seven-km undersea tunnel will be constructed for the bullet train project to save mangrove forests in Maharashtra.**
- The tunnel will be a single tube tunnel to accommodate both up and down tracks.
- The tunnel construction is **aimed towards conserving nearly 12 hectares of mangroves in the creek.**
- This will escalate the construction cost of the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor project's 21-km long stretch from ₹100 crores to ₹10,000 crores.**
- The tunnel will ensure the protection of the bird sanctuary and mangroves around Thane Creek.

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Inland Waterways Transport Terminal, which will cost 46.60 crores, is officially inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in Bogibeel, Dibrugarh:

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of the Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal to be developed at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh**, by the bank of the River Brahmaputra (National Waterways 2) in Dibrugarh, **Assam**.
- **The tourist-cum-cargo IWT terminal will be developed at a cost of ₹46.60 crores and is scheduled to be completed by February 2024.**
- The IWT terminal, under the aegis of **the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the nodal agency for inland waterways of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), will have many modern features.**
- The executing agency of the terminal is being done by Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Construction Limited.

About IWAI

- Founded: 27 October 1986
- Headquarters: Noida
- Agency executive: Jayant Singh

About Assam

- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma Tending
- Capital: Dispur
- Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
- NP: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru - Saikhowa National Park, Nameri National Park, Orang National Park

REC extends the project of HPCL Rajasthan Refinery at Barmer by Rs. 4,785 crore:

- **REC Limited has extended a loan of ₹ 4,785 crores to HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL), for setting up a green field refinery cum petrochemical complex in Barmer district, Rajasthan.**
- The loan has been extended as part of a consortium arrangement for ₹ 48,625 crores, **wherein the share of REC Limited is ₹ 4,785 crores.**
- The refinery cum complex will have a capacity of 9 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTA) and would entail a total project cost of ₹ 72,937 crores.
- HRRL is a Joint Venture company of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Government of Rajasthan, incorporated on 18th September 2013.
- **HPCL holds a 74% equity stake in HRRL while the remaining 26% is held by the Government of Rajasthan.**

About REC Ltd.

- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, is an NBFC focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India.
- Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years of operations.
- It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, central/state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities.

About Rajasthan

- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- NP: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur, Mukundara National Park

R. K. Singh to inaugurate International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2023) in New Delhi

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- The Government of India is organizing an International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) during 5th – 7th July 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to bring together the global scientific, policy, academic and industrial leaders to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain.
- Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh will inaugurate the Conference in New Delhi tomorrow, July 5, 2023, in the presence of Union Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Rameshwar Teli.
- The Conference aims to explore how we can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach to meeting the global goals for decarbonization through Green Hydrogen.
- The conference will enable us to share and learn from international best practices in the sector.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviews progress of the implementation of Budget schemes

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed the progress of the implementation of Budget schemes with secretaries of the Finance Ministry and Corporate Affairs Secretary.
- The meeting was attended by Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi, Corporate Affairs Secretary Manoj Govil and other senior officials.
- Besides the review of the implementation of various schemes of the Union Budget, the Minister underlined the importance of continuous assessment of progress to ensure that the schemes are implemented in a time-bound manner.

National Pension Scheme: PFRDA plans to bring in a systematic withdrawal plan

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) intends to introduce a plan during the second half of this fiscal, to allow the subscribers of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) to withdraw 60% of the accumulated corpus systematically instead of the current system of a one-time withdrawal.
- As per the proposal, NPS subscribers would be allowed to systematically withdraw 60% of their corpus post-retirement up to the age of 75, instead of the current system of one-time withdrawal, while 40% has to be invested in annuity.
- It applies to those in the age group of 60 to 75.

India, UAE set a target of doubling non-oil bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030

- India and the UAE have set a target of doubling non-oil bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030 from \$48 billion at present.
- Goyal and the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, decided to revise the target from the earlier goal of an overall bilateral trade of \$100 billion by 2030 at the first meeting of the Joint Committee of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- On the proposed rupee-dirham trade, Goyal pointed out that discussions were progressing at a fast pace.

The Prime Minister launches the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh and distributed sickle cell genetic status cards to the beneficiaries.
- The Prime Minister also kickstarted the distribution of about 3.57 crore Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) cards in Madhya Pradesh.

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- During the programme, the Prime Minister honoured Rani Durgavati the ruling queen of Gondwana in the mid-16th century.

Union government updates the crop residue management regulations to allow for effective ex-situ management of the paddy straw produced in the States of Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Delhi.

- The Union Government has revised the Crop Residue Management guidelines enabling efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in the States of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi.
- As per the revised guidelines, techno-commercial pilot projects for Paddy Straw Supply Chain will be established under the bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary/Aggregator (Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats) and Industries utilizing the paddy straw.

DPIIT successfully organizes National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi.
- The Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) is a major initiative by DPIIT. IPRS 2.0, launched on 5th October 2021, rates industrial parks across four pillars: internal infrastructure and utilities, external infrastructure and facilities, business support services, and environmental and safety management. This rating system has received nominations from 31 participating states and union territories, along with 50 additional Special Economic Zones (SEZs) nominated by the Department of Commerce (DoC).
- During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to exchange best practices observed during individual workshops conducted in collaboration with the States/UTs from November 2022 to March 2023.

About DPIIT

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.
- Founded: 1995

36th Annual General Meeting of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd is held

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) held its 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- The annual accounts for the financial year 2022-23 were adopted at the AGM, showcasing remarkable achievements.
- Stating that the performance has been outstanding, the CMD provided a snapshot of the company's performance in FY 23:
 - ✓ ₹ 32,586.60 crore Loan Sanction (36.23% increase compared to FY 22)
 - ✓ ₹ 21,639.21 crore Loan Disbursement (34.65% growth compared to FY 22)
 - ✓ ₹ 47,076 crore Loan Book (38.75% growth compared to FY 22)
 - ✓ ₹ 1,139.25 crore Profit Before Tax and ₹ 864.63 crore Profit After Tax (36.63% and 36.48% increase respectively compared to FY 22)
 - ✓ ₹ 5,935.17 crore Net Worth (12.66% growth compared to FY 22)
- IREDA has also set a remarkable precedent of holding its AGM within 90 days after the conclusion of the financial year, a testament to IREDA's streamlined internal processes, digitized data management and good governance principles and practices.

About IREDA

- IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

DAY-NRLM releases a mobile application to market goods produced by women in self-help groups.

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched eSARAS mobile App which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.

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- The App was launched by Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India New Delhi.
- Shri Singh also inaugurated eSARAS Fulfillment Centre at the Ministry's Janakpuri office in New Delhi on this occasion.
- The eSARAS fulfilment centre will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC - a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust) and will be used for processing, packaging and shipping of products that customers purchase through the eSARAS Portal and eSARAS mobile App.

The Startup20 Shikhar summit, hosted by India's G20 presidency, kicks off in Gurugram, Haryana:

- The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency began in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The Startup20 Engagement Group is hosting the two-day Startup20 Shikhar summit.
- During the summit, a startup 20 communique was released, which urged G20 leaders to raise the joint investment in the global startup ecosystem to one trillion US dollars by 2030.
- Six hundred stakeholders from different countries are participating in the summit. Two hundred international delegates from Sixteen G20 nations and Six invitees nation are participating in the summit.
- The Startup20 Engagement Group operates under the India G20 Presidency, aiming to shape the future of the global startup ecosystem.

Centre announces Tomato Grand Challenge hackathon to generate innovative ideas for availability and fair pricing of tomatoes

- Tomato Grand Challenge (TGC) hackathon has been announced by the centre to generate innovative ideas for the availability and fair pricing of tomatoes.
- The Secretary, the Department of Consumer Affairs, Shri Rohit Kumar Singh has announced the TGC hackathon.
- Department of Consumer Affairs has formulated TGC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (Innovation Cell).
- Students, Research Scholars, Faculty Members, Industry individuals, Indian start-ups, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), and Professionals can take part in the TGC.

India adds 664 animal species to its faunal database in 2022, 339 taxa to its flora

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav released the details of new discoveries and new records in Kolkata.
- India added 664 animal species to its faunal database, which includes 467 new animal species and 197 new records.
- India has also added 339 new plant species which includes 186 taxa that are new to science and 156 taxa as new distributional records from the country in the year 2022.
- The discoveries details of animal species have been compiled by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in the publication titled 'Animal Discoveries - New Species and New Records 2023'.
- Floral discoveries are in 'Plant Discoveries 2022' published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
- The maximum number of new discoveries have been recorded from Kerala with 14.6% of new species.
- Tamil Nadu (12.6%) and West Bengal (7.6%) came second and third, respectively.
- In 2022, the highest number of new discoveries has been recorded in the last 10 years.

About ZSI

- Founded: 1 July 1916
- Director: Dr Dhriti Banerjee
- Headquarters: Kolkata

The Prime Minister inaugurates the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh,

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via video conference:

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh** via video conferencing.
- The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world.
- The Prime Minister lauded the **theme of the event - 'Practice and Inspire'** and called it effective as well as relevant.
- The Prime Minister underlined that **India has now become one of the top 5 economies in the world which supports the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.**
- **India is competing with the leading nations in the world in sectors like digital technology and 5G.**

About Andhra Pradesh

- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer

Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and sets the foundation stone for 11 NH projects in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, totalling Rs 5600 crore:

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 NH projects worth Rs 5600 Crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.**
- The **foundation stone of 7 projects costing Rs 1850 crore and a total length of 221 km was also laid.**
- These projects will provide direct connectivity from the famous religious place Nathdwara to Udaipur airport.
- Thirteen animal underpasses will be constructed in Todgarh Wildlife Sanctuary on the Beawar-Gomti road for the protection of wildlife.
- In **Rajasthan, approval of 74 projects under CRF for 2250 crores was also announced during this program.**
- The work on these projects will start soon.

About Rajasthan

- Capital: Jaipur
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra

The Department of Telecommunications has established the Bharat 6G Alliance to promote innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.

- **Telecom sector** is a continuously evolving sector with high technological obsolescence.
- It has seen the **transformation from Wire-line to Mobile services, which has become the lifeline of the people.**
- Mobile services have also seen the transformation from 2G to 3G to 4G to 5G and now 6G is in the horizon.
- Formation of the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and Standards development organizations.**
- The website for Bharat6G Alliance was also launched, the link for the same is <https://bharat6galliance.com>

The G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting

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was held in Mumbai.

- **Mumbai host the G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting** from 4th to 5th July 2023.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh will chair the G-20 Research Ministers' Meeting (RMM) on 5th July 2023.
- India has taken forward **the Research and Innovation Initiative (RIIG) during its Presidency in 2023 under the theme “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”**.
- A total of 5 RIIG meetings were hosted by India this year **under the theme “Research and Innovation for Equitable Society”**.
- The **RIIG Inception Meeting was held at Kolkata, followed by four thematic conferences in**
 - ✓ Ranchi on the theme: ‘Materials for Sustainable Energy’;
 - ✓ Dibrugarh on the theme: ‘Circular Bioeconomy’,
 - ✓ Dharamshala, on the theme: ‘Eco-Innovations for Energy Transition’; and
 - ✓ Diu, on the theme ‘Sustainable Blue-economy’.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of his Council of Ministers in New Delhi

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of his Council of Ministers in New Delhi.**
- According to sources, **the meeting is likely to be held at the newly-built convention centre at Pragati Maidan in the national capital, which will host the G20 summit in September.**
- The meeting has been called after senior BJP leaders met at the Prime Minister's **residence** to discuss the party's strategy for the **2024 Lok Sabha elections.**
- During the previous reshuffle, ministers like Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsh Vardhan, Prakash Javadekar, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Santosh Gangwar were removed from the Cabinet.

PM-PRANAM scheme gets CCEA approval to boost alternative fertilisers

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has recently approved the PM-PRANAM scheme with a total outlay of ₹3,70,128.7 crore for three years ending March 2025.**
- PM-PRANAM will promote the use of nutrient-based, biofertilizers for sustainable agriculture.
- The name of the scheme stands for PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth.
- **The PM-PRANAM scheme will try to conserve the soil by promoting sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers.**
- At present, the MRP of urea is Rs.242 per 45 kg bag of urea (exclusive of charges towards neem coating and taxes as applicable), whereas the actual cost of the bag comes to around Rs. 2200.
- **By 2025-26, eight Nano urea plants with a production capacity of 44 Crore bottles equaling 195 LMT of conventional urea will be commissioned.**
- **The Cabinet approved ₹1,451.84 crore for Market Development Assistance (MDA) for promoting organic fertiliser from Gobardhan Plants.**
- **Under the scheme, a subsidy of ₹1,500 per tonne will be provided.**
- This subsidy will be provided to support the marketing of organic fertilisers produced as by-products from Biogas Plants/Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plants set up under the umbrella GOBARDhan initiative.

Union Government launches scheme for shelter, aid to pregnant minor rape victims

- **The Union Government launched a scheme for pregnant minor rape victims.**

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- A scheme for providing shelter, food and legal aid to pregnant minor victims of sexual assault, who have no family support, has been launched by Union Minister Smriti Irani.
- Women and Child Development Ministry have approved the proposal for “critical care and support for accessing justice to rape/gang rape survivors and minor girls who get pregnant”.
- **It has been launched with an outlay of Rs 74.10 crore** and becomes applicable across the country very soon.
- **NCRB reported 51, 863 cases under the POCSO Act in 2021.**
- Out of total cases, 33,348 cases were reported under sections 3 and 5 of the Act.
- **The government has set up 415 POCSO fast-track courts for accelerating access to justice for minor victims of rape.**

The Ministry of Home Affairs announces a "Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in States" with a total investment of Rs.5,000 crores

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a “**Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States**” from the earmarked allocation of the Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the States with a total outlay of Rs. 5,000 crores.**
- **An amount of Rs. 500 crores, out of the total outlay, has been kept for incentivizing the States** based on their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah** announced the scheme while **chairing a meeting with Ministers of Disaster Management of the States/Union Territories in New Delhi** on 13th June 2023.
- **The details of the scheme may be downloaded from the website <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in>** of the Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Prime Minister is scheduled to travel to four states to dedicate and formally lay foundations for projects totalling about Rs. 50,000 crores

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will undertake a visit covering four states on 7-8th July 2023.
- He will visit **Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.**
- The prime Minister will **visit Telangana and Rajasthan.**
- Prime Minister will lay the **foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various development projects in a public programme in Raipur.**
- Prime Minister will dedicate and **lay the foundation stone for five National Highway projects worth around Rs. 6,400 crores.**
- Prime Minister will reach Warangal, Telangana and attend a public programme where he will lay the foundation stone of various projects.
- Prime Minister will **lay the foundation stone for 176 km long National Highway projects worth over Rs. 5,550 crores.**
- The projects include 108 km long Mancherial – Warangal section of Nagpur-Vijayawada Corridor.
- **Prime Minister will reach Bikaner**, where he will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects in Rajasthan.
- Prime Minister will dedicate and **lay the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs. 24,300 crores in Bikaner** to enhance the region's infrastructure and welfare.

The 67th TAAI Convention will begin in Colombo.

- The highly anticipated **67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) Convention** will commence in **Colombo.**

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- The three-day convention's inaugural ceremony promises to be a star-studded affair with the **esteemed presence of Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremasinghe, and High Commissioner of India Gopal Baglay among others.**
- The convention's agenda features a range of thought-provoking sessions, including discussions on **India's tourism vision for 2047, the rise of experiential travel, the growing significance of MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions),** and the ever-expanding digital opportunities in the travel industry.
- The **convention aims to strengthen ties between India and Sri Lanka** and serves as a platform to envision a prosperous future for tourism in the region.

About Sri Lanka

- Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee
- Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

The Union Cabinet approved the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill:

- **The Union Cabinet cleared the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill.**
- The clearance paves the way for the **Bill to be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session, scheduled to begin on July 20.**
- Along with the data protection law, **the Union government may also table the Indian Telecommunications Bill, a draft of which was circulated in a public consultation last year.**
- **Penalty of up to ₹250 crores could be levied** for each instance of the breach with an **upward revision of ₹500 crores.**
- Fines for individual offences would begin from **₹10,000.**

The Union government has extended the validity of coastal regulation zone permission for infrastructure projects by three years.

- The Union Government has extended the validity of coastal regulation zone clearance to **10 years as per a 2019 notification** at present.
- The **validity of coastal regulation zone clearance will be extended to 10 years from seven** as per a 2019 notification at present, according to a new notification by the government.

CRZ clearance – approval for projects that fall in the vicinity of a coastline -- was valid for seven years which could be extended for a maximum of three years through an application by the project proponent (any industry/infrastructure project) and with a recommendation for an extension by the State Coastal Zone Management Authority.

Centre to develop carbon markets for green sectors

- **India plans to develop carbon markets** for renewables, green hydrogen, bio-fuels and clean mobility to **facilitate carbon trading between green and polluting sectors.**
- **The Niti Aayog in India is creating a framework to set up carbon markets** for renewable energy, green hydrogen, biofuels, and clean transportation.
- According to the government, the expansion of carbon markets will boost economic activity and open up job opportunities.
- Such markets may initially be voluntary, meaning that carbon credits will be issued, purchased, and sold voluntarily.
- **According to a report presented at the COP27 climate conference held in Egypt last year, India had the highest growth rate in carbon emissions** among the major global warming contributors.

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- **China and the European Union (EU) are expected to see reductions in emissions of 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively, while India's emissions are predicted to rise by 6.0% and the US's by 1.5%.**

About NITI Aayog

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

About UN:

- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Secretary general: António Guterres

Union Government launches the 3rd edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- **The third edition of the National e-Government Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) has been released by the Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG).**
- The portal highlights how effectively States, Union Territories (UTs), and particular Central Ministries provide e-Government services to citizens.
- **DARPG (under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions) established the NeSDA framework as a tool to assess the effectiveness and value of e-Government services from the perspective of the general public.**
- The concept was modified to fit the Indian context of federalism and e-Governance variability among States and UTs using the Online Service Index (OSI) from the UN eGovernment Survey.
- **Every two years, DARPG conducts the NeSDA research to assess how well States, UTs, and a few Central Ministries do in providing e-Government services to the public.**

The Centre will allocate Rs.12,911 crores for the Polavaram project.

- **The Union government has given its nod to sanction Rs 12,911 crore to the Andhra Pradesh government to complete the construction works under phase 1 of the Polavaram project.**
- The development occurred when Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was visiting Polavaram to review the project.
- During the visit to the project site, officials appraised the Chief Minister about the Centre's green signal for the completion of the first phase of the Polavaram project.
- **They revealed that the Union Finance Department has issued a memorandum sanctioning Rs 12,911.15 crores and has conveyed this through a letter to the Central Water Resources Department as well.**
- The AP government officials informed the Chief Minister **that the Polavaram irrigation project has made significant progress, with 79.61 per cent of the work completed.**

About Andhra Pradesh

- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- NP: Sri Venkateswara National Park, Papikonda National Park, Namdapha National Park, Valmiki National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Satpura National Park, Manas National Park,

Shri Amit Shah will kick off a day-long mega-conference titled "Strengthening PACS through FPOs" in New Delhi:

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate a day-long mega conclave "Strengthening PACS through FPOs" in New Delhi.**

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- The conclave is aimed at discussing ways to strengthen **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**.
- The conclave will witness the participation of experts from the sector as well as members from the FPOs across the country.
- The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is organizing the mega conclave in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Cooperation.**
- Under the **FPOs Scheme, financial assistance of Rs.33 lakh is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assistance of Rs. 25 lacks per FPO is given to the Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to promote and handhold the FPOs.**

About FPO

- The concept behind Farmer Producer Organizations is that farmers, who are the producers of agricultural products, can form groups.
- To facilitate this process, the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was mandated by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt.

The WCD ministry has extended the deadline for submitting applications for the PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to August 31st, 2023

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development has extended the last date of submission for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar till 31st of August, 2023.**
- This **national-level award is given in the fields of Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science and Technology, Environment, Arts and Culture, and Innovation.**
- The Ministry said that any Indian child, whose age is not exceeding 18 years as of the last date of receipt of the application, may apply for the award.
- Any other person may also nominate a deserving child for the award.
- The Ministry added that the applications for the award could be submitted on the official portal www.awards.gov.in

About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, formerly called the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, is India's highest civilian honour for children, awarded annually by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- First awarded: 1996

The third Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting begins at Kevadia, Gujarat

- As part of India's G20 presidency, **the third Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting began in Kevadia, Gujarat.**
- More than 75 international delegates from various G20 countries are taking part in the three-day meeting at Kevadiya.
- The meeting began with delegates participating in a seminar on **'Trade Infrastructure'**.
- On the first day of the Trade and Investment working group meeting, a special exhibition showcasing various successful initiatives of the Indian government such as the Gatishkti Master plan, and unified logistics interface platform was inaugurated at Kevadiya.

About Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat

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- NP: Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Vansda National Park, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Ganga Wildlife Sanctuary

V Muraleedharan, the minister of state for external affairs, addresses the sixth India-Arab collaboration conference in New Delhi

- **India and the Arab world trade relations have stood the test of time and even during the COVID-19 pandemic** and global geopolitical conflict it continues to grow.
- Addressing the **6th India- Arab partnership conference in New Delhi**, Minister of State for External Affairs **V. Muraleedharan** said the **trade between India and the Arab world stands at 240 billion dollars**.
- India's wide-ranging partnerships with Arab countries are robust and they have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relationships and shared cultural heritage.

50th GST Council meeting in New Delhi is presided over by FM Nirmala Sitharaman:

- The **50th GST Council meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** is underway **in New Delhi**.
- The meeting is being attended by Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chaudhary**, Finance Ministers of States and UTs, and Senior officials.
- In February this year, **the 49th GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** in New Delhi.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- The goods and services tax (GST) is a tax on goods and services sold domestically for consumption.
- The tax is included in the final price and paid by consumers at the point of sale and passed to the government by the seller.
- The GST is usually taxed as a single rate across a nation.
- The GST was launched on 1 July 2017 by the President of India and the Government of India.

The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) Bankers' Awareness Workshop is launched at the SKICC in Srinagar by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh:

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a bankers' awareness workshop at Srinagar**.
- The two-day workshop is **organized by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) for officers of the State Bank of India at Winter Hall, Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center, Srinagar**.
- The objective of the workshops is to spread awareness of the various rules and procedures relevant to Pension Disbursing Banks and also the steps being taken by **the Government of India to ensure "Ease of Living" for Pensioners**.
- Bankers' Awareness workshops, on similar lines, will be **conducted in collaboration with other Pension Disbursing Banks in 2023-24**.

Five expert committees have been established by the National Statistical Commission (NSC) to examine ways to enhance the survey process

- The **National Statistical Commission (NSC) has constituted five expert committees to look into ways to improve the survey process** as India looks to revamp **the government's statistical surveys to improve data quality**.
- These committees will give their recommendations to the NSC on issues including incorporating technology in surveys, sampling methodology, data collection process, and statistical methods.

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- The committee will look at going beyond traditional statistical methods like averages in dealing with survey data to further improve accuracy.

About NSC:

- The National Statistical Commission of India is an autonomous body which formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of the Rangarajan Commission.
- The NSC is currently headed by Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar who was appointed as Chairperson of the Commission on 30 Nov 2022 for a period of three years.

22 State Governments have received a total of Rs. 7,532 crore from the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for their respective State Disaster Response Funds:

- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has released an amount of Rs. 7,532 crore to 22 State Governments for the respective State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF).
- The amount has been released as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs
- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The fund is the primary fund available to State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The Central Government contributes 75% to the SDRF in general States and 90% in North-East and Himalayan States.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate Swasthya Chintan Shivir at Dehradun, Uttarakhand

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the Swasthya Chintan Shivir on 14th July, 2023 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**
- The two-day Swasthya Chintan Shivir will be organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- The event will be attended by the Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar and Prof. SP Singh Baghel.**
- It will be followed by sessions focusing on various facets of healthcare in India
- The sessions will highlight **four aspects of Ayushman Bharat, including Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), Health and Wellness Centres, as well as Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).**
- The thematic sessions will also focus on the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, the elimination of measles, rubella, and the implementation of the PCPNDT Act in India.

About Uttarakhand

- Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Dehradun
- Governor: Gurmit Singh

The GST Council exempts medicines for rare disorders and cancer from tax:

- **GST Council has decided to exempt cancer-fighting drugs, medicines for rare diseases, and food products for special medical purposes from GST tax.**
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 50th GST Council meeting in New Delhi.**
- Addressing the media after the meeting, the Minister said a **28 per cent tax will be levied on online gaming, horse racing, and casinos and these will be taxed at full face value.**
- She said the Council has also decided to **exempt GST from satellite launch services by private operators.**
- GST rates on **uncooked, unfried extruded snack pellets** have been brought down from **18 per cent to 5 per cent.**
- The rates on **fish soluble paste** have been brought down to **5 percent from 18 percent.**
- Rates on imitation zari threads have been brought down to **5 percent from 12 percent.**

About Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- The goods and services tax (GST) is a tax on goods and services sold domestically for consumption.

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- The tax is included in the final price and paid by consumers at the point of sale and passed to the government by the seller.
- The GST is usually taxed as a single rate across a nation.
- The GST was launched on 1 July 2017 by the President of India and the Government of India.

The foundation stone for three NH projects totalling Rs. 2,900 crore was laid by Shri Nitin Gadkari at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for 3 NH Projects in the presence of Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.**
- These projects encompass a combined length of 87 kilometers and carry a total cost of **Rs 2,900 Crore.**
- The first undertaking is the **Naidupate-Turpu Kanupur Section of NH-71**, spanning 35 Km and requiring an investment of **₹1,399 Crore.**
- The second project is the **Chillakuru Cross-Krishnapatnam Port South Gate Section via Turpu Kanupur on NH-516W**, covering a distance of 36 Km and valued at **₹909 Crore.**

About Andhra Pradesh

- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 trophy unveiled by Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, **Shri Anurag Thakur unveiled the coveted trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.**
- Union Minister also launched the **‘Pass the Ball Trophy Tour’ campaign on the occasion.**
- Hero Asian Champions Trophy, **Chennai 2023 will begin on August 3rd, 2023** where **India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China will vie for the Title.**
- The event was also attended by, Hockey India President, Padma Shri Dr. Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh, Hockey India Treasurer and President of Hockey Unit, and officials from Tamil Nadu (Host State).
- **The tournament will be held from 3rd August to 12 August 2023 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu with India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China competing for the title, and will be telecast live on Star Sports, Disney +Hotstar.**
- It will also be live-streamed on watch hockey for viewing outside of India. Media can apply for accreditation at <https://accred.media.dnnetworks.in/Asian-Champions-Trophy/act/app>.

The National Mega Conclave on FPO in the cooperative sector is inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah, who also announces the action plan for the establishment of 1100 new FPOs by PACS in New Delhi:

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the National Mega Conclave on FPO in the cooperative sector and released the action plan for the formation of 1100 new FPOs by PACS in New Delhi.**
- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation stated that about 65 per cent of the people in India are directly engaged in agriculture and allied activities, and about 55 per cent of the workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied activities.
- The government under the leadership of **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has provided loans of over Rs. 127 crore to FPOs so far, which is in addition to Rs. 6,900 crores.**
- The states of **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab have done excellent work in the field of FPOs.**

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The India Government Mint celebrates its 120th anniversary in Hyderabad with commemorative souvenir coins:

- The **120th anniversary of the India Government Mint has been celebrated in Hyderabad with commemorative souvenir coins.**
- These **souvenir coins were crafted of silver and copper** and serve as a tribute to the rich legacy and contributions of the India Government Mint in the field of coinage and minting.

About Telangana:

- Capital: Hyderabad
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Founded: 2 June 2014
- Official song: Jaya Jaya He Telangana
- Official flower: Senna auriculata
- Official animal: Chital

The Coal Ministry is developing a comprehensive plan to support coal gasification projects with a budget of Rs. 6000 crore.

- **The Ministry of Coal has set a target to achieve coal gasification of 100 Million Tonne (MT) coal by FY 2030** reflecting the government's commitment to harnessing the power of coal gasification.
- In line with this objective, the Ministry is considering a comprehensive scheme **to promote Coal/Lignite gasification projects for both Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the Private Sector with an outlay of Rs 6,000 crores.**
- With the introduction of this ambitious proposal, **the Coal Ministry aims to propel the nation's progress.**
- Currently, **India imports approximately 50% of its Natural Gas, over 90% of its total Methanol consumption and around 13-15% of its total ammonia consumption** to cater to the domestic demand.
- The implementation of **coal gasification is expected to make significant contributions to the nation's development by reducing imports by 2030.**

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in New Delhi is addressed by Union Minister Jitendra Singh

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh said the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 will boost Space StartUps and Space entrepreneurs.**
- Addressing the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi unlocked the Space Sector in 2020 for private participation, **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) made history in November last year by launching successfully India's maiden private Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket.**

About G20:

- The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.
- It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- Founded: 26 September 1999

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduces a free online AI training program

- Education and Skill Development Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training programme on Artificial Intelligence, on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.**
- It is a **joint initiative of Skill India and GUVI**, which is an IIT Madras incubated startup tech platform that enables tech learning in vernacular languages.
- This **programme has been curated in nine Indian languages.**

Centre extends the tenure of the inter-ministerial digital panel by a month

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- The Centre has extended the tenure of the Committee on Digital Competition Law (which had been set up to recommend a draft of the proposed Digital Competition Law) by one more month.
- The inter-ministerial panel's earlier extended tenure was to end on July 5.
- Now the Corporate Affairs Ministry has given one more month.

ONGC first CPSE in India to get certified for Anti-Bribery Management System by an internationally accredited certification body

- As the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to earn certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) recently made history.
- InterCert USA, a globally recognized certification organization, granted the certification.
- ONGC previously proved its dedication to bribery prevention in 2005 when it became the first Indian organization to ratify the Integrity Pact (IP) created by Transparency International.

About ONGC:

- Founded: 14 August 1956
- Headquarters New Delhi
- CEO: Arun Kumar Singh

National Multidimensional Poverty Index is unveiled by Niti Aayog.

- The number of persons living in multidimensional poverty in the country has fallen from 24.85 per cent to 14.96 per cent between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- This was unveiled in the National Multidimensional Poverty Index released by the NITI Aayog.
- 13.5 crores of people have escaped from multidimensional poverty in five years.
- Uttar Pradesh has registered the highest decline in the poor, with 3.43 crore people followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- Providing multidimensional poverty estimates for the 36 States and Union Territories and 707 Administrative Districts, the report states that the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor was observed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- The National Multidimensional Poverty Index is a holistic measure defining poverty based on health, education, and living standards and estimates poverty at national, state, and district levels, shaping reform plans for States and UTs.

About NITI AAYOG

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

The foundation for numerous development projects in Lucknow will be laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- Union Defence Minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh will inaugurate and lay the foundation of many development projects in Lucknow.
- Two national highway projects worth rupees 3300 crores will also be inaugurated.
- Mr Singh will inaugurate the Madiakon-IIM Crossing flyover which is part of the national highways project.
- The railway station has been redeveloped for Rs 50 crore, including Rs 42 crore invested in electronic interlocking, signal, two loop lines and the development of three platforms, a circulating area of the station and other amenities of the station.

The Global Maritime India Summit 2023 will be introduced in Mumbai by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is coming with the third edition of its most prestigious 'Global India Maritime Summit' this year.
- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in the August

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presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways will **officially launch the Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit 2023 event on July 18, 2023 at St. Regis, Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- Organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, the Curtain Raiser Event will serve as a precursor to the main summit and will provide an exclusive opportunity to gain valuable industry insights and witness significant launches.
- The **Global Summit event is scheduled on 17-19th October 2023 in which more than 30 countries are expected to participate.**

About Maharashtra

- Governor: Ramesh Bai
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

Prime Minister will dedicate Veer Savarkar International Airport's new integrated terminal building in Port Blair:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the New Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair via video conferencing.**
- Enhancing connectivity infrastructure has been a major focus of the government.
- The inauguration of the **New Integrated Terminal Building, built at a cost of around Rs 710 crore, will play a key role in boosting connectivity of the island UT.**
- An Apron suitable for **two Boeing-767-400 and two Airbus-a321 types of aircraft has also been constructed at Port Blair Airport at a cost of ₹80 Crore, making the airport now suitable for parking ten aircraft at a time.**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrates its 95th Foundation and Technology Day

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 95th Foundation Day** at National Agriculture Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
- **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and President of ICAR Society was the Chief Guest** of the program.
- Agricultural products from **India are being preferred globally and millets are getting significance in the International Year of Millets.**
- **This is the first time that Foundation Day is celebrated as Technology Day, therefore, an exhibition has been organized to showcase ICAR technologies for the benefit of farmers, students and agri-industry.**

About ICAR :

- Established: 16 July 1929
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Himanshu Pathak

'Drugs Smuggling and National Security' regional conference will be presided over by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah will chair the Regional Conference on 'Drugs Smuggling and National Security' in New Delhi.**
- During the Conference, under the leadership of the **Union Home Minister, over 1,44,000-kilogram drugs worth Rs.2,416 crore, will be destroyed in various parts of the country by NCB in coordination with ANTFs of all states.**
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, **the Government has adopted a 'Zero Tolerance' policy against narcotics to create a drugs-free India. From 01st June 2022 till 15th July**

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2023, all regional units of NCB and ANTFs of states have collectively destroyed around 8,76,554 kilogram seized drugs worth around Rs.9,580 crore, which is more than 11 times the target.

Union Government launched the sale of subsidised chana dal under brand name 'Bharat Dal'

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal** launched the **sale of subsidised chana dal** under the brand name '**Bharat Dal**' at the rate of Rs 60 per kg for one kg pack and Rs 55 per kg for 30 kg pack.

Aim:

- To make pulses available to consumers at **affordable prices**
- The retail outlets of the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, (NAFED)** in **Delhi-NCR** are selling the chana dal.
- The milling and packaging of the Chana Dal has been undertaken by NAFED for distribution through its retail outlets in Delhi-NCR and also through the outlets of **Kendriya Bhandar and Safal**.

About Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution :

- Cabinet Minister : Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State : Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Union Government forms a new panel to review All Surveys Conducted Under NSO

- The **Union government** has established a **new oversight mechanism** to review data from the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- The **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** set up in **2019** will be replaced by a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS).
- **Pronab Sen, India's first chief statistician**, has been named as the **chairman** of the new committee.
- This new panel will have **10 members** and **4 non-official members** who are eminent academics.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** issued notification regarding this on 13 July 2023.

The Global Food Regulators Summit will be launched in 2023 by Union Minister of Health Dr Mansukh Mandaviya

- Union Health Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** will inaugurate the **Global Food Regulators Summit 2023** in **New Delhi**.
- The **two-day summit** is aimed at creating a **global platform for regulators on enhancing food safety systems and regulatory frameworks through collaboration**.
- It will provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and strategies for ensuring safe food throughout the food value chain.

A ministerial meeting of the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership was conducted in New Delhi

- The **Ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)** was held between Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** and U.S. Energy Secretary **Jennifer Granholm** in **New Delhi**.
- During the meeting, they noted the growing importance of bilateral energy cooperation between the countries.
- During the meeting, **the two sides renewed their commitment to work towards a just, orderly, and sustainable energy transition, which prioritizes access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy supply**.
- Both the Ministers affirmed the vision of **Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi** and **US President Joseph Biden** for establishing the **Global Biofuels Alliance** which is set to be launched this week in **Goa**.

About the United States :

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C
- Currency: U.S. dollar

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate a 'National Seminar on

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Delivery of CSC services through Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)' at New Delhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Shri Amit Shah** will inaugurate a 'National Seminar on Delivery of CSC services through Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS)' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Electronics and IT, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** will also grace the occasion.
- **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**, under the Ministry of Cooperation, is organizing this Seminar in collaboration with the CSC.
- **Till now, 17,000 PACS have been onboarded on the CSC portal**, out of which 6,000 PACS are going to start providing services as CSCs.

About NCDC

- The National Cooperative Development Corporation is a statutory Corporation set up under an Act of the Indian Parliament on 13 March 1963.
- Founded: 13 March 1963
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Agency executive: **Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS, Managing Director**

The G20 Agriculture Working Group's International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation is launched by Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala at NDDB Anand

- Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the Agriculture Working Group (AWG) of G20, **Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** inaugurated an **International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation** at NDDB, Anand, Gujarat.
- **The 2-day long symposium was aimed to foster insightful discussions and deliberations on the transformation to more efficient and sustainable agri-food systems, with a particular focus on the livestock sector.**
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt of India; National Dairy Development Board (NDDB); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have jointly organised the 2-day event

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches Curtain Raiser of Global Maritime India Summit, 2023

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the curtain raiser of **Global Maritime India Summit (GIMS), 2023** in Mumbai.
- The event is aimed at unlocking the potential for new investment opportunities along with collaborations for knowledge and technology to enhance cooperation in trade and promote Ease of Doing Business (EODB).
- The event was attended by the **Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism, Shri Shripad Naik** among others.
- GIMS 2023 is a premier maritime sector focussed event to bring together pivotal figures from the industry to explore opportunities, understand challenges, and stimulate investment within India's maritime sector.

The Oil 2023 (Analysis & Forecast to 2028) medium-term market report is released by the IEA

- **The International Energy Agency (IEA) in collaboration with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the aegis of MoP&NG** launched the **Oil 2023 medium-term market report**, titled: **IEA Oil 2023 – Supply and demand Dynamics to 2028**, in Delhi at an event that saw participation from the captains from the Indian oil and gas industry.
- Secretary Petroleum also mentioned that **India is the World's 4th largest refiner, has the 4th largest LNG terminal capacity, 4th largest Auto market and also 3rd largest biofuels producer.**
- India's focus is on decarbonization and it has already achieved 12% ethanol blending in Petrol and has targeted 20% blending by 2025.
- Oil-producing countries outside the OPEC+ alliance dominate plans for increasing global supply capacity in the medium term, **with an expected rise of 5.1 mb/d by 2028 led by the United States, Brazil and Guyana. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq lead the plans for capacity building within OPEC+.**

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About IEA:

- Founded: November 1974
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Executive director: Fatih Birol

The DPIIT and the Gujarat Government together launch the 'One District, One Product' Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan

- **One District One Product (ODOP) program**, an initiative under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched **its first collaboration with the Government of Gujarat in New Delhi to promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the State.**
- Smt. Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, and Smt. Arti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner and Secretary (Economic Affairs) Finance Department, **Government of Gujarat jointly inaugurated the ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan.**

About DPIIT

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is a central government department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.
- Founded: 1995

About Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- NP: Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Vansda National Park, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaga Wildlife Sanctuary

Startup20 and the Jagriti Foundation have joined forces to launch 'Global Yatra,' a global campaign to promote inclusive entrepreneurship

- **Startup20 Engagement Group**, under India's G20 presidency, **has taken another transformative leap towards revolutionizing entrepreneurship across India by collaborating with Jagriti Foundation**, a renowned non-profit organization dedicated to **fostering robust entrepreneurship ecosystems in Tier 2/3 cities in India.**
- This strategic partnership is poised to significantly reshape the region's entrepreneurial landscape.
- The **Jagriti-Startup20-G20 Yatra 2023 - a one-of-a-kind event that embodies the spirit of inclusive entrepreneurship**, cross-border collaboration, sustainability, and innovation on both a **national and international scale was launched at the premises of Atal Innovation Mission NITI Aayog.**

NITI Aayog hosts an E-Mobility Conference on the sidelines of the 4th G20 Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting

- A **one-day conference titled "Policy Support & Enablers to Accelerate India's Electric Mobility,"** organized by NITI Aayog and supported by WRI India and Asian Development Bank, was held on the sidelines of the **fourth Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency.**
- The conference served as a crucial platform to convene national and international stakeholders, engaging in meaningful discussions and exploring viable financing, regulatory, and policy avenues to catalyze India's decarbonization trajectory and advance the growth of electric mobility in the country.
- **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Shri Suman Bery, Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant, India's G20 Sherpa Shri. Amitabh Kant and other prominent dignitaries were present on the occasion.**

Shri Amit Shah inaugurates a National Mega Conclave on the launching of Common Services Centre (CSC) services by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in New Delhi

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- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated a **National Mega Conclave on the launching of Common Services Centre (CSC) services by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in New Delhi.**
- Shri Shah stated that within 20 days of the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi provided Rs. 2,500 crore for the computerization of PACS, due to which 65,000 PACS are being computerised.

The India-ASEAN Traditional Medicines Conference was conducted in New Delhi

- **The Ministry of Ayush, in association with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Mission to ASEAN organized a conference of India and the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on traditional medicines at New Delhi.**
- **A total of 75 delegates from India and ASEAN including two ASEAN countries participating through virtual mode, were a part of this prestigious conference.**

About ASEAN

- ASEAN, officially an abbreviation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is a political and economic union of 10 member states in Southeast Asia.
- Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Founded: 8 August 1967, Bangkok, Thailand

Centre approved Market Development Assistance of Rs 1500 per MT to promote organic fertilizers

- Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Bhagwanth Khuba informed the Lok Sabha that **the Centre has approved the Market Development Assistance, MDA of 1500 rupees per metric tonne to promote organic fertilizers.**
- The manure is produced at plants under **the GOBARdhan initiative**, PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth, PM-PRANAM and Sulphur Coated Urea also known as Urea Gold.

Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Aviation Security Control Center of CISF at Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi.**

The 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit will be held in Khajuraho

- The **5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit** is to be jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd. and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) 2023 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- The event's **theme is "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft".**
- The Summit will be inaugurated by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel**
- The objective of the summit includes enhancing the scope of the UDAN scheme in remote & hilly terrains.

Union Government introduces National Nursing and Midwifery Commission, Bill

- **The Union government introduced the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.**

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- The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.
- The **Bill was introduced by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.**
- The **Minister also introduced The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.**

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 'Semicon India 2023' in Gandhinagar

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Semicon India 2023' in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel will inaugurate a special exhibition for the public.
- The **national-level event will showcase the latest technology related to semiconductors.**

Centre Uses Rs 1,028.81 Crores Fund For Skill Development Of Women From Minority Communities

- The **Union Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every stratum**, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of society.
- The **Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely Nai Manzil** on 8th August 2015 with 50% funding from the World Bank, to benefit the minority youth who do not have a formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school-dropouts or educated in community education institutions like Madrasas.
- **The Scheme has been approved with the cost of Rs.650.00 Crore for five years with 50% funding from the World Bank.**
- **The World Bank has approved the funding of US\$50 million.**
- This is the first World Bank-supported programme for minority welfare in this Ministry.
- The scheme provided a combination of formal education (Class VIII or X) and skills and enabled the beneficiaries to seek better employment and livelihoods.
- **The scheme is being implemented by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to provide non-residential integrated education and skill training for 9 to 12 months**, of which a minimum of 3 months be devoted to skill training compliant with the **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Aviation Security Control Centre of CISF in New Delhi:

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a centralised Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in New Delhi to meet the current security challenges.
- It will monitor all threats and social media chatter for the **66 civil airports** currently under the CISF's security cover.
- **The centre will get real-time feed from each of the security operations control centres (SOCCs) operational at these 66 airports that include the "extremely busy and hyper-sensitive" civil aviation facilities in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jammu, Srinagar and Amritsar among others.**

Union Government completes 11 solar parks with 8,521 MW capacity

- The Union Government is implementing a Scheme for "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects" in the country.
- Under this scheme, the Government has sanctioned 50 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 37,990 MW in 12 States across the country, so far.
- **Against this sanction, 11 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 8521 MW have been completed and 7 Solar Parks with an aggregate capacity of 3985 MW have been partially completed.**
- In these parks, solar projects of an aggregate capacity of 10,237 MW have been developed.
- **The Solar Park Scheme currently has a timeline up to 31st March 2026.**

Universal Postal Union opens its first regional office in India

- Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chauhan and Director General, Universal Postal Union (DG UPU) Mr Masahiko Metoki inaugurated the Regional Office of UPU at New Delhi.
- **India also announced a contribution of USD 2,00,000 over a period of four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities through the Asia Pacific Postal Union.**

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About Universal Postal Union:

- It is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874.
- UPU is the second oldest international organization worldwide.

Shri Piyush Goyal discusses the roadmap to achieve the target of \$250 billion in textiles production and exports of \$100 billion by 2030

- Union Minister for Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal discussed the roadmap to achieve the target of \$250 billion in textiles production and \$100 billion in exports by 2030.**
- The Narendra Modi government is targeting \$250 billion in textiles production and exports of \$100 billion by 2030.
- The Chintan Shivir was organised by the Ministry of Textiles to brainstorm on various issues relating to the sector.
- India presently ranks behind China as the world's second-largest manufacturer of textiles and garments.

The NITI Aayog unveils TCRM Matrix Framework to Revolutionize Technology Assessment and drive Innovation in India

- NITI Aayog has introduced the **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix)** framework, an innovative assessment tool aimed at transforming technology evaluation, encouraging innovation, and nurturing entrepreneurship in India.
- TCRM Matrix stands for **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix.**
- It is an assessment tool designed to revolutionize technology evaluation, foster innovation, and fuel entrepreneurship in India.

About NITI Aayog :

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates Heli Summit 2023 and UDAN 5.2 in Khajuraho

- **Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel inaugurated Heli Summit 2023 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.**
- **He also launched RCS UDAN 5.2 and HeliSewa-App** during the event.
- The **5th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023)** was jointly organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, in association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The theme of the event was **"Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft"**.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pawan Hans and Jetserve was signed for advancing the Helicopter and Small Aircraft sector in India.

Union Finance Minister Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman presides over the 164th Income Tax Day celebrations at New Delhi

- The **164th anniversary of Income Tax Day** was observed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and all its field offices across India.
- The main function was held at the **Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the event.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate Gujarat's first Greenfield Airport at Hirasar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first Greenfield Airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Built over 1500 acres of area for 1,405 crores, the airport has been renamed Rajkot international

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airport.

- The greenfield airport at Hirasar is 30 kilometres away from Rajkot City, the commercial capital of the Saurashtra region.

The 4th ECSWG and Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting begins in Chennai:

- The **4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers** meeting began in Chennai.
- The Meeting will focus on three key areas - land restoration, circular economy, and blue economy.
- On the first day of the event, there will be two parallel sessions -: the Environment Track and the Climate Track.

About Tamil Nadu

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- NP: Guindy National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park (Annamalai), and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurates three Flight Training Academies in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

- Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel inaugurated three Flight Training Organizations (FTO) in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- With the opening of three FTOs in Khajuraho, the total number of FTOs in Madhya Pradesh will be six, three at Khajuraho, one at Indore, one at Sagar, and one at Guna.
- These six FTOs will enhance the potential of the state to be a major contributor to pilots in the aviation industry.
- Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia announced soon begin wide-body aircraft between Khajuraho and Varanasi.

Ministry of Textiles organizes '6th National Conclave on Standards & Regulations for Technical Textiles

- The Ministry of Textiles, under its flagship scheme National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), organized the 6th National Conclave on Standards & Regulations in association with FICCI and BIS, emphasizing the importance of Standards, Quality regulations & Rationalization of HSN codes for Technical Textiles in India.
- The event encompassed 5 technical sessions focusing on Standards and Regulations under specialized areas of Technical Textiles like Protective textiles, Geotextiles, Build tech, Oekotech, Medical textiles and other emerging areas of Technical Textiles.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) released 4 new standards during the conclave - (i) IS 18266: 2023, Textiles — Medical Respirator — Specification, (ii) IS 18309: 2023 Geosynthetics — Prefabricated Vertical Drains for Quick Consolidation of Very Soft Plastic Soil — Specification, (iii) IS 18158: 2023 Textile — Floor Covering - Artificial Grass Carpet made of Synthetic Yarn for Landscape — Specification and (iv) IS 18161: 2023, Textiles — Lightweight Jute Sacking Bags for Packing 50 kg Mustard Seed, Niger Seed and Ragi — Specification.

About FICCI :

- President: Subhrakant Panda
- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla

About BIS :

- The Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body of India under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- Founded: 23 December 1986
- Founder: Parliament of India

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3rd edition of Summit on “Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India” to be held at New Delhi

- The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is organizing the 3rd edition of the Summit on “Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India” (GCPMH 2023) in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman will inaugurate the two-day Summit on Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs 2023.

South Eastern Coalfields Ltd to invest Rs 169 crores on plantation in MP & Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary, South Eastern Coalfields (SECL), will invest Rs. 169 crores on a plantation in its operating States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during the next five years.
- The company has recently signed MoU with Chhattisgarh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam (CGRVNN) and Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam (MPRVVN) for carrying out plantation work in these States.
- The plantation will be carried out for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28 with its subsequent maintenance of 4 years for each consecutive year of the plantation.
- As per the MoU, SECL will spend Rs. 131.52 crore in Chhattisgarh and Rs. 38.11 crore in Madhya Pradesh for plantation work.

Amit Shah will launch the "Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" initiative as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will launch a unique initiative ‘Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar’ as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping.
- Shri Amit Shah will officially launch the virtual platform during a grand projection mapping show at the Qutub Minar.
- The virtual platform <https://mgmd.gov.in> will connect people with villages of India.
- The Ministry of Culture initiated the ‘Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar’ (MGMD) project under National Mission on Cultural Mapping in coordination with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for several development projects and dedicated them to the nation in Sikar, Rajasthan.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated it to the nation's various development projects in Sikar, Rajasthan.
- The projects include dedicating to the nation more than 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs), launching Urea Gold - a new variety of Urea coated with Sulphur, onboarding 1600 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), releasing 14th instalment amount of about Rs 17,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to 8.5 crore beneficiaries, inaugurating 5 new medical colleges at Chittorgarh, Dholpur, Sirohi, Sikar and Sri Ganganagar, laying the foundation stone for 7 medical colleges at Baran, Bundi, Karauli, Jhunjhunu, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer and Tonk, and inaugurating 6 Eklavya Model Residential Schools located in districts of Udaipur, Banswara, Partapgarh and Dungarpur and Kendriya Vidyalaya Tivri, Jodhpur.

TRAI releases Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023 (02 of 2023) dated July 25, 2023, to repeal the Regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001 (4 of 2001) with effect from the date of its notification in Official Gazette.
- The TRAI notified the Regulation on quality of service of dial-up and leased line internet access service, 2001 (4 of 2001) on December 10, 2001.
- This regulation applied to all the Basic Service Operators and Internet Service Providers, including the incumbent operators viz. BSNL, MTNL and VSNL.

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About TRAI

- Founded: 20 February 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi

The Army Postal Service Corps has opened its first Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre:

- **Army Postal Service Corps inaugurated the first Permanent Aadhaar Enrolment Centre-PAEC** at Central Base Post Office in **New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Communications said in a statement that this **initiative will facilitate Aadhaar-related services for tri-services personnel and their dependents** through their Field Post Offices in 48 identified locations across the country.
- **These 48 PAECs will be functional in both Field and Peace locations.**

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition in Chennai

- The **Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** is set to be launched at the side event during the **4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Conceptualized under India's G20 Presidency, RECEIC is an industry-driven initiative aimed at **promoting resource efficiency and circular economy practices globally**.
- As a collaborative platform, **RECEIC aims to facilitate knowledge-sharing, best practice sharing, and sustainable practices among the participating industries.**

The Ministry of Science and Technology is planning to hold a Chintan Shivir at IIT Kharagpur, aimed at enhancing the collaboration between CRTDHs and MSMEs.

- The Ministry of Science and Technology will organize a one-day **Chintan Shivir to strengthen the interaction between Common Research and Technology Development Hubs-CRTDHs and MSMEs at the Indian Institute of Technology-IIT, Kharagpur.**
- The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research-DSIR has planned to organize the Chintan Shivir at all the 18 Common Research and Technology Development Hubs established by DSIR.

The Prime Minister has officially opened the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**
- He also **unveiled the G-20 coin and G-20 stamp.**
- Visioned by the Prime Minister and developed as a **national project at a cost of about Rs 2700 crores**, the new IECC complex at Pragati Maidan will help in promoting India as a global business destination.

The PMVKY has been approved for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26, costing Rs. 26135.46 crores.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing '**Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu KalyanYojana (PMVKY)**' which includes many schemes for the development and welfare of tribal communities.
- The scheme has been approved for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total cost of **Rs. 26135.46 crores.**
- Scheme components covered under the PMVKY are as follows:
 1. Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)
 2. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)
 3. Support to Tribal Research Institutes
 4. Pre-Matric Scholarship
 5. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

Union Government finalises scheme for Indian carbon market, steering committee to be formed

- To boost the trading of **carbon credits in the country**, the Ministry of Power has notified the **Carbon Credit Market Scheme.**
- This development comes within days of the government releasing a draft document **for establishing a green credits market in India.**

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- The scheme also necessitates the formation of a **National Steering Committee, which will govern and have direct oversight over the functioning of the Indian carbon market.**
- The steering committee will be **managed by the Ministry of Power (MoP) along with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with a representation of other ministries.**

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has initiated a campaign to develop 75 iconic lighthouses in India into tourism spots.

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched a campaign to transform 75 historic Lighthouses into Tourism Spots** when he inaugurated three revamped lighthouses in Dwarka, Gopnath & Veraval that were transformed as tourist destinations at Dwarka, Gujarat.
- This marks the beginning of the campaign by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) to **transform 75 historic lighthouses across India into tourism spots.**

PM Narendra Modi to lay the foundation of textile park

- **The Centre had announced plans to set up seven mega textile parks under PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the setting up of PM Mega Integrated Textile Sector and Apparel (PM MITRA) textiles park **in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow and Hardoi districts.**
- The Minister for medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) Rakesh Sachan stated this at the inaugural event of **the two-day 'Uttar Pradesh MSME Conference 2023' being organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates a new International Airport in Rajkot

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Airport in Rajkot**, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, and other dignitaries.
- **The New Terminal building and the airside infrastructures are developed in a total land area of 2534 acres and at a cost of Rs.1405 Crores.**

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates '3Rd Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing hubs in India'

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 3rd Edition of the Summit on "Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India" (GCPMH 2023) in New Delhi.**
- **The Department of Chemical & Petrochemical, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is organizing this summit.**

NITI Aayog is organizing a G20 conference on the agenda of green and sustainable growth for the global economy.

- **NITI Aayog, the Government of India's institution for policy planning together with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, and the Global Development Network (GDN), New Delhi, is convening a two-day international policy workshop of around 40 leading thinkers to examine prospects and challenges for green and sustainable growth globally.**

Lok Sabha passes the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023

- **The Lok Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 amid the din.**
- **The Bill amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 which regulates the mining sector.**
- **The Bill has provisions for an exploration license.**
- **As per the Bill, the exploration license will be issued for 29 minerals which include gold, silver, copper, cobalt, nickel, lead, potash, and rock phosphate.**

DGCA fined Indigo Airlines Rs. 30 lakhs for documentation deficiencies in operations, training, and

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engineering.

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has imposed a fine of 30 lakh rupees on **Indigo Airlines** for certain systemic deficiencies in documentation about **operations, training procedures, and engineering procedures.**
- **Indigo Airlines** experienced four tail strike incidents on A321 aircraft within a span of six months this year.

About DGCA:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent agency: Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Deputy Ministers responsible: V.K. Singh

The estimated tiger population in India is 3,925, with an annual growth rate of 6.1 per cent.

- India's tiger population is estimated to be 3 thousand 925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- This was revealed in a report released by **Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar** on the occasion of **Global Tiger Day.**

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Health Minister, chaired the 7th meeting of the Central Institute Body of AIIMS and Chintan Shivir at NIHF in Delhi.

- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya** addressed the 7th Meeting of the **Central Institute Body (CIB) of AIIMS and Chintan Shivir** at the **National Institute for Health and Family Welfare.**

The release of the book 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' has been accomplished by Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, in Rameshwaram.

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** released the **'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die'** book in **Rameshwaram.**
- The Union Home Minister visited **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial.**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India removed from UNSG report on impact of armed conflict on children

- The **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has removed **India** from his annual report on the **impact of armed conflict on children**, citing “measures taken by the government to better protect” them.
- Guterres also acknowledged India's technical mission and a workshop on **strengthening child protection.**
- **India** had been **included** in the report since 2010, alongside other countries, including **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Lake Chad Basin, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines**

United States to Re-join the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization after 5 years

- The **United States of America (USA)** rejoined as a **member** of the United Nations cultural and scientific agency, **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** after 5 years.
- In **2017**, the USA, during the presidency of **Donald Trump** decided to **withdraw** from UNESCO.
- The Biden administration has also requested **\$150 million** for the 2024 budget to fulfil UNESCO dues and arrears, with similar requests anticipated in subsequent years until the total debt of **\$619 million** is cleared.

About UNESCO:

- Established : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director General : Audrey Azoulay
- Parent Organisation : United Nations Economic and Social Council

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- UNESCO is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations (UN) aimed at **promoting world peace** and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

India hosted 23rd Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in virtual format

- **India** virtually **hosted** the **23rd Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization**.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi chaired** the 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State.
- All SCO member states **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan** were invited to participate in the summit.
- **Iran, Belarus and Mongolia** were invited as observers.
- The **theme** of India's Chairmanship of **SCO-SECURE** is derived from the acronym given by the Prime Minister at the **2018 SCO Qingdao Summit**.
- SECURE stands for **Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection**.

About SCO:

- Established : 15 June 2001
- Headquarters : Beijing, China
- Secretary General : Zhang Ming (China)
- After 12 years of joining the SCO in 2005, **India** became a full member of the group at the Astana Summit in **2017**.

New Zealand becomes the first country to ban thin plastic bags

- **New Zealand** has become the **first country** to **ban** the **thin plastic bags** that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables.
- The ban is also applicable to plastic straws and silverware.
- The New Zealand government started a campaign against single-use plastics in **2019**.
- The government is now expanding this campaign.
- In 2019, the government banned the thicker plastic shopping bags that were used by customers to carry home their grocery items.
- **Lightweight plastic bags** are banned across **Australia**.
- Plastic straws, cutlery and food and drink containers are also being banned by some jurisdictions.

About New Zealand:

- Prime Minister : Chris Hipkins
- Capital : Wellington
- Currency : Dollar

Canada Introduced 'digital nomad strategy' for foreign workers

- **Canada** launched the "**digital nomad strategy**" which will make **temporary arrangements** for **foreigners looking for jobs**.
- To **attract talented individuals** from around the world.
- The announcement was made during **Collision's technical conference** in **Toronto**.
- The digital nomad strategy" will allow workers with a foreign employer to stay and work in Canada for up to **6 months**.
- If they get a job offer then an individual can remain in Canada for longer.

About Canada :

- Prime Minister : Justin Trudeau
- Capital : Ottawa
- Currency : Canadian Dollar

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World Mining Congress 2023 held in Brisbane, Australia

- For the **first time**, the **26th World Mining Congress (WMC) 2023** was held in **Brisbane, Australia**.
- **Shri Amrit Lal Meena**, Secretary, Ministry of Coal inaugurated the India pavilion having **NLC India Ltd (NLCIL), Coal India Limited (CIL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** at the **World Mining Congress (WMC) 2023** in Brisbane, Australia.
- The World Mining Congress (WMC) is an **United Nations (UN)-affiliated independent international organization** promoting the importance of minerals, advancing sustainable mining practices and contributing to the wellbeing of the global society.

About NLCIL :

- The NLC India Limited (NLCIL) is a Navratna Enterprise, under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Coal**.
- It was incorporated in **1956**.

About CIL :

- Coal India Limited (CIL) is a Maharatna Central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Coal**.

About NMDC:

- National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is an Indian public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Steel**.

China released its first open-source computer operating system - OpenKylin

- **China** has rolled out its **first-ever homegrown computer operating system** called **OpenKylin**.
- It is **China's first open-source desktop operating system (OS)**.
- It is a **Linux-based operating system** built by a community of about **4,000 developers** and is used in its space programme and industries such as finance and energy.
- OpenKylin users have access to the software's lines of code and can modify them as they wish, unlike **Microsoft** and **Apple**, which keep the workings of Windows and MacOS systems secret.

About China :

- President : Xi Jinping
- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

Taiwan to open 3rd Taipei Economic & Cultural Centre in Mumbai, India

- The **Taiwanese government** will establish a **Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC)** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** as part of a broader aim to further deepen cooperation with India.
- At present, Taiwan has TECCs in **Delhi** and **Chennai**.
- The main **aim** of opening the Cultural Centre is to **enhance cooperation** between both countries.
- Also, the move to set up the TECC in Mumbai comes at a time when major companies in Taiwan are increasingly looking at relocating their production bases to India from China.

About Taiwan :

- President : Tsai Ing-wen
- Capital : Taipei
- Currency : New Taiwan dollar

FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH launched One Health research agenda for antimicrobial resistance

- The '**Quadripartite**' - comprising the **United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **World**

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Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have released the **One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** through a webinar.

- To guide a variety of stakeholders in generating new evidence to **address antimicrobial resistance**, with a focus on **low- and middle-income countries**.
- One Health is an **integrated, unifying approach** that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

About UNEP :

- Established : 5 June 1972
- Headquarters : Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director : Inger Andersen

About WHO :

- Established : 7 April 1948
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General : Tedros Adhanom
- The WHO is a **specialised agency** of the United Nations responsible for **international public health**.

About WOAHA :

- Established : 25 January 1924
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director General : Dr Monique Eloit
- The WOAHA, formerly the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)**, is an intergovernmental organisation coordinating, supporting and promoting animal disease control.

British carrier Virgin Atlantic shuts operations in Pakistan

- **Virgin Atlantic** has **ended its operations** in **Pakistan** with the last flight of the British carrier taking off from **Islamabad to London's Heathrow Airport**.
- The British airline began its operations at Islamabad airport in **December 2020** with 7 weekly flights.
- The airline initially operated 4 flights to Manchester and 3 to Heathrow Airport.
- Later, the airline reduced its services to only 3 weekly flights to Heathrow Airport.
- Virgin Atlantic provided the **best air travel services** to customers between Islamabad and London.

About Virgin Atlantic :

- Established : 1984
- Headquarters : Crawley, England
- CEO : Shai Weiss
- Chairman : Peter Norris
- Virgin Atlantic, a trading name of **Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited** and **Virgin Atlantic International Limited**, is a British airline.

India-United States conduct 'Operation Broader Sword' to prevent illegal drugs shipment

- The **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**, **US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**, **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)**, **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**, and **US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)** in collaboration with the Indian Government Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted '**Operation Broader Sword**', a special bilateral multi-agency enforcement operation **targeting illicit pharmaceuticals, devices, or precursor chemicals shipped using the international mail system**.
- Operation Broader Sword was built upon the success of Operation Broadsword, which targeted mail parcels containing illicit medical products from India and was carried out in 2020, at **Chicago IMF**.

About United States :

- President : Joe Biden

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- Capital : Washington, D.C
- Currency : U.S. dollar

India & Tanzania started trade settlements in local currencies - External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** announced that **India and Tanzania have started trade settlements in local currencies.**
- This new initiative of India and Tanzania will help in **promoting commerce between both countries**
- India-Tanzania **bilateral trade** has seen very strong growth and stood at **USD 6.4 billion in 2022-23.**
- In 2022, RBI and Indian Finance Ministry had instructed the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to promote export and import transactions in the rupee.
- **18 countries** have opened **special Vostro accounts** with **Indian banks.**
- Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Canara Bank are operating in Tanzania.

About Tanzania :

- President : Samia Suluhu Hassan
- Prime Minister : Kassim Majaliwa
- Capital: Dodoma
- Currency: Tanzanian Shilling.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend Bastille Day Parade as Guest of Honour in Paris, France

- Prime Minister (PM) **Shri Narendra Modi** will be the **chief guest** at the **French Bastille Day Parade in Paris, France**
- PM Modi will be on a **3-day official visit** to France and UAE from 13th July, 2023.

About Bastille Day military parade :

- Bastille Day military parade is organised **every year on 14 July in Paris.**
- It is also known as **Fete Nationale Francaise.**
- It marks the beginning of the French Revolution.
- The first Bastille Day military parade was held in Paris on **July 14, 1880.**

About France:

- Capital: Paris
- President: Emmanuel Macron
- Prime minister: Élisabeth Borne

India & France announce co-development of combat aircraft engine

- **India and France** will be jointly developing a **combat aircraft engine and engine** for the **Indian Multi Role Helicopter (IMRH)** being developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Mr Emmanuel Macron addressed a joint press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris.
- Both countries announced that they will extend their **defence cooperation** in advanced aeronautical technologies.
- India and France also agreed to support the adoption of a **road map** for joint actions in the Indo-Pacific and the finalization of the **joint Earth observation satellite.**

2.4 billion people didn't have constant access to food last year - UN Report

- The UN delivered grim news on global food security. **2.4 billion people** didn't have constant access to food last year, as many as 783 million faced hunger, and 148 million children suffered from stunted growth.
- 5 UN agencies stated that in the **2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition report** that while global hunger numbers stalled between 2021 and 2022 many places are facing deepening food crises.
- They pointed to Western Asia, the Caribbean, and Africa where **20%** of the continent's population is experiencing hunger, more than twice the global average.
- More than **3.1 billion people 42%** of the global population were unable to afford a healthy diet in **2021**, an increase of 134 million people compared to 2019.

UN Report - 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt interest than education

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- According to a new **United Nations (UN) report**, Some **3.3 billion people**, almost **half of humanity**, now live in countries that **spend more money paying interest** on their debts than on education or health.
- UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** launched the report that because this crushing debt crisis is concentrated mostly in poor developing countries, it is not judged to pose a systemic risk to the global financial system.
- In 2022, global public debt reached a record **\$92 trillion** and developing countries shoulder a disproportionate amount.
- Regionally, between **2010 and 2022**, the amount of government **debt increased** by almost **4 times** in Asia and the Pacific, **3 times** in Africa, **2.5 times** in Europe and Central Asia, and **1.6 times** in Latin America and the Caribbean.

First ever BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers meeting started in Bangkok, Thailand

- The **first-ever Foreign Ministers' meeting** of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** started in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- India's External Affairs Minister **Mr S Jaishankar** attended the meeting.
- Also, Mr. Jaishankar Co-chaired the **12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting** in Bangkok along with Foreign Minister of Lao PDR Saleumxay Kommasith.

About BIMSTEC :

- It was established in **1997** with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**
- Members : Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand
- Permanent Secretariat - Dhaka, Bangladesh
- The BIMSTEC is a **regional multilateral organisation**.
- It was initially formed with 4 member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand in June, 1997.
- Myanmar joined in **December 1997** during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok
- Nepal became an observer state in **1998** and became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in **February 2004**.
- Around **22%** of the world's population lives in member countries of BIMSTEC. It has a combined GDP of around \$2.7 trillion.

Russia exits UN-brokered deal for export of Ukrainian grain through Black sea

- **Russia refused** to **extend** the **agreement** that has enabled **Ukraine** to export grain from its Black Sea ports for the past year, complaining that promises to free up its own shipments of food and fertilisers had not been kept.
- Without Russia's participation, the '**Black Sea Initiative**' ceases to function from July 18, 2023.
- The deal, brokered by the U.N. and Turkey in **July 2022**, **aimed** to alleviate a global food crisis by allowing Ukrainian grain blocked by the Russia-Ukraine war to be exported safely.

About Black Sea :

- Black Sea is an **inland sea** between Eastern Europe and Western Asia
- It is bound by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.

About Russia :

- President : Vladimir Putin
- Prime Minister : Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital : Moscow
- Currency : Ruble

UNDP India partners with Absolute Foods to promote innovation & digitalization of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Absolute Foods**, a leading bioscience company specialising in agri-tech, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen the government of India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** and enhance the resilience of the farmers.

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Aim :

- To enhance the implementation of the PMFBY and the **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)** by building technical capabilities of the scheme and digitising service delivery of crop insurance and agricultural credit processes to increase reach and uptake of the schemes.
- It will also promote **credit profiling of farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and farmer producers organisations (FPOs)**, for accurate crop loss assessment and risk evaluation to mobilise agriculture financing.

About UNDP :

- Founded: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Administrator : Achim Steiner
- The UNDP is a United Nations (UN) agency tasked with helping countries **eliminate poverty** and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.

Adani Group commissioned India's 1st transnational power project to supply electricity to Bangladesh

- **Adani Group** has commissioned **India's first transnational power project** from its **Ultra-Supercritical Thermal Power Plant (USCTPP)** of Adani Power located at Godda in **Jharkhand, India** to supply power to the Bangladesh electricity grid.
- Chairman **Gautam Adani** called on Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** in Dhaka following the full load commencement of power supply to Bangladesh from the Group's USCTPP in Godda.
- The Godda USCTPP, marks the **port-to-power conglomerate's entry** into transnational power projects.
- Adani Power Jharkhand Ltd (APJL), a **wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power Ltd**, will supply **100%** of the generated electricity from the plant to another nation.

About Adani Group :

- Established : 20 July 1988
- Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman : Gautam Adani
- Managing Director : Rajesh Adani

About Bangladesh :

- President : Mohammed Shahabuddin
- Prime Minister : Sheikh Hasina
- Capital : Dhaka
- Currency : Taka

Pakistan's Prime Minister Sharif launched \$3.5 billion Chinese-designed nuclear energy project

- Pakistan's Prime Minister (PM) **Mr Shehbaz Sharif** launched the construction of a **1,200-megawatt Chinese-designed nuclear energy project**, which will be built at a cost of **\$3.5 billion** as part of the government efforts to generate more clean energy in the Islamic nation.
- The nuclear power plant known as **Chashma-5** will be constructed at a site along the left embankment of the fast-flowing Indus River in Mianwali, a district in the eastern Punjab province.
- The site is already home to **4 Chinese-supplied nuclear power plants** that were built in recent decades.
- Pakistan got its first nuclear power plant from Canada and currently generates only **8%** of its electricity from nuclear power plants & it plans to increase that figure to **20% by 2030**.

About Pakistan :

- President : Arif Alvi
- Prime Minister : Shehbaz Sharif
- Capital : Islamabad
- Currency : Pakistani rupee

Algeria applied to Join BRICS Bank

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- **Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune** informed that Algeria has applied to **join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group** and submitted a request to become a shareholder member of BRICS Bank with an amount of **\$1.5 billion**.

About Algeria :

- President : Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- Prime Minister : Aymen Benabderrahmane
- Capital : Algiers
- Currency : Algerian dinar

About BRICS :

- Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa make up the BRICS group of countries.
- It makes up around **26%** of the **world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and more than **40%** of the world's population.

India & the United States today jointly launched a call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives

- **India and the United States (US)** jointly launched a call for collaborative proposals on “**Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives**”.
- The **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** and the Secretariat for **U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)** have designed the program.
- Through this competitive grant program, the USISTEF selects and supports promising joint U.S.-India technology innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives that are **commercially viable** and **socially relevant**.

About US :

- President : Joe Biden
- Capital : Washington, D.C
- Currency : U.S. dollar

Japan becomes 2nd Quad partner to sign semiconductor pact with India

- **Japan** has become the **second Quad partner** after the **United States (US)** to sign an **agreement** with **India** for the joint development of the **semiconductor ecosystem**.

Aim :

- To bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry.
- The agreement was signed between Union Minister for Electronics and IT **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry **Mr Yasutoshi Nishimura** in the national capital.
- The first made-in-India chip under the project will be rolled out by **December 2024**, and annual production worth **\$1 billion** is expected once the plant is fully operational.

About Japan :

- Prime Minister : Fumio Kishida
- Capital : Tokyo
- Currency : Japanese yen

Tata Sons to build battery cell gigafactory in the United Kingdom with an investment of £4 billion

- **Tata Sons** announced its plan to establish a **global battery cell gigafactory** in the **United Kingdom (UK)** with a capacity to produce **40 Gigawatt (GW)** of cells annually, at an investment of over **£4 billion**.

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- The investment will **deliver electric mobility** and renewable energy storage for the UK and rest of Europe.

Aim :

- To help power the automotive sector's transition to electric mobility.
- The new gigafactory will be one of the largest in Europe and will create up to **4,000 highly skilled jobs**, with further jobs expected to be created in the supply chain.
- The Tata Group announced last month it will invest over **₹13,000 crore** to set up a **20GW lithium-ion cell manufacturing factory** in Sanand, Gujarat.

About Tata Sons :

- Founded : 1917
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD : Natarajan Chandrasekaran

About the United Kingdom :

- Prime Minister : Rishi Sunak
- Capital : London
- Currency : Pound sterling

India presented candidature to IMO Council for Biennium 2024-25 elections

- **India** has presented its candidature under **Category-B** to the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council Elections** for the Biennium 2024-25 at its Assembly in **London**.
- The IMO's Category B consists of the 10 countries with the "**greatest interest in international seaborne trade**".
- Its current members are **India, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- India became a member of the IMO in **1959**.

About IMO :

- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : London, United Kingdom
- Membership : 175 Member States and 3 Associate Members.
- The IMO is a **specialised agency** responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

Twitter Launches New 'X' Logo to Replace Blue Bird

- **Twitter owner Elon Musk** has launched a new logo – the single letter "**X**" to replace the social media service's **famous blue bird** as part of a broader rebranding effort.
- Twitter's official account now reads "X", with a black background and the letter X in a white design.
- Such an app would be similar to **China's WeChat**, which combines video, messaging, streaming and payments.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced India's UPI to be used in France soon

- In a significant move, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** announced the launch of the **Unified Payments System (UPI)** in **France**.
- To make it an iconic move, the countries have decided to start its operations from the **Eiffel Tower, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site** where Indian tourists will now be able to pay in rupees.

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- With this development, France became the **first European country** to have UPI.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is **India's mobile-based payment system** and allows people to make round-the-clock payments through a virtual payment address created by the customer.
- It is to be noted that in 2023, UPI and **Singapore's PayNow** had signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.
- Apart from these two countries, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bhutan, and Nepal** have already adopted the UPI payment system.

About France :

- President : Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister : Élisabeth Borne
- Capital: Paris
- Currency : Euro

UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyouidi elected as chair of WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister for Foreign Trade **Dr Thani Al Zeyouidi** has been elected as the **chair** of the **World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13)** that will be held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)** in **February 2024**.
- The announcement was made during a meeting with **WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** at the WTO General Council in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The conference will be attended by representatives from **164 countries**
- The **WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12)** took place from **12 to 17 June 2022** at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Conference was co-hosted by Kazakhstan and chaired by **Mr Timur Suleimenov**, Deputy Chief of Staff of Kazakhstan's President.

About WTO :

- Established : 1 January 1995
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General : Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (first woman and the first African to serve as DG of WTO)
- Membership : 164 members (160 UN member states, the European Union, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan)
- The WTO is an **intergovernmental organization** that regulates and facilitates international trade.
- The highest authority of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which must meet **at least every two years**.

The 10th meeting of the Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India and Malaysia was held in New Delhi.

- The **10th meeting of the Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India and Malaysia** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of **Defence Shri Amitabh Prasad**, while the **Malaysian side was headed by Assistant Chief of Staff, Defence Operations and Training Division Maj Gen Dato' Khairul Anuar bin Abd Aziz**.

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- Both the co-chairs also deliberated on the possible outcomes for the **12th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) meeting which will be held at the level of Defence Secretary in India in September this year.**

About Malaysia

- Capital: Kuala Lumpur
- Currency: Ringgit
- PM: Anwar Ibrahim

STATE NEWS

India's 1st 'Police Drone Unit' launched in Chennai for aerial surveillance

- The **Greater Chennai City Police (GCP)** launched **India's first 'Police Drone Unit'** for **aerial surveillance** over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities.
- **Director General of Police (DGP)** and **Head of Police Force C. Sylendra Babu** inaugurated the newly-created special unit at Besant Avenue, Adyar, **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- The unit was established at a cost of Rs 3.6 crore.
- Also drones could be used to read the number plates of vehicles.

Quality Council of India and the Government of Odisha launched Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp in Bhubaneswar

- The Government of **Odisha** & the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**, in collaboration with industry associations – **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**, **Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC)**, **Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME)**, **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)**, **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)**, **Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI)** - launched the **Odisha Gunvatta Sankalp (Odisha Quality Mission)** at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- It has been inaugurated by the Chief Secretary of Odisha **Pradeep Kumar Jena**.

About QCI :

- Established : 1997
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson : Mr Jaxay Shah
- It is an apex organization for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation system and **improving quality** across sectors.
- It has established constituent Boards such as NABL for labs and NABH for hospitals, NABCB for certification and inspection bodies.

About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy Launched Jagananna Amma Vodi Scheme To Disburse Financial Aid Of Rs 6,393 Crores

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- **Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister (CM) Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the '**Jagananna Amma Vodi**' scheme for the fourth year, under which financial assistance of **Rs 6,393 crore** will be deposited into the bank accounts of 43 lakh beneficiaries, at Kurupam in Parvathipuram Manyam district, AP.
- To provide financial assistance to the mother or recognized guardian of those children who belong to the **below poverty line category**.
- Jagananna Ammavodi was launched by Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on **9 January 2020**.

About AP :

- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- National Park : Papikonda National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Rameshwaram) National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary

India's biggest natural arch formed 184 million years ago founded in Odisha by GSI

- A team of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** discovered **India's biggest natural arch** during their survey of coal in Kenduadihi block in Odisha's Sundargarh district.
- The state unit of the GSI has proposed to declare the '**Natural Arch**' in the **Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division**, a **Geo Heritage Site**.
- If it is done, it will be the **biggest natural arch** of the country to have the **Geo Heritage tag**.
- Currently, India has **two other natural arches** - one located in the **Tirumala hills of Tirupati** and the other in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, but both are **smaller than the one in Sundargarh**.

About GSI :

- Founded : 4 March 1851
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Director General : Janardan Prasad
- Parent Government agency : Ministry of Mines
- It is one of the oldest of such organisations in the world and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767).

India's 1st Tele-MANAS chat-bot to ensure 24X7 services of health counsellors launched in J&K

- Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** launched **India's first Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) Chatbot** for the Union territory (UT) of **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
- The initiative will ensure round-the-clock services of Health Counsellors, Clinical Psychologists and Consultants.
- The service was launched after Sinha inaugurated '**J-K Health Conclave**' on **mental health and non-communicable diseases** at Srinagar, J&K.
- Tele-MANAS is a **two-tier system**.
- Tier 1 comprises **State Tele MANAS cells**, which includes trained counsellors and mental health specialists.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor : Manoj Sinha
- Capital : Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park : Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

Uttar Pradesh government plans to establish micro dairies of Indian cow breeds

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- The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government is planning to **set up micro diaries of Indian cow breeds to promote indigenous industries, crops, and livestock.**
- To **increase milk production** and **preserve indigenous cow breeds** such as Sahiwal, Tharparkar, and Gir and raise the income of economically weak cattle herders.

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Launched Pilot Project Of ‘Antyodaya Shramik Suraksha Yojana’

- Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Bhupendra Patel** and Union Minister of State for Communications **Devusinh Chauhan**, launched the **Antyodaya Shram Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme** from Nadia of Kheda district in Gujarat.
- To provide **financial stability to workers**, offering assistance in the event of accidents or death.
- The scheme, launched on a pilot basis, is being implemented through the **Indian Postal Department**, the **Indian Post Payments Bank**, and the **Ministry of Labour and Employment.**

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park : Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched ‘Ama Pokhari’ to rejuvenate water bodies

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Naveen Patnaik** launched 'Ama Pokhari' project to **rejuvenate all water bodies** in the urban areas of Odisha.
- The project was inaugurated at Lokseva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar and is expected to effectively **address water scarcity** by rejuvenating water bodies in a natural and sustainable manner.
- Under the Ama Pokhari scheme, **2,000 large water bodies** in **115 urban areas** will be rejuvenated and its periphery will be renovated for healthy space for the public.
- **Rs 120 crore** has been allocated to the implementation of the initiative.

About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

Tourism Minister Atishi Marlena inaugurated 32nd Annual Mango Festival in Delhi Haat

- Tourism Minister **Atishi** inaugurated the **32nd Annual Mango Festival (3-day festival)** at **Dilli Haat, Janakpuri.**
- It will conclude on July 9, 2023.
- The event is organised by **Delhi Tourism** in association with **Delhi government.**
- The **last mango Festival** in Delhi was held in **2019.**

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- The Mango Festival is a unique initiative by the Kejrival government to **promote tourism** in the city, familiarise the public with various varieties of mangoes, and provide a platform for small and large mango producers to expand their business.

About Delhi :

- Lt. Governor : Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister : Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital : New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary

Odisha Television introduced India's first artificial intelligence news anchor - Lisa

- **Odisha Television Limited (OTV)** has introduced the **state's first artificial intelligence (AI) news anchor named Lisa**.
- The introduction of Lisa, the AI news anchor, took place at a ceremony held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The introduction of Lisa, the first AI anchor in Odisha's regional television broadcasting arena, signifies a **new era in television journalism**.
- It is developed by the media house in collaboration with a **Mumbai, Maharashtra based startup**, Lisa has the potential to speak in multiple languages.

About OTV :

- Founded : 17 April 1997
- Headquarters : Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
- Managing Director : Jagi Mangat Panda
- Odisha Television (OTV) is the **first private Electronic Media in Odisha**.

About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar
- National Park : Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary

Jammu and Kashmir launched Mobile-Dost-App for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services

- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta launched **Mobile Dost App in sync** with the vision of Apka Mobile HamaraDaftar.

Aim :

- To empower the people of Jammu & Kashmir by providing a comprehensive platform to access all the **Government to Citizen Services (G2C)** directly from their mobile devices.
- The app was developed by the **IT (Information Technology) department** of J&K with the support from the **Haryana Government**.
- Apka-Mobile-Hamara-Daftar is a pioneering initiative for the **mobile-based delivery** of citizen-centric services in Jammu and Kashmir.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor : Manoj Sinha
- Capital : Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park : Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

National Law University Delhi Launched Eklavya -A Research Affiliate Programme

- The **National Law University (NLU), Delhi** launched **Eklavya – a 'Research Affiliate' programme**, under its new academic initiatives.

Aim :

- To strengthen NLU Delhi's commitment to collaboration by involving individuals without traditional law degrees and drawing upon their expertise and diverse perspectives.

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Eligibility Criteria for the ‘Eklavya Research Affiliate programme :

- Should possess **at least 3 years of demonstrable experience** working on issues with a significant interface with the law.
- Should have completed an undergraduate **degree** at least 3 years before the application.
- Full-time or part-time employees must obtain approval from their current organisation or institution.
- **Self-employed individuals, freelancers, or independent consultants** must provide a declaration stating their professional status.
- The application form is open throughout the year.

About NLU :

- Established : 2008
- Chancellor : Satish Chandra Sharma (Chief Justice of Delhi High Court)

Rajasthan cabinet gives approval to ‘Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill’

- The **Rajasthan** Government has announced the **minimum income guarantee** to provide social security to citizens of Rajasthan.
- The Rajasthan government plans to bring a law that promises ‘guaranteed minimum income’ for the poor.
- With this scheme, all families in the state will be able to get an employment guarantee of **125 days every year**, and a minimum pension of **Rs.1,000 per month in case of aged /disabled/single women**.
- Through the **CM Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**, 125 days of employment is provided, instead of 100 days of employment under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)**.

About Rajasthan :

- Governor : Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Capital : Jaipur
- National Park : Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Ker Puja festival celebrated in Tripura

- **Ker Puja** is a **Hindu religious festival** and a state holiday in the north-eastern state of **Tripura** celebrated every year in the month of July.
- Ker, meaning **austerity**.
- In the local tribal language called Kokborok, “Ker” denotes a boundary or a specific area.
- The celebration occurs two weeks after the Kharchi Puja to honor **Ker, the guardian deity of Vastu Devata**.

About Tripura :

- Governor : Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Chief Minister : Manik Saha
- Capital : Agartala
- National Park : Bison (Rajbari) National Park, Clouded Leopard National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary
- Ramsar Site : Rudrasagar Lake
- Famous Festival : Garia Puja, Pilak Festival, Kharchi Festival

Massive ‘shelf cloud’ (Arcus cloud) formation spotted in Haridwar

- A terrifying “**shelf cloud**” OR “**Arcus cloud**” appeared in **Uttarakhand’s Haridwar**.
- A “shelf cloud” or “Arcus cloud” generally forms along the leading edge of thunderstorms.
- It is a type of **low-lying, horizontal cloud formation** characterized by a clearly defined line of solid clouds.
- It is known for its **distinctive wedge-shaped formation**.

What is a Thunderstorm?

- Thunderstorm is a **rain-bearing cloud** that also produces lightning.

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- Thunderstorms form when warm, moist air rises into cold air.

Government of Odisha approved Kui language inclusion in 8th schedule

- The **Government of Odisha cabinet** approved the inclusion of the **Kui language** in the **8th schedule**.
- The cabinet led by Chief Minister **Shri Naveen Patnaik** recommended including the Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- The 8th Schedule to the Constitution consists of **22 languages**.
- The 22 languages now included in the eighth section of the Constitution are, Manipuri, Maithili, Kashmiri, Hindi, Kannada, Gujarati, Konkani, Malayalam, Assamese, Marathi, Nepali, Bengali, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Telugu, Tamil, Odia, Urdu, Bodo, Dogri, and Santhali.

Uttar Pradesh Government nod 2 Thermal Power Projects Worth Rs 18,000 Cr In Sonbhadra's Obra

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** approved the construction of **two "Obra D" thermal power projects** in **Sonbhadra's Obra**, each to be rated at **800 megawatt (MW)** and costing Rs 18,000 crore.

Aim :

- To provide **cheaper electricity** to the people of UP.
- The cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister **Shri Yogi Adityanath**, in which the 'Obra D' thermal power plant was approved.
- The government will implement the projects in a **50:50 partnership** with the central government-owned NTPC.
- The 'Obra D' thermal power plants will be the **state's first ultra super critical unit**.

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

Government of Maharashtra gave Final Nod To Adani For Dharavi Slum Redevelopment Project

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has approved the **Adani group's proposal** to **rehabilitate residents** of **Mumbai's 590-acre Dharavi locality**, home to over 900,000 Indians, almost 8 months after the conglomerate won a tender to develop India's largest slum.
- The Maharashtra cabinet awarded the **Dharavi Redevelopment Project(DRP)** bid to Adani Properties in **December 2022**.

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park : Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

Assam to ban packaged drinking water bottles of less than 1 litre from October 2023

- The **Assam** government has decided to **ban packaged drinking water bottles** of **less than one litre** from October 2, 2023.

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- Chief Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma announced that from **October 2024**, bottles of less than two litres will also be banned in Assam.
- The cabinet decided to ban the production and use of drinking water bottles made of **Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)** of less than one litre in volume.
- At the cabinet meeting, consolidated administrative approval was given for phase I of ADB-aided '**Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project**'.
- It will be executed through **Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam** at a cost of ₹2,097.88 crore.

What is PET?

- Polyethylene terephthalate or PET is a **type of polyester** that is widely used in the **production of plastic bottles, films** and other products.
- It is known for its strength, flexibility and chemical resistance.

About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital : Guwahati
- National Park : Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary

Government of MP & UNFPA launch chatbot for adolescents, young adults on social, sexual health issues

- The **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** government and the **United Nations Population Fund, formerly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)** launched an **Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot** to address the critical need for accurate and accessible information on social issues and **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** among adolescents and young adults.
- The '**Just Ask/Khulke Poochho**' chatbot was launched by MP Health Minister Prabhuram Choudhary and UNFPA India Representative Andrea M Wojnar.
- It features two aspiring role models, **Dhruv** and **Drishti**, who communicate information in a simple and relatable manner.

About MP :

- Governor : Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital : Bhopal
- National Park : Panna National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

About UNFPA :

- Established : 1969
- Headquarters : New York City, United States
- Executive Director : Natalia Kanem
- The UNFPA is a UN agency aimed at **improving reproductive and maternal health worldwide**.

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel Launched New Rural Housing Scheme - Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana

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- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Bhupesh Baghel** launched an ambitious **rural housing scheme** named **Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana**.

Aim :

- To **provide affordable** and **quality housing** to the marginalised sections of society in Chhattisgarh.
- Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana will be funded by the **state government**.
- It will cover **poor families** based on the new survey conducted by the **Department of Panchayat & Rural Development**.
- Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announced to raise the DA of around **5 lakh state government employees** by 4%.

About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister : Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital : Raipur
- National Park : Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

Uttar Pradesh government launched portal for claiming electric vehicle subsidies

- The **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government launched the **subsidy portal, upevsubsidy.in**, paving the way for people to apply online for the subsidy available on purchase of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in UP.
- For buyers purchasing EVs without batteries, the subsidy amount will be **50%** of the total subsidy.
- As of now, there is **no set time limit** for providing the subsidy., upevsubsidy.in.
- This initiative is part of the **Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy, 2022**, which includes a purchase subsidy incentive scheme.
- The development and maintenance of the portal have been entrusted to **UPDESCO (Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Ltd)**.

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

Government of Himachal Pradesh launched “Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojana for women empowerment

- The government of **Himachal Pradesh (HP)** has launched “**Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojana**”, a **collateral-free loan scheme** for women that will empower them.
- It is an initiative of **Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB)**, which will provide loans to women for self-employment and livelihood activities, fulfil their day to day needs, help in becoming financially independent and uplift their socio-economic status.
- Under the scheme, the women applicants need not provide any collateral as security against the loan amount.
- Under the scheme, the bank offers a loan of **Rs 21,000, Rs 51,000 and Rs 1,01,000** at a relatively low-interest rate of **8.51%**.

About HP :

- Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla

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- Chief Minister : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- Capital : Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Daranghati Sanctuary, Kanwar Sanctuary, Rupi Bhawa Sanctuary

Government of Rajasthan introduces India's first gig workers rights bill 2023

- In a bid to become **India's first state** to guarantee social security to **gig workers**, **Rajasthan** tabled the **Rajasthan Platform Based GIG Workers (registration and welfare) Bill, 2023**.
- The provisions of the bill prescribe heavy monetary penalties if the aggregator fails to comply.
- The bill will provide gig workers with the **unique id** which will be uniform across all the platforms.
- Gig workers are those who **work temporary jobs**, typically in the service sector as an independent contractor or freelancer.
- **Delivery partners** for food aggregators such as Swiggy or Zomato are gig workers.

Aim :

- To set up a **welfare fee deduction mechanism** that will be integrated with the aggregator app.

About Rajasthan :

- Governor : Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Capital : Jaipur
- National Park : Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Kerala gets India's first Construction Innovation Hub in Kochi

- **Kerala** got the **country's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH)** that seeks to **promote affordable and sustainable building facilities** so as to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge-sharing among the stakeholders.
- **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** will be **responsible** for the CIH's overall programme management, including the **identification and recruitment of the nascent companies** as well as providing them housing-related **technical mentorship and connections, besides program design and facilitation**.
- It is set up in association with **Habitat for Humanity India (HFHI)**, which is an American non-profit organisation building homes and providing housing-related services to **low-income families**, the CIH is set to be based in Kochi, Kerala.

About Kerala :

- Governor : Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister : Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital : Thiruvananthapuram
- National Park : Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

G20 India - 4th & Final Energy Transitions Working Group to strengthen global cooperation in clean energy transitions held in Goa

- The **4th and final Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG) meeting** under **India's G20 or Group of 20 Presidency** was held in **Goa**.
- The two-day meeting witnessed proactive engagement from over **115 delegates** representing G20 member countries and 9 invitee countries.

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- The 4th ETWG Meeting will be chaired by **Pawan Agarwal**, who serves as the ETWG chair and secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- There are **6 priority areas** outlined under India's G20 Presidency.
- The six priority areas are
 - (i) Energy transitions through addressing technology gaps
 - (ii) Low-cost financing for energy transitions
 - (iii) Energy security and diversified supply chains
 - (iv) Energy efficiency, industrial low carbon transitions, and responsible consumption,
 - (v) Fuels for Future (3F) and
 - (vi) Universal access to clean energy and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition pathways.

Ladakh gets its 1st women's police station in Kargil

- In a significant step towards empowering women and ensuring their safety and security, the **Ladakh Police Department** inaugurated the **first-ever Women Police Station** in **Kargil district**.

Aim :

- To foster trust and cooperation between **women and law enforcement**, ultimately leading to a safer and more secure environment for all residents of Kargil.

About Ladakh :

- Lieutenant Governor : B. D. Mishra
- Capitals : Leh, Kargil

ADB & India has approved a \$200 million loan to support the expansion of urban services in Rajasthan.

- **The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$200 million loan** as additional financing for the ongoing **Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns.**
- The signatories to the loan agreement were **Mr Vumlunmang Vualnam**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, for the Government of India, and **Takeo Konishi**, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, for ADB.

J&K: Farmers receive 14th installment of PMKSNY in their bank accounts

- **In Jammu and Kashmir**, the farmers in various districts also received the **14th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi yojna in their bank accounts.**
- Akashvani Jammu Correspondent reports that in Poonch district, eight crore rupees were transferred to the bank accounts of as many as 37 thousand farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kazinag National Park, Dachigam National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik becomes the 2nd longest-serving CM in India after replacing West Bengal's Jyoti Basu

- Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president **Shri Naveen Patnaik** became **second longest-serving chief minister (CM)** of a state in India with a tenure of **23 years and 139 days** by breaking the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister **Shri Jyoti Basu.**

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- Former Sikkim CM **Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling** holds the record of being the **longest-serving Chief Minister** in the country.
- He was the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state from December 12, 1994 till May 27, 2019 **more than 24 years**.
- **List of the longest-serving chief ministers in India :**

Rank	Name of CM	State/UT	Tenure
1	Pawan Kumar Chamling	Sikkim	24 years, 205 days (12 December 1994 – 27 May 2019)
2	Naveen Patnaik	Odisha	23 years, 139 days (5 March 2000 – Present)
3	Jyoti Basu	West bengal	23 years, 137 days (21 June 1977 – 6 December 2000)
4	Gegong Apang	Arunachal Pradesh	19 years, 14 days (16 February 1980 – 14 March 1999)
5	Lal Thanhawla	Mizoram	18 years, 269 days (18 December 1984 – 28 December 2003)

Bengaluru becomes 1st Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum

- Often hailed as **India's Silicon Valley** and recognized as the **country's fastest-growing** metropolis, **Bengaluru, Karnataka** has become the **first Indian city** to become part of the **World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)** a global network of cities that share **research and intelligence**, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.
- **Bengaluru** became the **41st city & only Indian city** to join the **forum**; the network currently has **40 cities** spanning **6 continents**.

About WCCF :

- Founded : August 2012
- Chair : Justine Simons (London Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries)

Chhattisgarh signs MOU with Tata Technologies to transform 36 Industrial Training Institutes into Industry 4.0 Technology Hub

- The **Chhattisgarh government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** worth **Rs 1,188.36 crore** with Indian multinational product engineering company, **Tata Technologies Limited** to **transform 36 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** into an **Industry 4.0 Technology Hub**.

Aim :

- To train over **10,000 youth** annually in **advanced skills**, **fostering better employment opportunities** and will also provide **employment opportunities** to the **skilled youth**

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About Tata Technologies Limited :

- Founded : 1989
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Warren Harris
- It is a subsidiary of Tata Motors.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

ICICI Lombard & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance jointly launched the combi product ‘ishield’

- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** and **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** have jointly launched a combi product, ‘iShield’, which will provide customers with both **health and life insurance** under the “use and file” procedure.
- “iShield is a one-of-its-kind offering that is synergistic in capabilities and shares the **brand values of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and ICICI Lombard.**”
- iShield, will **enable** customers to take care of **expenses required for medical treatments.**
- Besides, it will also **provide a lump sum amount** to the family in case of the **unfortunate demise** of the **policyholder.**

About ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited:

- Founded : **2001**
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Bhargav Dasgupta
- It is a joint venture between **ICICI Bank- India’s second largest bank** and **Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited-** a financial services company based in **Toronto.**
- ICICI Bank had 64% stake in the venture while Fairfax had 36% in the joint venture.

About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance :

- Founded : 2000 (started its operations in 2001)
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Anup Bagchi
- It is established as a joint venture between ICICI Bank Limited and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited.
- In 2016, the company became the **first insurance company** in India to be listed in the domestic stock exchanges.

Tata AIA partners with WhatsApp & PayU to introduce industry’s 1st premium payment feature

- Tata Group-backed life insurance arm, **Tata AIA** has introduced a **first-of-its-kind** in the insurance industry, by **enabling digital payments** via **WhatsApp** and **Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI).**
- This feature provides an **instant premium payment facility** through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options.
- For easy use for both tech and non-tech-savvy consumers, it also offers a **hassle-free premium payment experience.**
- Through the new feature, policyholders can pay premiums digitally and receive a quick premium payment confirmation & acknowledgement.

About Tata AIA Insurance :

- Established : 2001
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Naveen Tahilyani

RBI concluded norms for banks to hold capital for operational risks

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has finalised the **directions for commercial banks** to hold **sufficient regulatory capital** against their exposures arising from **operational risks**.
- Operational risk means the risk of loss resulting from **inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events**.
- This definition includes legal risk, but excludes strategic and reputational risk.
- The directions require all specified commercial banks, **excluding** local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks, to hold sufficient regulatory capital against their operational risk exposures.

About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das

World Bank approved ₹12,600 crore for India's clean energy transition

- The **World Bank** has approved **USD 1.5 billion (around ₹12,600 crore)** in financing to accelerate **India's low-carbon energy infrastructure**.
- The financing will help India **promote low-carbon energy** by scaling up renewable energy and developing green hydrogen, supporting carbon markets and stimulating climate financing.
- The low-carbon hydrogen energy is produced by **electrolysis of water** powered by renewable energy.
- The **First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation** – the first in a series of two envisaged operations – will support India in developing green hydrogen.
- The program will support the successful implementation of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** that aims to stimulate **\$100 billion** in private sector investment by **2030**.
- India aims to achieve net zero by **2070**.

About World Bank :

- Established : July 7, 1944
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- President : Ajay Banga
- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

Paytm partnered with Shriram Finance to extend digital financial services to small merchants

- The One97 Communications Ltd, owners of the brand **Paytm**, has partnered with retail non-banking finance company (NBFC) **Shriram Finance Limited** to offer **financial services** to its users, including loan products.
- Through this joint venture, Shriram Finance products would be made available on the **digital platform** to further expand Paytm's business to credit services as well, and drive financial inclusion.
- It is powered by Paytm's fintech leadership as a **loan service provider (LSP)** focussed on compliance and quality of loans.
- This partnership will integrate Shriram Finance wide geographical presence across the country especially **rural areas**.

About Paytm :

- Founded : August 2010
- Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Bank of India becomes 1st bank to offer Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Bank of India (BoI)**, one of the largest public sector banks (PSBs) in the country, has become the **first bank** to officially **roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme**.
- The MSSC is a **government-guaranteed limited-period small savings scheme** aimed at **empowering women** and fostering their financial inclusion.
- Under the scheme, **individual girls or women** can open an account, or a guardian can open one on behalf of a minor girl.
- The scheme was announced by **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** during her Budget speech FY 2023-24.
- The scheme offers an interest rate of **7.5% per annum, compounded quarterly**.
- While the minimum investment is **Rs 1,000**, any sum in multiples of Rs 100 can be deposited, up to a maximum limit of **Rs 2 lakh**.
- The account will **mature after 2 years** from the date of opening.
- Accounts under this scheme can be opened until **March 31, 2025**.
- Account closure can be requested by the customer in case of emergencies or at their discretion, with a **penalty of 2% after 6 months** from the date of account opening, and the applicable interest rate will be **5.5%**.

About BoI :

- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnataka
- Tagline : Relationship beyond banking

India Post & Canada Post join hands to facilitate e-commerce

- **India Post** has entered into an **agreement** with **Canada Post** to introduce **International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS)** between the two countries to **facilitate e-commerce exports**.
- India Post already provides ITPS service with **38 partner countries** and **Canada** will be the **39th country**.
- The service was expanded to 38 countries from 16 nations by adding **22 new partners**, including Britain, France, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Oman, etc.

About India Post :

- Established : 1 October 1854
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- India Post is a government-operated postal system in India, part of the Department of Post under the **Ministry of Communications**.

About Ministry of Communications :

- Cabinet Minister : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State : Devusinh Chauhan

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation(HSBC) Limited relaunches private banking in India

- London-based **Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)** has relaunched its **private banking business in India almost 8 years** after it closed the division amid an investigation by India's tax department against individuals who had unaccounted foreign currency accounts in the bank's Swiss branch.
- The private banking business serves **high-net-worth (HNW)** and **ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) individuals** and families with investable assets of more than **\$2 million**.
- According to the **UN department of economic and social affairs, India surpassed the United Kingdom (UK)** as the **world's fifth largest economy** in 2022 and is expected to overtake Japan and Germany by 2027-28.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The bank quoted a Knight Frank wealth report which stated that the number of ultra-high net-worth individuals in India with more than \$30 million to invest will increase **58% by 2027**.

Indian Overseas Bank unveils RuPay Select Debit card

- The **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** unveiled an all-new **RuPay Select Debit card**.
- The RuPay Select debit card will provide “**luxury, convenience, and security, all in one card.**”
- The introduction of the RuPay Select debit card will offer users with **gym memberships, free health check-up, complimentary golf lessons, spa services**, and lounge access in selected domestic and international airports.
- The Eligible One is required to have a savings bank account or a **certificate of deposit (CD)** with IOB, maintaining an average daily balance of **₹ 1 lakh**.
- Cash withdrawal limit is set to **₹50,000**.
- **Daily limit** for usage in merchant establishments (PoS) is set at **₹ 5 lakh**.
- An amount of up to **₹3,50,000** is set for daily usage in **e-commerce platforms**.
- Charges for the issuance of the card and annual maintenance fee is **₹800** along with GST, respectively.

About IOB :

- Established : 10 February 1937
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- Tagline : Good people to grow with

South Indian Bank partners with Mahindra and Mahindra Limited for dealer financing

- **South Indian Bank (SIB)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (Automobile division)** for providing the latter’s dealers with **financing solutions**.
- To provide much-needed **financial support** to M&M’s dealers, allowing them to meet their vehicle inventory funding requirements effectively.
- Under the partnership, SIB will provide unmatched dealer finance solutions to M&M’s dealers, thereby meeting their **vehicle inventory funding requirements**.

About SIB :

- Founded : 1928
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan

About Mahindra & Mahindra Limited :

- Established : 1945
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Anish Shah.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Limited is an **Indian multinational automotive manufacturing corporation**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank partnered with National Payments Corporation of India to offer RuPay credit card on Unified Payments Interface

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**, partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, to introduce the facility of linking its **RuPay Credit Card** to **UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps**.
- Customers are no longer needed to carry their physical credit card.
- Customers can directly link their credit cards to their preferred UPI applications, such as **BHIM, PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay, Slice, MobiKwik**, and others.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- They can choose from **7 RuPay credit cards** and scan Quick Response (QR) codes or initiate transactions on POS (Point of Sale) throughout India.

About kmbli :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Uday Kotak
- Tagline : Let's make money simple

Punjab National Bank partners with Amul to support the finance dealership network under the MUDRA scheme

- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has partnered with **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMFL)**, better known as **Amul**, to offer **financial services** to Amul's supply network pan-India under the **MUDRA scheme**.
- Through this association, both partners are **aiming** to provide support to more than **11 lakh retailers**, wholesale dealers and others.
- The partnership will also involve the integration of various digital channels like **QR codes, point of sale (POS) systems, and Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**.
- Additionally, it will facilitate supply chain finance and digital collection of **Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs)**.
- Moreover, PNB will offer working capital limits and other relevant services.

About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : You Can Bank Upon

About Amul :

- Founded : 14 December 1946
- Headquarters : Anand, Gujarat
- Managing Director : Jayen Mehta
- Amul, a dairy co-operative based in the western state of Gujarat, is one of the largest milk producers in the world.
- It is under the ownership of **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF), Department of Cooperation**, Government of Gujarat.

Bank of India launched “Centralised Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell” to boost priority sector lending

- **Bank of India (BoI)** has launched a ‘**Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell**’ to boost priority sector lending.
- Pool Buy-Out is a well-accepted practice in the **banking industry** to buy out the retail portfolios of **Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** in return for immediate payment.
- The Cell, will be equipped with an **end-to-end digital underwriting system** to onboard pool buy-out and co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs (non-banking finance companies).
- The Cell will onboard loan assets under **Retail, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)** and the **Agriculture segment** with a dedicated team.
- So far, the Bank had been underwriting the aforementioned loans via various branches spread across the country.

About BoI :

- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond banking

SBI launched an upgraded version of the YONO app & an interoperable cardless cash withdrawal facility at ATMs

- As a part of the 68th Bank Day celebrations, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched its **upgraded digital banking application, 'YONO (You Only Need One) for Every Indian'**, and introduced the **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facilities**.
- The YONO app has been revamped, keeping in mind the expectations of customers for a seamless and pleasant digital experience.
- This will further fulfil the goal of making the **'YONO for Every Indian' mission a reality.**"

About SBI :

- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline : The Banker to Every Indian

UPI transactions falls 0.9% in June 2023

- Transactions undertaken on the **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** network dipped **0.9% in June, 2023** both in **terms of volumes** and **value of transactions**, after touching a record high in May, 2023.
- This is the **first decline** in transaction volume **since February 2023**.
- According to **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data**, UPI transactions fell to **₹14.75 lakh crore** in June, with 933 crore transactions being processed during the month.
- The number of transactions was higher by **59%** on the year, and the value of transactions was **45%** higher compared with June 2022.

State Bank of India Grants Rs. 22.5 Crore to IIT-Bombay to Strengthen its data analytics & Artificial Intelligence Capabilities

- On the occasion of 68th Foundation Day of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the bank through its CSR arm SBI Foundation, has pledged a grant of **₹22.5 Crores** to establish a **Banking Data and Analytics Hub** at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B)**.
- The focus of the Hub will be to **address the unique challenges** faced by the Indian banking and financial services sector.
- The collaboration **aims** to leverage SBI's extensive experience in banking and IIT Bombay's research expertise.

Indian bank Collaborate with National E-Governance Services Limited to Introduce digital services under 'Project WAVE' initiative

- Public sector lender **Indian Bank** in collaboration with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, has unveiled new services under its digital transformation initiative - **Project WAVE (world of advanced virtual experiences)**
- In **January 2022**, the process of digitization under Project WAVE was first launched.
- As part of the digital transformation initiative, the Indian bank & NeSL has introduced an **electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) service** to ease traditional paper-based processes.
- This move is expected to significantly **reduce the turnaround time** for issuing and delivering bank guarantees from the industry average of **3-4 working days to just a few minutes**.

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About NeSL :

- NeSL is an **Information Utility (IU)** appointed by the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (“IBBI”)**.
- It is a Union government company and is governed by the provisions of **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)** and **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017**.

About Indian Bank :

- Founded : 15 August 1907
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline : Your Own Bank/ Apka Apna Bank

SEBI imposed Rs 30 lakh penalty on Vedanta Limited for incorrect disclosures

- The Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed a **fine of Rs 30 lakhs** on **Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Limited**.
- The fine has been slapped for the **failure to provide correct disclosures**, including misrepresentation on the company's website.
- In **March, 2023** the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a show cause notice to Vedanta Ltd.
- In September 2021, Vedanta Ltd issued a press release stating that “Vedanta signs **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** with **Gujarat Government** to set up **semiconductors** and display fab units”.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI**

World Bank Approved USD 200 Million Loan To Increase Renewable Energy in Himachal Pradesh

- The **World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors** approved a loan of **USD 200 million** (about Rs 1,600 crore loan) to the **Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP)** to **facilitate power sector reforms & increase the share of renewable energy (RE)** in the state’s electricity generation.
- The \$200 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has a final maturity of **14.5 years** including a grace period of **4.5 years**.
- This will contribute to the state’s overall aim of adding **10,000 megawatts (10 gigawatts)** of additional RE capacity to make the state’s power supply greener.

About World Bank :

- Established : July 7, 1944
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- President : Ajay Banga
- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

Market Regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India mulls consolidated framework for cyber security

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** proposed a **consolidated framework** for **cybersecurity**, laying down a common structure for various regulated entities like **stock exchanges, brokers, asset management companies and portfolio managers**, among others.
- In a consultation paper, titled **Consolidated Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF)**, the SEBI stated that the new framework would supersede nearly 15 circulars issued separately for various segments since **2015**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI**.

State Bank of India opens 34 transaction banking hubs

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest lender, has launched **34 transaction banking hubs** across the top-**21 district centres of India**.
- To provide **comprehensive solutions** for transactions, payments, and collections.
- **Dinesh Khara**, the chairman of the SBI, inaugurated the hubs, on the occasion of the 68th foundation day of the bank.
- The term 'transaction banking' refers to a **range of products, processes, and systems that enable core banking functions** to provide comprehensive solutions for transactions, payments, and collections.

About SBI :

- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline : The Banker to Every Indian

Piramal Finance's 1st all-women branch 'Maitreyi' opens at Tripunithura near Kochi, Kerala

- **Piramal Finance**, a leading housing finance company, has opened its **first all-women branch "Maitreyi"** in the country at Tripunithura, a suburban area in Kochi, **Kerala**.
- This is part of strategic expansion and the company has identified **four more cities** such as **Jaipur, Mumbai, Mohali and New Delhi** to open branches shortly.
- Each Maitreyi branch will have a dedicated team of **7-15 women employees** to cater to the needs of customers which offer a range of services including home loans, MSME loans, and so on.
- With the addition of the new branch, Piramal Finance now has **18 full-service branches** in Kerala and the company is looking at a 500 strong branch network across 1,000 locations in the country this year.

About Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited:

- Founded : 11 April 1984
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director : Jairam Sridharan
- Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited is a **non-deposit taking housing finance company**

Punjab National Bank Launched India's First Virtual Branch in Metaverse

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched **India's first virtual branch in Metaverse**.

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- With this, the bank will be able to deliver a **unique experience** to its customers, who can now explore **bank deposits, digital payments, senior citizen deposits, and flagship schemes** of the government of India.
- With the help of this, customers can explore the bank's products and services such as bank deposits, **retail/Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans, digital products, women/senior citizens, 'Do It Yourself', and government flagship schemes.**
- In addition, the bank will offer an **immersive 3D experience** to customers while they perform traditional banking activities through their digital avatars.

About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : You Can Bank Upon

National Housing Bank operationalises ₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund

- The **National Housing Bank (NHB)** has operationalised the **₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** announced in this year's Budget for the creation of **urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.**
- UIDF has been launched to supplement the efforts of the State governments by providing a **stable and predictable source of finance** for the creation of urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- As many as **459 tier-2 cities** with a population of **50,000 to less than a lakh** and **580 tier-3 cities** with a population of **one lakh** to less than a million as per the 2011 census are being covered under UIDF as of now.
- Interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at the **bank rate minus 1.5%** i.e., **5.25%** at present.

About NHB :

- Founded : 9 July 1988
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Managing Director : Sarada Kumar Hota
- The NHB is the apex **regulatory body** for the **overall regulation and licensing of housing finance companies** in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank's ₹500-crore initial public offering to be open for subscription from July 12-14

- **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (SFB)** will launch its **₹500 crore initial public offering (IPO)** on July 12, 2023 with the price band being set at ₹23-25.
- The IPO, entirely a fresh issue of shares, will close for subscription on July 14, 2023.
- Minimum Bid Lot is **600 equity shares.**
- While **not less than 75%** of the issue would be available for allocation to QIBs, up to 15% is reserved for non-institutional investors and the balance 10% for retail individual investors.

About Utkarsh Small Finance Bank :

- Founded : 2016 (started operating in 2017)
- Headquarters : Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India
- MD & CEO : Govind Singh
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited is an Indian small finance bank (SFB) with a portfolio surpassing ₹6000 crore that spans from Fiscal 2019 to Fiscal 2023.
- It has the **third highest growth rate** in Gross Loan Portfolio among SFBs.
- The sole promoter of the bank is Utkarsh CoreInvest Limited, formerly known as Utkarsh Micro Finance Limited.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

ESAF Small Finance Bank refiles Draft Red Herring prospectus for ₹629 crore IPO

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd**, a Small Finance Bank with a focus on unbanked and under-banked customer segments, especially in rural and semi-urban areas has filed its **Draft Red Herring prospectus (DRHP)** with capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India to raise Rs 629.04 crore through for its initial public offering (IPO).
- Earlier, the bank had filed its DRHP in **July 2021**.
- The IPO will include a fresh issue up to **₹486.74 crore** and an offer for sale of up to ₹142.30 crore by promoter and other selling shareholders.
- The offer for sale comprises up to ₹119.26 crore by ESAF Financial Holdings Private Ltd, up to ₹12.67 crore by PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd, up to ₹10.37 crore by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd.

About ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd :

- Founded : March 2017
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala
- MD & CEO : K. Paul Thomas
- Tagline : Joy Of Banking

IRDAI retains mandatory cession of business in favour of General Insurance Corporation of India at 4% for FY24

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has maintained the status quo on obligatory cession of business for the financial year 2023-24 at **4%** in favour of **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.
- The government had notified the move recently saying that the **entire Obligatory Cession is to be placed with GIC Re only**. Obligatory cession refers to the part of the business that general insurance companies have to mandatorily cede to the national reinsurer GIC Re.
- Private general insurers are against any obligatory cession to GIC Re as it **doesn't give them any freedom to place the reinsurance business** the way they like and with the reinsurers they like.

About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

About GIC Re :

- Founded : 22 November 1972 under Companies Act, 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman-and-Managing Director : Devesh Srivastava
- GIC Re, is an Indian public sector reinsurance company.

PhonePe launched a one-stop Point-of-sale solution for merchant partners

- **PhonePe** launched its **Point-of-sale (POS) device** that enables merchants to accept payments via Debit Cards, Credit Cards and UPI, providing them with a simple and seamless settlement experience.
- The device comes preloaded with the PhonePe POS App and supports transactions through tap/swipe/dip and interoperable QR codes.
- The POS device, built on the Android platform, revolutionises the checkout experience for businesses.
- Its reliability and security are topnotch, backed by the **PCI-PTS 6 certification**, safeguarding both merchant and consumer data.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

About Phonepe :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam

Indian Banks' Association sets up 5-member group to implement RBI committee's recommendations on Asset Reconstruction Companies

- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **5-member working group** for implementing the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India's committee on the “**working of the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)**”.
- **The Group comprises :**
- Ajit Kumar, MD, and CEO, of the Secondary Loan Market Association (SLMA)
- Hari Hara Mishra, CEO, of the Association of ARCs in India.
- Mythili Balasubramanian, Executive Director, Edelweiss ARC
- Dharmendra Pali, senior officials from the State Bank of India
- Anupama Ranade, senior officials from the ICICI Bank

About IBA :

- Established : 26 September 1946
- CEO : Sunil Mehta
- The IBA is a **representative body** of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- IBA currently represents **247 banking companies** operating in India.

RBI panel suggests measures for internationalisation of rupee

- A **Reserve Bank-appointed committee** suggested a host of **short-term and long-term measures** for the **internationalisation of the Indian rupee**, including efforts for inclusion of the Indian currency in the **International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket**.
- The recommendations by an **Inter-Departmental Group (IDG)**, headed by RBI Executive Director **Radha Shyam Ratho**.
- The group was constituted by RBI Deputy Governor **T Rabi Sankar** to review the position of the rupee as an international currency and to frame a road map for the internationalisation of the domestic currency.

About ACU :

- Established : 1974
- ACU is a **regional payment and settlement system** that facilitates trade and financial transactions among member countries in Asia.

About CLS System :

- Established : 2002
- CLS system is a financial market infrastructure that provides a settlement service for **foreign exchange (FX) transactions**.

About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

SEBI permits private equity funds to become mutual fund sponsors

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has laid down **new rules** for **private equity funds sponsoring mutual fund houses and self-sponsored asset management companies (AMCs)**.
- Any entity that owns **40%** or more stake in a mutual fund is considered a sponsor.
- Currently, mutual fund houses must have a sponsor and must be a business in financial services such as **banking, stock broking, housing finance company**.
- The new regulatory framework for Private equity firms acting as sponsors will be effective from **August 1, 2023** with the deployment of liquid net worth by AMCs becoming applicable from **January 1, 2024**.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI**.

The government allowed Non-Resident Indians as nominees in Small Savings Schemes

- According to the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** notification, a **non-resident Indian (NRI)** can now be made a **nominee** for government saving schemes such as **Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Saving Certificate (NSC)** and **post offices savings**.
- Besides, the government permitted applicants to make changes to their **names or surnames**.
- These changes are part of a list of amendments to the **Government Savings Promotion General Rules**, as notified by the Finance Ministry.

Citi Commercial Bank launched new digital client platform - CitiDirect Commercial Banking

- **Citi Commercial Bank (CCB)** has launched a **digital client platform** called **CitiDirect Commercial Banking** in the **United States of America (USA)** for its commercial bank customers, bringing together all of its products and services in one place.
- CitiDirect Commercial Banking promises to provide clients with a **360° consolidated view** of their relationship across **Cash, Loans, Trade, Foreign Exchange (FX), Servicing and Onboarding**.
- The platform is currently live in the U.S., with over **two thirds** of **United States (US) client base** actively using the platform, and CCB plans to pilot it in the second half of 2023 across **Hong Kong, India, Singapore, and the United Kingdom (UK)**.

About Citi Commercial Bank :

- Headquarters : New York, United States of America
- Global Head : Tasnim Ghiawadwala

RBI rejects 3 applications for small finance bank licenses

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **rejected applications** received from **Cosmea Financial Holdings, West End Housing Finance and Akhil Kumar Gupta** to **start small finance banks (SFB)** in the private sector.
- These applications were found not suitable for granting of in-principle approval to set up small finance banks.
- RBI had received about a dozen applications to set up banks under the guidelines for '**on tap**' **Licensing of Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**.
- In **May, 2022** it announced the decisions on **6 applications**.

About RBI :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

About SFB :

- Banks with a small finance bank (SFB) licence can provide basic banking service of acceptance of deposits and lending.
- To provide **financial inclusion** to sections of the economy not being served by other banks, such as small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.
- It is regulated by RBI under **Banking Regulations Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934.**

24 Central Banks to have Digital Currencies by 2030 - BIS survey

- According to a survey by the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, by **2030, 24 central banks** are expected to have **digital currencies** in circulation.
- This includes up to **15 retail** and **9 wholesale central bank digital currencies (CBDC)**.
- In total, the share of central banks that said they were engaged in some form of CBDC-related work rose to **93%**.

About Bank for International Settlements :

- Established : 17 May 1930
- Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland
- Chair: François Villeroy de Galhau, Paris.
- General Manager : Agustín Carstens
- The BIS is an **international financial institution** which is owned by member central banks.

Razorpay India launched 1st international payment gateway in Malaysia via Curlec

- India's fintech giant and leading Full-Stack Payments, and Business Banking Platform, **Razorpay**, launched its **first international Payment Gateway in Malaysia** for the Malaysian market with **Curlec**, now known as **'Curlec By Razorpay'**.
- The new Curlec payment gateway will serve more than 5,000 businesses with a target of Malaysian ringgits **10 billion** in annualized gross transaction value (GTV) by **2025**.

About Razorpay India :

- Established : 2014
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founders: Harshil Mathur, Shashank Kumar

About Curlec :

- Founded : 2017
- Founders : Zac Liew, Steve Kucia
- Currently, Curlec serves more than 700 businesses in Malaysia such as Tune Protect, CTOS, Courts, Mary Kay, and The National Kidney Foundation.

IDFC FIRST Bank, Mastercard & Club Vistara launched new travel credit card to Redefine Travel Experiences

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has collaborated with **Club Vistara** and **Mastercard** to introduce a **travel credit card**.
- It is designed to provide exciting travel and lifestyle-related offers to cardholders.
- **CFAR Insurance**: The card offers a cover on non-refundable components of any travel booking with up to two claims worth up to **Rs. 10,000** on Flight & Hotel booking for the cardholder, under **Cancelled For Any Reason (CFAR) Insurance**.

About IDFC FIRST Bank :

[Click Here For Bundle PDF Course](#)

[Click Here to Subscribe Our Yearly Mock Test Package](#)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Established : 2018
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- The bank formed by the merger of the banking arm of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC)** and **Capital First**, an Indian non-bank financial institution.
- It is the **first universal bank** to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates

About Mastercard :

- Founded : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, United States
- CEO : Michael Miebach

Max Life Insurance partnered with DCB Bank to offer comprehensive range of life insurance solutions

- **Max Life Insurance Company** has partnered with **DCB Bank** to provide a variety of **life insurance products**, including term, savings, and retirement plans, allowing them to protect their financial future and expand their investment portfolio.

Aim :

- To empower DCB Bank's customers by providing them with innovative and flexible life insurance products that cater to their needs.

About Max Life Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Prashant Tripathy
- It is a 80:20 joint venture (JV) between Max Financial Services and Axis Bank.

About DCB Bank :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Murali M. Natrajan
- It is a **scheduled commercial bank** regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- DCB Bank, is a new generation private sector bank with 427 branches (as on March 31, 2023) across India.

RBI to Enable UPI QR Codes for Central Bank digital currency Transactions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is planning to **increase Central Bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions** by **introducing QR codes**.

Aim :

- To reach **1 million transactions** through CBDC per day by the end of the current calendar year.
- At present, banks process **5,000-10,000 transactions per day**.
- The e-rupee was introduced by RBI on **1 December 2022** on a pilot basis for retail transactions.
- The interoperability of QR codes will promote **central bank digital currency (CBDC) transactions**.
- At present, a limited number of merchants are accepting CBDC.
- **13 banks** that have been authorized to handle CBDC have attained partial interoperability.

About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

India & UAE set up Framework For Local Currency Settlement In Cross-Border Transactions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE)** signed **two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** in **Abu Dhabi** for establishing a framework to promote the **use of local currencies** for cross-border transactions; and cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The MoUs were signed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** and the CBUAE Governor **Khaled Mohamed Balama**.

Aim :

- To facilitate seamless **cross border transactions** and payments, and **foster greater economic cooperation** between the two countries.

About the MoUs :

- The 1st MoU focuses on establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies, specifically the **Indian rupee (INR)** and the **UAE Dirham (AED)**, for cross-border transactions.
- The 2nd MoU centers on cooperation between the **payment** and **messaging systems** of the two central banks.

About UAE :

- President : Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : UAE dirham

HDFC Bank Becomes 1st to Link Digital Rupee With UPI QR Code

- **HDFC Bank** has launched **Unified Payments Interface Quick Response Code (UPI QR code)** interoperable with India's sovereign digital currency, **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
- With this, HDFC Bank became one of the **first banks** in the country to complete the integration process.
- With the interoperable UPI QR code, HDFC Bank merchants who have been onboarded on its CBDC platform can accept payments from their customers in the form of **Digital Rupee currency**.

About CBDC :

- A CBDC is a **digital currency** issued by a central bank, rather than by a commercial bank.
- It is also a **liability** of the central bank and denominated in the sovereign currency, as is the case with physical banknotes and coins.
- The RBI on **November 1, 2022**, started a pilot on CBDC in the wholesale segment & it further rolled out retail testing on **December 1, 2022**.
- **Two broad categories** of CBDC can be distinguished:
 1. General-purpose or retail (CBDC-R)
 2. Wholesale (CBDC-W).
- The **private sector, non-financial customers**, and **enterprises** might all potentially use retail CBDC (e-R), but wholesale CBDC (e-W) is only intended for **certain financial institutions**.

SEBI tightens disclosure norms for listed firm

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **tightened the disclosure norms** for listed companies with **strict timelines** and introduced criteria for determining the materiality of events.
- Under the framework, the regulator asked listed companies to disclose family settlement agreements, which can impact the management and control of such firms to stock exchanges.
- These agreements must be disclosed in **12 hours** if a listed entity is a party and in 24 hours if the listed entity is not a party.

About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, GoI.

SEBI mandates certification for Environmental, Social, Governance rating providers within six months

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, has mandated that all entities providing **ESG (environmental, social, governance) rating services** will have to get a **certification** from the regulator **within 6 months**.
- This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred by **Section 11 (1) of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992** read with the provisions of Regulation 20 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999, to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate, the securities market.
- The ESG rating service provider will have to be incorporated as a company under the Companies Act, **2013**, and have specified ESG rating activity, as the main object in its **Memorandum of Association**.

Fincare Small Finance Bank launched brand campaign “The Great Indian FD Fest”

- **Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (FSFBL)** has launched its **multilingual campaign ‘The Great Indian Fixed Deposit (FD) Fest’** featuring brand ambassador **Viswanathan Anand**.

Objective :

- To **raise awareness** about the bank’s **interest rate** offering for all categories of customers.
- At present the bank is offering rates as high as **9.11%** for **senior citizens** and **8.51%** for **general citizens**.

About Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited :

- Established : 05 April 1995
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- MD & CEO : Rajeev Yadav

PayU, AWS & Chiratae Ventures collaborates to launch Fintech Startup Accelerator Programme inFINity for early-stage start-ups

- Payments service provider **PayU** has launched a **45-day fintech accelerator program, inFINity** for early-stage Indian startups in collaboration with **Amazon Web Services (AWS) India**, a cloud platform, and venture capital firm **Chiratae Ventures**.

Aim :

- To support the growth of **early-stage fintech startups** by providing access to mentorship from industry experts, curated resources, and AWS Activate credits.
- The deadline to apply for the cohort is **August 11, 2023**.

About PayU India :

- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- CEO : Anirban Mukherjee

RBI Cancelled Licences Of 2 Cooperative Banks - Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank & Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank due to Inadequate Capital

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licences of 2 cooperative banks- **Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank, Tumkur**, situated in Karnataka, and **Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Wai, Satara** in Maharashtra, because of inadequate capital and no earning prospect.
- On liquidation, each depositor will be entitled to receive the deposit insurance claim amount of up to **Rs 5 lakh** from the DICGC.
- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** will pay the full amount to around **99.96%** of depositors of Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank.

About DICGC :

- Established : July 1978 under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dr. M.D. Patra
- DICGC is a fully owned subsidiary of RBI.
- DICGC is a **specialised division** of RBI which is under the jurisdiction of **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India (GoI).
- It insures deposits in public and private sector banks, local area banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks, Indian branches of foreign banks and payments banks.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

Google Pay introduced UPI Lite to enhance small value transactions

- **Google Pay**, the second largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform in the country, has started rolling out the **UPI Lite feature** for users in India.
- With UPI Lite, Google Pay users can make everyday payments for everyday items such as groceries, snacks, and cab rides faster.

What is UPI Lite?

- UPI Lite is a digital payment service designed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- It was launched by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **September 2022**.

Purpose :

- To make **digital payments simple and fast**.
- Users can send up to **₹200 money** with a single tap from their UPI Lite account.
- The maximum per day limit for adding funds to your UPI Lite account is **INR 4000**.
- Notably, as of now **15 banks** support UPI LITE.

Note :

- **PhonePe** is India's 1st largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform.

State Bank of India raised Rs 3,101 crore via AT1 bond at 8.1%

- Country's largest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)**, has raised **Rs 3,101 crore capital via additional tier I bonds (AT1) or perpetual bonds** at a coupon of **8.1%**.
- This is **15 basis points lower than** the pricing for its previous AT1 bond issued at 8.25% in March, 2023.

What are AT-1 bonds?

- AT-1 bonds, or Additional Tier-1 bonds, are **unsecured, perpetual bonds** issued by banks to strengthen their core capital base in compliance with Basel-III norms.
- AT-1 bonds are considered **riskier than other debt instruments** because they can be written down before equity, resulting in losses for investors.

About SBI :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- CFO : Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

Rural areas have the least Number of functioning offices of payments banks - Crisil

- According to **Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics (MI&A)**, **Rural areas** have the **least presence of payments banks' (PBs')** functioning offices, whereas **urban areas** have the **highest number** of functioning offices (44%).
- At the end of December 2022, **semi-urban areas** have the second highest (40%) number of functioning offices of payments banks.
- Urban and semi-urban areas were followed by metropolitan (11%) and rural areas (5%).
- **6 payments banks** had a total number of 741 functioning offices at the end of December 2022.
- **Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), Fino Payments Bank, PayTM Payments Bank, NSDL Payments Bank and Jio Payments Bank** are the six PBs that are currently in operation.

What is Mutual fund penetration?

- Mutual fund penetration is defined as **mutual fund assets** under management as a percentage of GDP.

About Payments banks :

- Payments banks are allowed a maximum balance of **₹2 lakh per individual customer** at the end of the day.
- They are allowed to function as a business correspondent of another bank.
- They can distribute simple financial products like mutual fund units and insurance products.
- They cannot undertake lending activities.

India needs average annual 7.6% GDP growth to make it as a developed nation by 2047 - RBI

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- According to an article in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) latest monthly bulletin, **India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) needs to grow at 7.6% per annum** over the next 25 years for it to become a developed country by **2047-48**.
- India's per capita income is currently estimated at **\$2,500**, while it must be more than **\$21,664** by 2047, as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a **high-income country**.
- It must be noted that as per **World Bank classification**, a country with a per capita income of **US\$ 13,205** or more in 2022-23 is classified as a high-income country.
- To achieve this target, the required real GDP **compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) for India** works out to be **7.6%** during 2023-24 to 2047-48.

DICGC asks insured banks to display its logo & QR code on the website

- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** has asked all insured banks to **display the DICGC Logo and QR code (quick-response code)** linked to its website on the banks' internet banking portals and websites.
- These decisions have been taken to enhance awareness about **Deposit Insurance**.
- This will allow customers to conveniently **identify banks** covered by the Deposit Insurance Scheme of DICGC.

IRDAI appointed Tata AIG General Insurance as a lead non-life insurer for Maharashtra

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has selected **Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited** as the non-life insurer for the State of **Maharashtra** to initiate and drive activities in collaboration with all other non-life and health insurance companies to increase insurance penetration in the State in line with its vision "**Insurance for all by the year 2047**".
- The IRDAI has also identified key segments such as **Motor Insurance, Health Insurance, and Crop Insurance, support of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and employment-related**.
- Tata AIG will also assist in promoting the adoption of flagship government schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**.

About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a **statutory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

About Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Neelesh Garg
- Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited is an **Indian general insurance company** and a joint venture (JV) between the **Tata Group** and **American International Group (AIG)**.
- Tata Group holds a **74% stake** in the insurance venture with AIG holding the balance of **26%**.

Incremental credit-deposit ratio of banks slides to 63.7% in Q1 for FY24

- The **incremental credit-deposit (C/D) ratio** of all scheduled banks decreased to **63.7%** in Q1 of FY24.
- The incremental credit-deposit (C/D) ratio was **100.32%** in the year-ago quarter.
- As per the RBI's latest "**Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India**", **banks' credit** in Q1 of FY24 grew by **₹7,16,738 crore** and their deposits grew by **₹11,25,043 crore**.

What is the Incremental CD ratio (ICDR)?

- Incremental CD ratio (ICDR) is the **ratio of change** in credit year-on-year to the change in deposit year-on-year.
- If the incremental CD ratio increases **beyond 100%** then the credit growth is **outstripping growth** in deposit.

Bank of India inaugurated IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Bank of India (BoI)** inaugurated its **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** in the **International Financial Services Centre at GIFT SEZ area** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- BOI has targeted to achieve **\$1 billion** in business by March 2024 and \$4 billion in the subsequent three years.
- Bank of India has a presence in **15 foreign countries** through 21 overseas branches, 4 overseas subsidiaries, one joint venture, and one representative office.
- In addition, BoI also inaugurated the **NRI Help Center (NRI HC)** located in the premises of the **Centralised Foreign Exchange Back Office (FEBO)** in the domestic sector of GIFT City.

About BoI :

- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond banking

Reserve Bank of India released a notification addressing all banks regarding inclusion of “NongHyup Bank” in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a notification addressing **all banks** regarding the **inclusion** of “NongHyup Bank” in the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- This notification informs banks about the recent addition of NongHyup Bank to the regulated list.

About NongHyup Bank :

- Established : 2012
- NongHyup Bank (formerly **National Agricultural Cooperative Federation**) is a commercial bank in **Seoul, South Korea**.
- On 29 April 2021, Nonghyup Bank was granted a Hong Kong banking licence.

PNB launched 'Project PNB PALAASH' for environmental sustainability

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched its **environmental initiative 'PNB Palaash'**, an 8-month period campaign to embrace sustainability.
- The campaign would lead to **cost savings** and **operational efficiencies** through measures such as energy and resource conservation, paper reduction, waste management and streamlined digital processes.

Primary Objective :

- To actively contribute to conservation endeavours, foster the adoption of sustainable practices, and promote active employee engagement.
- Under this initiative, **1 lakh plus employees** of PNB will plant a minimum of two saplings each.

About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline : You Can Bank Upon

HDFC Bank Enters \$100 Billion Market-Cap List & Becomes world's 7th Largest Global Lender

- Private lender **HDFC Bank** entered the coveted **\$100 billion market-cap** club becoming the **7th largest global lender**.
- The HDFC bank's market capitalization reached **\$151 billion**, surpassing that of Morgan Stanley and Bank of China.

World's largest banks by market value :

Rank	Bank	Market Capitalization (\$ billion)
1	JPMorgan Chase	438
2	Bank of America	232

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3	ICBC	224
4	Agricultural Bank of China	171
5	Wells Fargo	163
6	HSBC	160
7	HDFC Bank	151
8	Morgan Stanley	143
9	China Construction Bank	141
10	Bank of China	138
11	Royal Bank Of Canada	136
12	Toronto Dominion Bank	118
13	Commonwealth Bank	115
14	CM Bank	112
15	Goldman Sachs	108

US International Development Finance Corporation provides \$50 million loan to IIFL Home Finance

- **IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFLHFL)**, a digital first home finance company, has secured a **\$50 million loan** from **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**.
- The proceeds of the loan will be used to finance affordable home loans with a special focus on **sustainable housing**.
- IIFLHFL caters to the diverse financial needs of the **economically weaker sections (EWS)** and **lower income groups (LIG)** through its pan India distribution network across **Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4** cities and towns.
- As of **March 31, 2023**, it has fulfilled the home ownership dream of nearly 1 lakh customers in the informal income segment and has served over **213,700 first time homeowners**.

About IIFL Home Finance Ltd :

- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- Executive Director & CEO : Monu Ratra

About US International Development Finance Corporation :

- Established : December 20, 2019
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- CEO : Scott A. Nathan
- The United States International Development Finance Corporation is a **development finance institution** and agency of the United States federal government.

FSIB recommends 16 candidates for ED position in public sector banks

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **16 candidates** for the position of **executive directors (EDs)** in **public sector banks (PSBs)** for FY24.
- FSIB interviewed 72 candidates from various public sector banks between July 1 and July 15, 2023.
- India currently has **12 public sector banks**: Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, and Union Bank of India.

What is FSIB?

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) was formed effective from **July 01, 2022** by the Central Government.
- It replaced the **Bank Board's Bureau (BBB)** which was declared an incompetent authority.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Bhanu Pratap Sharm
- It has been formed for the **purpose** of recommending persons for appointment as whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons on the **Boards of financial services institutions**.
- It also advises on certain other matters relating to **personnel management** in **financial services institutions**.

PhonePe Launched India's 1st Health Insurance Platform With Monthly Subscription

- PhonePe Insurance Broking Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of **PhonePe Private Limited**, has launched **health insurance plans** offering comprehensive insurance in partnership with **leading insurers**.
- With this, PhonePe has also introduced **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) monthly mode of payment**, making them affordable for customers.
- These health insurance plans, which come with coverage up to **Rs 1 crore**.

About PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd. :

- PhonePe Insurance Broking Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of PhonePe Pvt. Ltd. and is registered with **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** as a **Direct Broker (Life and General)**

About Phonepe :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam
- PhonePe has been recognized as the **Most Trusted Brand for Digital Payments** as per the Brand Trust Report for two consecutive years (2022 & 2023) by **Trust Research Advisory (TRA)**.

RBI cancelled licence of Uttar Pradesh-based United India Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cancelled** the licence of **United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Nagina, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh (UP)** and asked the bank not to carry on any banking business.
- The RBI cancelled the licence of the bank as the bank **does not have adequate capital** and earning prospects and the continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors
- The bank does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- On liquidation, the RBI stated that every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of **₹5,00,000** from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961.
- Liquidation is the **process of permanently closing a bank** and its branches, selling off any assets and using the proceeds to settle as many of the bank's remaining liabilities as possible.

SBI to establish new trustee company for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** will set up a **new trustee company** as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**.
- SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML), the **asset management company (AMC)** of SBI Mutual Fund, has been identified as the investment manager-cum-sponsor of CDMDF, India's largest bank stated in a regulatory filing. SBI has **62.53% stake** in SBIFML.

PSBs to step up one-time settlement in written-off loans to meet 40% recovery target set by Finance Ministry - RBI

- **Public sector banks (PSBs)** are expected to step up **one-time settlement (OTS)** in **written-off loans** as the Finance Ministry and the RBI have emphasised on the importance of **improving recovery** from these accounts.

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- Since legal action can be drawn out, the state-owned lenders are seen actively pursuing OTS to meet the Finance Ministry-set target of making about **40% recovery** from written-off loan accounts.
- Banks can initiate legal recovery proceedings against delinquent borrowers via four channels – the National Company Law Tribunal, the Debt Recovery Tribunal, **SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest) Act, 2002**, and Lok Adalats.

IRDAI Appoints Cholamandalam MS Insurance Asa Lead Insurer for West Bengal

- Non-life insurer **Cholamandalam MS Insurance** has been appointed lead insurer for **West Bengal** by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- This designation aligns with IRDAI's vision of "**Insurance for All by 2047**" and aims to enhance insurance awareness and penetration throughout West Bengal.
- In this role, it will focus on various aspects of **health protection, coverage against natural calamities, increasing employment opportunities for locals, and protecting MSME businesses through comprehensive insurance offerings.**

About Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd (Chola MS) :

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- MD & CEO : V. Suryanarayanan
- Chola MS is an Indian insurance firm and a joint venture between the **Murugappa Group**, an Indian conglomerate, and the **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group**, a Japanese insurance company.

PFRDA invites bids for PINTRA, its intranet system

- Pension regulator, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, is seeking bids for its intranet portal - **PINTRA** as part of their digital transformation through its **Technology Architecture (TARCH) project**.
- The organisation is specifically looking for a **system integrator (SI) vendor** to study processes, proposing improved workflows.
- The SI vendor will be responsible for **studying existing processes, proposing improved workflows, and providing design, development, customisation, implementation, and maintenance services** for PINTRA.
- The deadline for bid submission regarding the selection of an SI for the PINTRA project is **August 16, 2023**.

About PFRDA :

- Founded : 23 August 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Deepak Mohanty
- PFRDA is the regulatory body for overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in the Government of India (GoI).

SBI-led consortium to fund Adani Group's ₹34,000-crore polyvinyl chloride project in Mundra

- In one of the largest fundraising by the **Adani Group** from Indian banks since the allegations by Hindenburg Research, a **State Bank of India (SBI)**-led consortium of banks has agreed to finance a significant part of the Adani Group's **₹34,000-crore polyvinyl chloride (PVC) project in Mundra**.
- The funding for the first phase of the project will be taken by the **public sector banks (PSBs)** which will pick up the bulk of the tab of around **₹14,500 crore**.
- The remaining amount will be financed by **private lenders**.
- The project, undertaken by **Adani Enterprises subsidiary Mundra Petrochem**, aims to establish a plant with an annual capacity of **1 million tonnes** in the first phase, costing around **\$2.5 billion**.

About SBI :

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- Established : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- CFO : Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

Universal Postal Union to evaluate UPI platform for cross-border remittances using global postal network

- The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** has announced plans to **evaluate** the **integration** of the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** with **cross-border remittances** using the global postal network.

Aim :

- To explore the potential of UPI in facilitating **secure** and **efficient international money transfers**.
- UPI offers a **secure, convenient, and real-time payment experience**, making it a promising platform for cross-border remittances.

About UPU :

- Established : 9 October 1874
- Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland
- Director General : Masahiko Metoki
- It is a **United Nations specialised agency** and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- UPU is the **second oldest international organisation** worldwide.
- India joined the UPU in **1876**.
- The organization consists of **4 bodies: Congress, the Council of Administration (CA), the Postal Operations Council (POC), and the International Bureau (IB)**.
- It also oversees the **Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives**.
- The UPU currently has **192 members** (190 states and two joint memberships of dependent territories groups).

ESAF Small Finance Bank scores high in ESG assessment

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has achieved a **high score of 71** in an **Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) assessment** conducted by **CareEdge Research**.
- By surpassing the industry average of **59.8** the Bank has showcased that its environmental, social and governance practices are set at a higher standard than the industry average.
- For the environmental pillar, the bank achieved a score of **62%**.
- For the social pillar, the Bank achieved a score of **68%** by demonstrating healthy labour management practices.
- For the governance pillar, the bank achieved a score of **76%** due to its board governance and disclosure practices.

About ESAF Small Finance Bank :

- Founded : 10 March 2017
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala
- Chairperson : P. R. Ravi Mohan
- MD & CEO : K. Paul Thomas
- ESAF Small Finance Bank is an Indian small finance bank providing **banking services** and **small loans** to the **underbanked**.

ADB retained India's GDP Growth forecast at 6.4% for current fiscal

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- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** retained **India's economic growth forecast** at **6.4%** for the current financial year (FY2023) and 6.7% for the next financial year (FY2024).
- This comes after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee projected GDP growth of 2023-24 at **6.5%**.
- The real GDP growth for 2022-23 fiscal ended March 2023 was recorded at **7.2%**.

About ADB :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

SBI Capital, Anarock, KPMG & 8 others to provide transaction advisory services for asset monetisation of Central Public Sector Enterprises

- In a push to asset monetisation of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**, the Centre has empaneled **11 firms to provide consultancy services**.
- The firms include **SBI Capital Markets Limited, CBRE South Asia Private Limited, Ernst & Young LLP, Cushman Wakefield India Private Limited, KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, Colliers International (India) Property Services Private Limited, Anarock Property Consultants Private Limited, Jones Lang La Salle Property Consultant (India) Private Limited, Darashaw & Company Private Limited and Rites Limited**, an order by **National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC)** showed.

SEBI introduced 6 new mutual fund strategies under ESG theme

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed **asset management companies (AMCs)** to launch funds under **6 new strategies** under the **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) thematic category**.
- Currently, regulatory requirements allow mutual funds to launch **only one scheme** with ESG investing under the thematic category for equity schemes.

6 New strategies :

1. **'Exclude' securities**
 2. **'Integration' themed funds**
 3. **'Best-in-class & Positive Screening' strategy**
 4. **'Impact' investing**
 5. **'Sustainable' objective funds**
 6. **'Transition or Transition Related' schemes**
- As per SEBI, a minimum of **80%** of the total **assets under management (AUM)** of ESG schemes would need to be invested in equity instruments of that particular strategy of the scheme.
 - BRSR or Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report requires listed companies in India to **disclose information** under the **9 principles** of the **National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct**.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs exempts regional rural banks from CCI's merger control regime

- The Centre has **exempted Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** from the purview of **merger control regime** of **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
- The **Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA)** stated that the exemption from prior scrutiny and approval of CCI would be available for **5 years**.

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- As per the order of MCA, RRBs are exempted from the application provisions of **section 5 and 6** of the **Competition Act, 2002** for 5 years.
- In **2020, 10 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) banks** were merged into **4**.
- The overall number of Public sector banks (PSBs) was reduced to **12 banks**.

What is RRBs?

- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are government owned **scheduled commercial banks of India**, under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) that operate at regional level in different states of India.
- The RRBs were owned by the **central government, state government, and the sponsoring bank** with **50%, 15%, and 35% shareholding** respectively.
- The **Prathama Bank of Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP)** was the first RRB.
- There are about **43 RRBs (as of 2021)** in India and these entities are regulated by the RBI.

About CCI :

- Established : 14 October 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Ravneet Kaur
- The CCI is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

About Ministry of Corporate Affairs :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Rao Inderjit Singh

India's forex reserves swells by USD 12.74 bn to USD 609.02 billion

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that **India's forex reserves** have swelled by **USD 12.743 billion to USD 609.022 billion** in July 14,2023 making it one of the strongest weekly surges in the kitty.
- In the previous reporting week, forex reserves had increased by **USD 1.23 billion** to reach at USD 596.28 billion.

Karnataka Bank hosts 'KBL - FinOne' - fintech partnership programme in Bengaluru

- Private sector lender, **Karnataka Bank** hosted the **first edition of 'KBL - FinOne'**, a fintech partnership programme, in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Objective :

- Forging collaborations to **develop innovative business models**, providing seamless banking experience and offering a complete product suite.
- The event is hosted in association with "**The Fintech Meetup**".

About Karnataka Bank :

- Founded : 18 February 1924
- Headquarters : Mangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma
- Tagline : Your Family Bank Across India
- It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank.

Indian Bank launched Resources Acquisition Centre To Strengthen Deposit Portfolio

- India's 7th largest Public Sector Bank, **Indian Bank** launched **Resources Acquisition Centre (RAC)**.

Primary objective of the initiative :

- To strengthen the **retail deposit portfolio**, which encompasses **current deposit, savings bank and term**

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deposit accounts.

- The bank plans to open **20 RACs** at ultra potential centres in phase-I to bolster its deposit portfolio.

Bank of Maharashtra upgrades tech platform & appoints Boston Consulting Group for digital transformation

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has upgraded its technology platform to **promote digital transactions** and provide most offerings on a self-service platform.
- This follows a partnership with **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)** for digital transformation initiatives.
- The Bank has also successfully implemented **Robotic Process Automation (RPA)** in **10 key utilities**, which reflects the Bank's conscious approach to staying at the forefront of the evolving digital landscape.

About BoM :

- Founded : 16 September 1935
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra India
- MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev
- Tagline : One Family One Bank

Federal Bank raises Rs 959 crore from International Finance Corporation through preferential issue of shares

- India's **Federal Bank** has raised **9.59 billion Indian rupees (\$116.92 million)** via preferential issues of shares to the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a member of the World Bank Group.
- Post the acquisition, IFC and related entities will hold equity of nearly **8%** in the bank.
- Separately, the bank's board also approved the raising of **80 billion rupees** via the issue of debt instruments.

About Federal Bank :

- Headquarters : Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO : Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline : your perfect banking partner

About IFC :

- Established : July 20, 1956
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., U.S
- Managing Director : Makhtar Diop
- Membership : 186 countries
- The IFC is an **international financial institution** that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

Reliance General Insurance to get Rs 200 crore capital infusion from Reliance Capital

- **Reliance General Insurance** will soon receive an **equity infusion of Rs 200 crore** from its **parent Reliance Capital** which is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings.
- The **committee of creditors (CoC)** of RCap has approved Rs 200-crore capital infusion, which is likely to be made by the end of **August, 2023**.
- Following the infusion, the insurance firm will raise an additional **Rs 400 crore**, mostly through debt, to fund its growth.

About Reliance Capital Limited :

- Founded : 5 March 1986
- Headquarters : Navi Mumbai, India
- Chairman : Anil Ambani

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About Reliance General Insurance Company Limited :

- Founded : 17 August 2000
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Rakesh Jain

RBI eases regulations & cooperative banks set for expansion

- **Gujarat** is set to witness a **new phase of expansion** in the **urban cooperative banking sector**, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission for urban cooperative banks to open new branches without its approval.
- Currently, Gujarat has **214 urban cooperative banks** with a total of 1,113 branches.
- However, the RBI's recent decision allows urban cooperative banks to open a **maximum of 5 branches or 10%** of their existing branches without prior approval.
- Chairman of the Gujarat Urban Cooperative Banks Federation : Jyotindra Mehta

Canara Bank to sign ₹3,000 crore IT transformation deal

- Public sector bank **Canara Bank** will be signing a **₹3,000 crore IT transformation deal** to revamp and enhance its **tech infrastructure**.

Aim of the partnership :

- To modernise and **enhance Canara Bank's technological capabilities**, enabling it to provide efficient banking solutions to its customers.

Bank of India plans share sale to meet SEBI's minimum public holding norms

- State-owned **Bank of India (BoI)** is exploring the possibility of **share sale to investors** over the next one year to meet the **minimum public holding requirement** of **25%**.
- Currently, the Government of India (GoI) holds an **81.41% stake** in the Mumbai-based bank.

About BoI :

- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond banking

India's outward Foreign Direct Investment down 50% in H1 2023 on grim global growth prospects

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data**, **India's outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) declined** to **\$11.12 billion** in January-June (H1 2023) from \$23.57 billion in the same period last year, indicative of the slowdown in the global economy.
- The outward FDI expressed as the total financial commitment, has 3 components, namely **equity, loan and guarantees**.

Union Government approves 8.15% as interest rate for Employees' Provident Fund in FY 2022-23

- The Union government approved the **interest rate** of **8.15%** recommended by the **Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** for its over **6 crore subscribers** for the financial year 2022-23.
- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** has conveyed the approval of the Central Government under para 60(1) of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 to credit interest @ 8.15 % for the year 2022-23 to the account of each member of the EPF Scheme as per the provision under para 60 of **EPF Scheme, 1952**.
- In March 2022, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) lowered the interest rate on EPF deposits for the financial year 2021-22 to **8.10%**, marking the **lowest rate in four decades**, down from 8.5% in 2020-21.

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- This was the lowest interest rate recorded since **1977-78** when the EPF interest rate was at **8%**.

About EPFO :

- Established : 4 March 1952
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) & CEO : Neelam Shami Rao
- The EPFO is one of the **two main social security organisations** under the **Government of India's Ministry of Labour and Employment** and is responsible for regulation and management of provident funds in India, the other being Employees' State Insurance.

RBI Includes 'NongHyup Bank' In The List Of Scheduled Banks Under Schedule II of RBI Act, 1934

- In the exercise of the powers conferred under **section 42** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**, the RBI has directed the **inclusion** of the **NongHyup Bank** in the list of **Scheduled Banks**.
- Now, the bank will be covered under the **second schedule of the RBI Act**.

About Nonghyup Bank :

- Established : 2012
- Headquarters : Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea
- Nonghyup Bank is an **agricultural bank**.
- NongHyup Bank emerged as a detached entity from its previous ownership and is currently owned by the **National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF)**.
- Nonghyup Bank entered India in **2016**.

Indian Banks get ₹5,729 crores from Depositor Education and Awareness fund (DEAF) to refund unclaimed deposits

- The Union minister of State for finance, **Shri Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad** announced that **Indian banks** have received **₹5,729 crores** from the "**Depositor Education and Awareness**" (**DEA**) **Fund** to facilitate the refund of unclaimed deposits in the last 5-years.
- The "**Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014**", which was issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), outlines regulations pertaining to unclaimed deposits and details the usage of the fund, including its role in promoting depositors' interests and supporting specified purposes.
- RBI has announced to set-up a **Centralised Web portal** for the public to search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.
- RBI has also launched **campaign "100 Days 100 Pays"** for banks to trace and settle top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days, commencing from **June 2023 to September 2023**

About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhar

PhonePe introduces an Income Tax Payment feature on its app

- **PhonePe**, a digital payments platform, has partnered with **PayMate**, a leading digital Business-to-business (B2B) payments and service provider, to allow users to pay their income tax on the PhonePe app called "**Income Tax Payment**".

Aim:

- To allow taxpayers to pay **self-assessment** and advance tax directly from the app using **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) or credit card payments**.

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- With credit card payments, users also get a **45-day interest-free period** and earn reward points on their tax payments, depending on their bank.
- After the completion of the payment, taxpayers will receive a **Unique Transaction Reference (UTR) number** as a proof of tax payment.
- The UTR will be available within a day, whereas the challan is generated **within 2 working days**.
- PhonePe is **India's 1st largest Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform**.

About Phonepe :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam

HDFC Mutual Fund Launched Charity Fund For Cancer Cure

- **HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC)**, investment manager to HDFC Mutual Fund (HDFC MF), has launched the **HDFC Charity Fund for Cancer Cure** in partnership with the **Indian Cancer Society (ICS)**.
- The donated amount will be used for the **treatment of underprivileged cancer patients**.
- It is a **closed-ended income scheme** and a fixed maturity plan with a tenure of **1,196 days**.
- The new fund offer (NFO) will open on July 28, 2023 and close on August 8, 2023.
- This NFO marks the **4th edition** of the cancer cure series that started in **2011**.

About HDFC AMC :

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Navneet Munot

Canara Bank becomes a major lender to State PSUs and corporations in FY23

- **Canara Bank topped** the list of **public sector banks (PSBs)** with the **highest lending** to corporations and public sector undertakings (PSUs) of States and Union Territories (UTs) for the **5th year** in a row.
- According to government data, Canara Bank led the lending to government-backed entities, with a total disbursement of **₹187,813 crore** in FY23.
- The Lending amount was **11% higher than** the ₹1,69,532 crore the state-run bank lent to government entities.
- Canara Bank was followed by **Punjab National Bank (₹70,142.5 crore)**, **State Bank of India (₹66,523.2 crore)**, **Bank of India (₹25,147 crore)**, **Bank of Baroda (₹15,706.8 crore)**, **Union Bank of India (₹12,584.8 crore)**, **Bank of Maharashtra (₹10,822.7 crore)**, **Indian Bank (₹9,021 crore)**, **Indian Overseas Bank (₹7,490 crore)**, **Central Bank of India (₹3,949 crore)**, **UCO Bank (₹2,939.4 crore)**.
- **Punjab & Sind Bank** had the **lowest exposure** to State PSUs and corporations in FY23 at **₹88 crore**, against a lending of ₹3,570 crore in 2021-22.
- The total lending by 12 public sector banks to government entities fell to **₹4.12-lakh crore** in FY23 from ₹4.93-lakh crore in FY22.

RBI permits banks to open Vostro accounts from 22 countries for rupee trade

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has permitted **20 banks** operating in the country to open **92 Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** of partner banks from 22 countries as part of efforts to promote bilateral trade in local currencies.

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Aim:

- To promote bilateral trade in local currencies.
- As on July 23, 20 banks in India have been permitted to open SRVAs of partner banks from 22 countries, including **Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and United Kingdom (UK)**.
- **India's exports rose by 36.6%** during the last 5 years from USD 330.07 billion in 2018-19 to USD 450.95 billion in 2022-23.
- **India's imports rose by 38.8%** during the last five years from USD 514.07 billion in 2018-19 to USD 714.04 billion in 2022-23.

What is a Vostro account?

- A Vostro account is an account that a **domestic bank** holds for a foreign bank in the domestic bank's currency which, in the case of India, is the rupee.

Difference between the Nostro and Vostro account

Vostro account	Nostro account
The term comes from the Latin term, Vostro, meaning 'your'.	The term comes from the Latin term, Nostro, meaning 'our'.
The Vostro account is maintained in domestic currency .	Nostro accounts are maintained in foreign currency .
Vostro accounts are used for monitoring funds that are either held by or owed to a bank by a third party.	Nostro accounts are used to record the amount of money from the original bank being held by another institution.
The Vostro account serves as an intermediary for transactions in foreign banking, where the correspondent bank supervises and manages the funds.	Nostro account holds funds in the foreign country's currency where the correspondent firm operates, facilitating international trade transactions that involve different currencies and foreign exchange.

RBI sets restrictions on Bengaluru-based national cooperative bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed limitations on **The National Cooperative Bank Limited**, one of Bengaluru's oldest institutions, due to its **deteriorating financial status**.
- The business limits are in effect for **6 months**, starting from July 24, 2023
- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** will pay depositors up to **₹5 lakh** in deposit insurance claims.
- The bank can now only pay depositors **₹50,000** across all accounts.

About National Cooperative Bank :

- Founded : 1975
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founder : T R Shamanna
- Chairman : H C Krishna

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Federal Bank Launched NR Savings Accounts For NRI Women Customers

- On the occasion of the start of the **FIFA Women's World Cup**, **Federal Bank** has launched a **unique NR savings account plan** designed exclusively for **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) women**.
- This scheme, known as **NRE Eve+**, has been designed to meet the specific financial needs of NRI women.

Objective:

- To provide a variety of advantages that are geared at **enhancing their financial journeys**.

Union Bank of India Collaborates with IBM India to co-create Digital Business Platform

- Indian public sector bank **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has partnered with technology company **IBM India Private limited** to co-create a state-of-the-art **Digital Business Platform**.
- The introduction of an omni-channel experience ensures that customers have the flexibility to engage with the bank through various channels, including **mobile, online, and in-branch**.

Aim of the Partnership :

- To establish a Digital Bank equipped with capabilities that **focus on omnichannel experiences, data-driven hyper-personalization**, and an extensive financial services superstore designed for seamless cross-selling and upselling.

About Union Bank of India :

- Established : 11 November 1919
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai
- Tagline : Good People to Bank with

Bajaj Finserv AMC Launches its 1st Equity Scheme Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund

- **Bajaj Finserv Asset Management** launched its **first equity scheme, the Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund**, an open-ended equity scheme.

Aim :

- To invest in equity and equity-related instruments across market capitalization for **long-term capital appreciation**.
- The **new fund offer (NFO) runs from July 24 to August 7, 2023**.
- Bajaj Finserv Flexi Cap Fund is an **open-ended equity scheme** which will invest across **large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks**.

About Bajaj Finserv Asset Management :

- CEO : Ganesh Mohan
- Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Ltd., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv Ltd.

SEBI issues consultation paper on cyber security & resilience framework

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with a **consultation paper on boosting the cyber security framework for entities** regulated by it.
- The consultation paper on '**Consolidated Cyber Security and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF) for SEBI Regulated Entities (RES)**' looks at providing a common structure for multiple approaches to cyber security to prevent any cyber-risks and incidents.

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- The framework is based on **5 concurrent** and continuous functions of cyber security as defined by **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) - Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover.**
- All REs shall formulate an up-to-date **Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP).**

ADB & India signs \$295 million loan to upgrade state highways in Bihar

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India (GoI)** signed an agreement for a **\$295 million loan** to upgrade around **265 kilometre state highways** with climate and disaster-resilient design, and road safety elements in **Bihar.**
- The project supports the Government of Bihar's programme to upgrade all state highways to **standard two-lane widths** and **improve road safety.**
- Since 2008, ADB has provided **5 loans** totalling **\$1.63 billion** to the state of Bihar, for the upgradation of about **1,696-kilometre state highways** and the construction of a new bridge over the Ganga River.

About Axis Bank :

- Established : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

LIC introduces new term assurance plan named "Jeevan Kiran"

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced **Jeevan Kiran**, a new plan that offers life cover with the return of premium.

About Jeevan Kiran :

- The plan is a non-linked and non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan.
- The plan is available for young people starting at age **18** and till age **65.**
- The plan has a minimum Sum Assured of **Rs 15 lakh** for moderate life cover.
- The policy term varies from **10 years to 40 years.**
- The premium rates are different for non-smokers and smokers.
- Premium payment can be made through a **single or regular premium payable** for the policy term.
- Rebates are available for Sum Assured more than **Rs 50 lakh**
- The minimum instalment premium will be **Rs 3000** for regular premium policies and Rs 30000 for single premium policies.

About LIC :

- Established : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Siddharth Mohanty

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches 'ICICI Pru Protect N Gain'

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has launched **ICICI Pru Protect N Gain**, a unique product which offers a **comprehensive life insurance cover**, protection against accidental death and permanent disability due to an accident and market-linked returns to build long-term wealth and achieve financial goals.

About ICICI Prudential Life Insurance :

- Founded : 2000 (Started Operations - 2001)
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO : Anup Bagchi
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance was established as a joint venture between **ICICI Bank Limited** and **Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited**.
- In **2016**, the company became the **first insurance company in India** to be listed on the domestic stock exchanges.

HDFC Bank collaborates With Dvara KGFS for Co-Lending Loans to Micro Enterprises

- **Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services (KGFS)**, a Chennai-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), has entered into a **co-lending partnership** with **HDFC Bank** to provide capital to micro business units operating primarily in the unorganised sector.
- The tie-up aligns with the NBFC's this year's **Annual Operating Plan (AOP)** looking to enable credit for micro businesses across the 10 states that it serves.
- The **co-lending model (CLM)** in India particularly for **priority sector lending (PSL)** has been a promising development to address the credit gap in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

About Dvara KGFS :

- MD & CEO : LVLN Murty
- Dvara KGFS had launched its enterprise loan vertical in **2020**, focusing on 3 value chains viz., grocery, dairy, and agri.
- So far, “the company has assisted numerous beneficiaries with working capital and business growth loans, improving their livelihood generation capabilities and facilitating their inclusion in the Indian economy,”

World Bank Approves Bank of Israel's Membership to Join the International Committee on Credit Reporting

- The **World Bank** has officially approved the **Bank of Israel's membership** in the prestigious **International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR)**.

About ICCR :

- Chair : Jean Pesme
- ICCR was established by the World Bank in **2009** with the support of the **Bank for International Standards (BIS)**.

Objective :

- To **formulate international credit reporting standards**, setting a comprehensive framework for the industry.
- The ICCR is the **only recognized international standard** setter in credit reporting.

About World Bank :

- Established : July 7, 1944
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- President : Ajay Banga
- The World Bank is an **international financial institution** that provides loans and grants to the governments of **low- and middle-income countries** for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

About Bank of Israel :

- Established : 24 August 1954
- Headquarters : Jerusalem, Israel
- Governor : Amir Yaron

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- Director General : Shulamit Geri

SEBI revealed framework for corporate debt market development fund

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** came out with an exhaustive framework for the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**.
- Under the CDMDF, mutual funds will have to contribute **25 basis points (bps)** of the specified debt **asset under management (AUM)** to the fund.
- The move will lead to a contribution of **₹2,242 crore** by mutual funds to CDMDF.
- The **specified debt schemes** have to make an incremental contribution as their **AUM increases**, every **six months** to ensure **25 bps of scheme asset** is invested in **units of CDMDF**.

IRDAI appoints Liberty General Insurance as lead insurer for Delhi

- **Liberty General Insurance**, one of the leading **non-life insurance companies in India**, has been appointed as the **“Lead Insurer” for Delhi** by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- This appointment is part of **IRDAI’s State Insurance Plan**, which aims to enhance financial awareness and drive insurance inclusion in **collaboration with other insurers**.
- The initiative aligns with **IRDAI’s mission of “Insurance for All by 2047”** and aims to ensure **last-mile delivery of insurance services** to the uninsured population of Delhi.

About Liberty General Insurance Limited :

- Founded : 2013
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO and Whole Time Director : Roopam Asthana

About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The **IRDAI is a statutory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (GoI)** and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

SIDBI anchors Vivriti’s ₹700 crore SME-focussed fund

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has participated as an anchor investor in **Promising Lenders Fund (PLF)** managed by **Vivriti Asset Management** with an aggregate target corpus of **₹700 crore** in two tranches.
- The fund was conceptualised by **SIDBI and Vivriti** to provide **debt capital to microenterprises** and building bond markets for **issuers rated BBB and lower category**.

About Small Industries Development Bank of India :

- Established : 2 April 1990
- Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : **Sivasubramanian Ramann**
- The SIDBI is the apex regulatory body for overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the **jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance , Government of India (GoI)**.

Securities Appellate Tribunal fines SEBI Rs 10 lakh for “failing” to investigate investor complaints against

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broker

- Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) fined Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with ₹10 lakh over investor complaint probe.

Reason :

- SAT has fined SEBI for not registering and hearing the complaint of an investor despite its order in January 2021.

About SAT :

- Presiding officer : Justice Tarun Agarwala
- SAT is a statutory body established under the provisions of Section 15K of the SEBI Act, 1992.
- It was established to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the SEBI.
- It has only one bench which sits at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

SEBI to review delisting regulations

- Regulations for delisting of shares are being reviewed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- An advisory committee under Keki Mistry has been constituted to relook at the delisting regulations.

BUSINESS NEWS

Gross GST revenue of 1,61,497 crores was collected in June 2023, representing a 12% increase year over year

- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 is ₹1,61,497 crores of which CGST is ₹31,013 crores, SGST is ₹38,292 crores, IGST is ₹80,292 crores (including ₹ 39,035 crores collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹11,900 crore (including ₹ 1,028 crores collected on import of goods).
- The government has settled ₹36,224 crore to CGST and ₹30269 crore to SGST from IGST.
- The total revenue of the Centre and the States in the month of June 2023 after regular settlement is ₹67,237 crore for CGST and ₹68,561 crore for the SGST.
- It is for the fourth time, the gross GST collection has crossed Rs. 1.60 lakh crore mark.
- The average monthly gross GST collection for the first quarter of FY 2021-22, FY 22-23 & FY 23-24 are Rs. 1.10 lakh crore, Rs. 1.51 lakh crore and Rs. 1.69 lakh crore respectively.
- The chart below shows trends in monthly gross GST revenues during the current year.

Coal Production Hits 222.93 Million Tonne in Q1 of FY 2023–24 with 8.4% Growth

- The Ministry of Coal has substantially increased overall coal production with a growth of 8.40% in Q1 of FY 2023-24.
- The cumulative coal production has witnessed a significant increase, reaching 222.93 million tonnes (MT) as compared to 205.65 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23.
- Coal India Limited (CIL) has recorded an impressive growth of 9.85%, with production reaching 175.35MT in FY 2023-24 as compared to 159.63 MT during the same period the previous year. Captive mines /others also attained a growth of 4.74 % touching 30.48 MT in FY 23-24 as compared to 29.10 MT in FY 22-23 during the same period.
- Simultaneously, cumulative coal dispatch has shown an upward trend, reaching 239.69 MT (Provisional) in Q1 of FY 2023-24, as compared to 224.08 MT in Q1 of FY 2022-23 with a growth of 6.97%.
- This growth indicates the continued efforts to meet the rising demand for coal.

The market capitalization of BSE-listed companies briefly exceeds 300 lakh crores:

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- The **market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms breached ₹300-lakh crore market** during the closing hours, but settled at ₹299.90-lakh crore at close.
- Though the Sensex ended flat, the market breadth was positive as 1,916 shares advanced against 1,588 that declined, which helped the market-cap climb by ₹1.32-lakh crore.
- The **BSE Sensex dipped 33.01 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 65,446.04.**
- The **BSE benchmark had jumped over 2,500 points** in the past five sessions.
- The **NSE Nifty eked out marginal gains of 9.50 points or 0.05 per cent** to end at its fresh record high of 19,398.50.

NTPC doubles its coal production in the first quarter, and coal dispatch increases by 112%.

- India's leading integrated power producer **NTPC Limited has nearly doubled coal production from its captive mines during the first quarter of the financial year 2023 - 2024, compared to the production during Q1 of the previous year.**
- The company said it achieved an impressive **coal production of 8.48 million metric tonnes (MMT) during Q1 of FY24, compared to 4.27 MMT in Q1 of FY23.**
- In addition, coal despatch has more than doubled during Q1 of 2023 - 2024, relative to the first quarter of 2022 - 2023.
- A total of 8.82 MMT of coal has been despatched in Q1 of FY24, marking a significant 112 per cent increase over the previous year for the same period.

About NTPC

- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Gurdeep Singh is the Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC

Between 2005 and 2022, India's share in global commercial services exports doubles, according to a World Bank and WTO analysis:

- **India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4 per cent in 2022 from 2 per cent in 2005, according to a World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) report.**
- The report titled 'Trade in development services' said that in India, South Africa and Türkiye, jobs directly linked to cross-border services exports account for more than 10 per cent of total services sector jobs.
- **India has become a popular destination for medical travel, and hosted around 3.5 million foreign patients from 2009 to 2019,"** the report said.

About WTO:

- Founded: 1 January 1995
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

About World Bank

- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: Ajay Banga
- Founded: July 1944

Centre to soon notify rules for setting up GST appellate tribunals

- The Centre will soon notify rules for setting up GST appellate tribunals and appoint members after approval from the GST Council.

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- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) member (GST) Shashank Priya said the department is working to expand the taxpayer base and doing data triangulation with the corporate taxpayers in the income tax regime.**
- **As per data, currently, only 40 per cent of the corporate income taxpayer base is also registered under GST.**
- **As many as 1.39 crore businesses are registered under GST, almost double the number when GST has launched six years ago on July 1, 2017.**
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue buoyancy, which was 1.25 after the introduction of the indirect tax regime in 2017, has risen to 1.40 in the last two years.**
- **Average monthly GST revenue increased from Rs 89,885 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 1.50 lakh crore in 2022-23.**

Tamil Nadu emerges as India's top electronics exporter, triples exports to \$5.37 bn in FY23

- **Tamil Nadu's electronics exports nearly tripled in one year to \$5.37 billion in FY23 from \$1.86 billion in the previous year.**
- **From the fourth spot in FY22, Tamil Nadu moved to the top spot in FY23.**
- **Companies like Tata Electronics and Pegatron starting production have helped Tamil Nadu overtake three states - Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra - to become India's top exporter of electronic goods in FY23.**
- **Tamil Nadu retained the top spot in the first two months of the current fiscal year.**
- **In the current fiscal, Tamil Nadu continued to top the trend by being the top exporter, followed by Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.**
- **In FY23, Tamil Nadu exported electronic goods worth \$5.37 billion, while Uttar Pradesh was second with \$4.90 billion and Karnataka third with \$4.52 billion.**
- **In FY22, Karnataka was the top exporter of electronic goods with \$3.87 billion; Uttar Pradesh was second with \$3.77 billion; Maharashtra was third with \$2.08 billion.**

About Tamilnadu

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin Trending
- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- NP: Guindy National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park (Annamalai), and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

OECD marginally raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6% for FY24

- **The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has marginally raised its 2023-24 (FY24) growth forecast for India to 6 per cent, from 5.9 per cent estimated earlier, while maintaining that "weak global demand and the effect of monetary policy tightening will constrain" growth in the world's fifth-largest economy in the current fiscal year.**
- **Moderating inflation and monetary policy easing in the second half of 2024 will help discretionary household spending regain momentum.**
- **This, along with improved global conditions, will help economic activity to accelerate, with a growth of 7 per cent in real gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024-25**
- **Global GDP growth in 2023 is projected to be 2.7 per cent, the lowest annual rate since the global financial crisis, except for the 2020 pandemic period.**
- **The robust FY23 GDP data and encouraging signs of high-frequency indicators led to a spate of upward revisions in FY24 GDP growth forecasts by analysts.**

About OECD:

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- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Founded: 30 September 1961
- Secretary-General: Mathias Cormann.

By 2075, India's economy will overtake the United States to become the second-largest in the world: Goldman Sachs

- **Investment Bank Goldman Sachs** has said that **India is poised to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075 crossing Japan, Germany, and the U.S.**
- With a population of 1.4 billion people, **India's GDP is estimated to expand remarkably, reaching 52.5 trillion dollars surpassing the US GDP projection.**
- In a recent report, Goldman Sachs said, on top of a burgeoning population, driving the forecast is India's progress in innovation and technology, higher capital investment, and rising worker productivity.
- It said this is an appropriate time for the private sector to scale up on creating capacity in manufacturing and services to generate more jobs and absorb the large labour force.
- Labor force participation, a vast pool of talent, and a working-age population ratio are a few of the factors set to make **India the second-largest economy in the world by 2075.**

About Goldman Sachs

- CEO: David M. Solomon
- Founders: Marcus Goldman, Samuel Sachs
- CFO: Denis Coleman
- CIO: Marco Argenti
- CMO: Fiona Carter
- COO: John E. Waldron
- Founded: 1869
- Headquarters: New York, United States

Provisional Direct Tax Collections data for FY 2023–24 show continuous development:

- The **provisional figures of Direct Tax collections** up to 9th July 2023 continue to register **steady growth. Direct Tax collections up to 9th July 2023 show that gross collections are at Rs. 5.17 lakh crore which is 14.65% higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year.**
- Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs. 4.75 lakh crore which is 15.87% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.
- This **collection is 26.05% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for F.Y. 2023-24.**
- Refunds amounting to Rs. 42,000 crore have been issued from 1st April 2023 to 9th July 2023, which are 2.55% higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

The government places limits on the importation of specific gold jewelry and goods:

- The **government has imposed restrictions on imports of certain gold jewelry and articles.**
- In a notification, the **director general of foreign trade (DGFT) amended the import policy** for unstudded jewelry made of gold, and other articles made of gold to **“restricted” from “free”.**
- Restrictions mean that a license will be required from the government to import these goods though no such permission is required for imports under the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) tariff rate quota ((TRQ).**
- However, **import under a valid India-UAE CEPA TRQ will be permitted freely without any import license**

IIP grows by 5.2% in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2022

- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 5.2 percent in May 2023 from 4.2 percent in April 2023.**

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- As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released today, the **manufacturing sector's output grew 5.5 percent and Mining output rose by 5.8 percent for the reported period.**
- The index of manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals, and botanical products gained the most as it climbed 22.6 percent.
- In May 2022, IIP was at all time high-growth of 19.6 percent.

About IIP

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period.
- The IIP index is computed and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) monthly.

Retail inflation rises to 4.81% in June 2023

- **Retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 4.81 percent in June 2023.**
- According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released, the **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the last month rises to 4.49 percent as compared to 2.91 percent in May, mainly due to a rise in vegetable prices.**
- Rural inflation stood at 4.72 percent in June while urban inflation was at 4.96 percent for the reported period.
- CPI for June remained within the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6 percent for the fourth consecutive month.

About Retail Inflation:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks retail inflation, tracks price increases as seen by retail consumers.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), on the other hand, tracks wholesale inflation and gauges it at the producer level.

Harley-Davidson banks on Hero MotoCorp partnership to push premium bike sales in India

- With high customs duty impeding sales of its **imported big bikes in India, Harley-Davidson is banking on the partnership with Hero MotoCorp to offer locally-produced premium models in the country.**
- Harley and Hero **introduced their first co-developed product in India -- Harley-Davidson X 440 -- with price starting at Rs 2.29 lakh.**
- The bike is being produced by Hero MotoCorp at its Neemrana-based plant.
- Harley-Davidson had announced to discontinue sales and manufacturing operations in India in September 2020.
- Before that it had an assembly plant at Bawal in Haryana.

About Hero MotoCorp

- Founder: Brijmohan Lall Munjal
- Founded: 19 January 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- chairman, managing director and CEO: Pawan Kant Munjal

About Harley-Davidson

- Headquarters: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States
- Founded: 1903
- Chairman, President and CEO: Jochen Zeitz.

India's total exports are anticipated to be \$60.09 billion in June 2023.

- **India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in June 2023* are estimated to be USD 60.09 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 13.16 per cent over June 2022.**
- **Overall imports in June 2023* are estimated to be USD 68.98 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 13.91 per cent over June 2022.**

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- **Merchandise exports** in June 2023 were USD 32.97 Billion, as compared to USD 42.28 Billion in June 2022.
- Merchandise imports in June 2023 were USD 53.10 Billion, as compared to USD 64.35 Billion in June 2022.
- **Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports** during April-June 2023 were USD 77.18 Billion, as compared to USD 83.82 Billion in April-June 2022.
- As per the **World Bank Global Economic Prospects report (June 2023)** the global economy is set to **slow substantially in 2023, to 2.1 per cent, after growing at 3.1% last year.**

India is set to launch project on tax & financial crime investigation from July 18 - Nirmala Sitharaman

- The Union Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that India and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** are launching a pilot programme on **tax and financial crime investigation** for **South Asia** from **July 18, 2023.**
- It will be launched to take the lead to build capacity in tax and financial crime investigation in the South Asia region.
- The pilot program will be launched in collaboration with OECD for the South Asian Region at the Regional Campus of the **National Academy of Direct Taxes** in New Delhi.

About OECD :

- Founded : 1961
- Headquarters : Paris, France.
- Membership : 38 Countries
- OECD is an **intergovernmental organisation** founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

The first-ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for the livestock sector has been developed to revitalize the rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the **Credit Guarantee Scheme under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** to **strengthen the credit delivery system and facilitate a smooth flow of credit to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs)** engaged in Livestock sector without hassles of collateral security.
- For operationalizing the scheme, **DAHD has established a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of Rs. 750.00 crores**, which will provide **credit guarantee coverage for up to 25% of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.**

Shri Piyush Goyal presents the roadmap for reaching the aim of \$250 billion in textile production and \$100 billion in textile exports by 2030.

- Union Minister for Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal discussed the roadmap to achieve the target of \$250 billion in textiles production and \$100 billion in exports by 2030.**
- While interacting with the officers and staff during the Chintan Shivir organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Shri Goyal emphasized a holistic approach towards making the Textile sector more vibrant to prepare to take on global competition.
- The **Ministry of Textiles organized Chintan Shivir to brainstorm on various issues relating to the sector.**

At the Budget Estimate (BE) stage, NER received Rs. 94679.53 crore under 10% GBS for the fiscal year 2023-24

- **The extant policy of the Government**, all non-exempted Central Ministries/Departments (currently 55 in number) are mandated to **spend at least**
- **10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) on Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern Region (NER).**
- **An allocation of Rs. 94679.53 crore has been made under 10% GBS for the year 2023-24 for NER at Budget Estimate (BE) stage.**

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- The details of the amount spent on the development of this region since 2014-15:

• Year	• Revised Estimate	• Actual Expenditure
• 2014-15	• 27,359.17	• 24,819.18
• 2015-16	• 29,669.22	• 28,673.73
• 2016-17	• 32,180.08	• 29,367.90
• 2017-18	• 40,971.69	• 39,753.44
• 2018-19	• 47,087.95	• 46,054.80
• 2019-20	• 53,374.19	• 48,533.80
• 2020-21	• 51,270.90	• 48,563.82
• 2021-22	• 68,440.26	• 70,874.32
• 2022-23	• 72,540.28	• 82691.37
• Total	• 4,22,893.74	• 4,19,332.36

Overall Coal Production Records highest ever 223.36 million tonnes in the first quarter of FY 2023-24

- India's coal sector achieved a remarkable milestone in the first quarter of FY 2023-24, by recording the highest-ever coal production at 223.36 million tonnes (MT), representing a substantial growth of 8.55% compared to the production of 205.76 MT during the same period during FY 2022-23.
- Coal India Limited (CIL) registered 175.48 MT production between April and June 2023, marking a commendable growth rate of 9.85% in comparison to 159.75 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year.

About CIL :

- Coal India Limited (CIL) is a Maharatna Central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Coal.

Mineral production rises by 5.1% in April 2023

- The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of April 2023 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 122.5, is 5.1% higher as compared to the level during the month of April 2022.
- As per the provisional statistics of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April- April 2022-23 over the corresponding period of the previous year is 5.8 per cent.

Adani group to build world's largest 20 GW hybrid renewable energy park in Gujarat

- The Adani Group is building the world's largest hybrid renewable energy park right in the middle of a desert, in Khavda, Gujarat.
- The announcement was made by the founder and chairman of the group, Gautam Adani while addressing shareholders at Adani Enterprises' annual general meeting.
- Spread over 72,000 acres, the park will produce 20 GW of green energy, once operational.
- The project will be developed by Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), the renewable energy arm of the diversified Adani portfolio.
- Earlier during FY 022-23, the group operationalized 2.14 GW solar-wind hybrid plants in Rajasthan, India's first and world's largest solar-wind hybrid cluster.

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- The hybrid cluster consists of four plants having a capacity of 390 MW, 600 MW, 450 MW and 700 MW respectively. All three of these hybrid energy generation assets are located in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** will commission **India's largest transshipment hub** in **Vizhinjam, Kerala**, in the next 12-24 months.

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park : Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

HCL Technology has joined the XR Startup Programme, an initiative between Meta and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup

- Noida-based **HCL Technology (HCLTech)** has joined the XR Startup Programme, an initiative between **Meta** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub** to discover, nurture, and accelerate extended reality (XR) technology start-ups in India.
- MeitY Startup Hub's focus on innovation and entrepreneurship has made **India the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world**.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) nosedived to \$11.12 billion in January-June (H1 2023) from \$23.57 billion in the same period last year

- India's outward **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** nosedived to **\$11.12 billion in January-June (H1 2023) from \$23.57 billion** in the same period last year, indicative of the slowdown in the global economy, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The outward FDI expressed as the total financial commitment has three components: **equity, loan and guarantees**.
- A **foreign direct investment (FDI)** refers to the purchase of an asset in another country, such that it gives direct control to the purchaser over the asset.

TCS bags multi-year deal from BBC

- **Tata Consultancy Services** has won a multi-year deal from **The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** to transform its finance and payroll functions and manage the underlying application estate for **greater agility and resilience**.

About British Broadcasting Corporation :

- The British Broadcasting Corporation is a British public service broadcaster.
- Headquartered in London, it is the world's oldest national broadcaster, and the largest broadcaster in the world by number of employees.

About TCS:

- Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, J. R. D. Tata
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- CEO: K. Krithivasan
- Founded: 1 April 1968

No coal shortage; domestic production up 8.5% April-June 2023

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- The all-India Coal Production in the year 2022-23 stood at 893.19 Million tonnes (MT) in comparison to 565.77 MT in the year 2013-14 with a growth of about 58%.
- As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.
- There is **no shortage of coal in the country**.
- During the current year till June 2023 domestic coal production has increased by over 8.51 % compared to the same period of the last year.

Overall Mineral Production increases by 6.4 % in May this year(2023) as compared to May last year(2022)

- The Ministry of Mines stated that overall Mineral Production has increased by 6.4 per cent in May this year as compared to May last year.
- As per the provisional figures of the Indian Bureau of Mines, the cumulative growth for the period April-May, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of the previous year is 5.8 per cent.

Indian Pharmaceuticals Industry turnover increases from Rs 2.26 lakh cr in 2017-2018 to over Rs 3.44 lakh cr in 2021-22

- The Indian Pharmaceuticals Industry turnover has increased from 2.26 lakh crore rupees in 2017-2018 to over 3.44 lakh crore rupees in 2021-22.
- This information was given by Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Bhagwanth Khuba in the Rajya Sabha**.
- The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is the third largest by volume and 13th largest by value in the world.

As per the National Coal Index, coal production witnessed a decline of 33.8% in May this year.

- In May 2023, the National Coal Index (NCI) dropped significantly by 33.8%, reaching 157.7 points.
- This is in contrast to May of last year when it was at 238.3 points.
- For May 2023, the NCI for non-coking coal is at 147.5 points, indicating a 34.3% decline from May 2022. Meanwhile, the coking coal index for May 2023 stands at 187.1 points, with a decline of 32.6%.
- The highest point for NCI was noted in June 2022, reaching 238.8 points.
- The National Coal Index (NCI) is a reliable price index that combines coal prices from all sales channels, including notified prices, auction prices, and import prices.

Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched both the AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) and Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF).

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) and initiated the muhurat trading on Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation mechanism called AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL), in Mumbai**.
- The Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, in her speech for the Union Budget of 2021-22, announced the creation of a permanent institutional framework to enhance secondary market liquidity in the Corporate Bond market during stressed and normal times, thereby instilling confidence amongst participants in the corporate bond market.

What is AMC repo clearing limited?

- AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) and Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) were launched on July 28. ARCL offers clearing and settlement services to all trades executed on NSE and BSE, under tri-party repo in corporate debt securities with risk management, along with a guarantee mechanism.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : MOUS & AGREEMENTS

An agreement was made between the Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank to

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make it easier to give veteran artists financial support

- An MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank for the disbursement of financial assistance to the selected beneficiaries under the “Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists” earlier known as “Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artists”.
- As per the MoU, master data of selected beneficiaries both for fresh as well as legacy data is to be uploaded by the Ministry in the online portal to be developed by the Canara Bank for this purpose.
- Under this scheme an amount of Rs. 26.00 crore has been allocated in B.E. for the year 2023-24.

About Canara Bank :

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- CEO: K. Satyanarayana Raju
- Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai
- Founded: 1 July 1906
- Tagline: Together We Can

India Chamber of Business and Commerce and Indian Council of Medical Research sign MOA for Partnership in building Future of Health and Healthcare in India and partnership in India Health Dialogue Platform

- India Chamber of Business and Commerce referred to as the India Chamber and the Indian Council of Medical Research referred to as ICMR has signed an MOA at the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the presence of the Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane to promote India as global Hub in healthcare manufacturing and delivery and for creating a global stakeholders platform for the building robust healthcare ecosystem promoting future of health capabilities in India and promoting Investment creation in the field of Healthcare.
- The profound aim of the MOA is to build India as a global Hub for health and healthcare and build future healthcare capabilities in India.

Indian Bank partners with Tractors and Farm Equipment and TAFE Motors and Tractors Limited to simplify tractor financing

- Indian Bank has partnered with TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment) and its wholly owned subsidiary TMTL (TAFE Motors and Tractors Ltd.) for tractor financing.

Aim :

- The tie-up would allow farmers and individuals to avail tractor loans at affordable interest rates, with the benefit of hassle-free loan processing, the public sector lender said in a statement.
- Interested buyers can avail tractor financing benefits from more than 5,700 branches.

About Indian Bank :

- Founded : 15 August 1907
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline : Your Own Bank/ Apka Apna Bank

The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy sign an MoU to revive the “ancient stitched shipbuilding method

- An MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy.
- This MoU aims to revive the “ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)”.

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- The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have entered into MoU to revive and preserve the 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as the ‘stitched shipbuilding method’.
- The implementation and execution of the entire project will be overseen by the Indian Navy.

India and Argentina have agreed to a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture

- India and Argentina have agreed to a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture.
- India and Argentina have an Inter-governmental Agreement to promote technical and scientific cooperation signed in 1985.
- The objective of this programme is to strengthen and expand relations between scientific communities, making possible the exchanges between Indian and Argentine research groups, in the framework of joint scientific and technological projects, selected by the parties.
- India is the 4th largest trading partner of Argentina, with bilateral trade touching a historic peak of USD 6.4 billion in the year 2022, recording a growth rate of 12% over 2021.

About Argentina :

- Capital: Buenos Aires
- Currency: Argentine Peso
- President: Alberto Fernández

An MoU was signed between CeNSE at IISc and LAM Research for collaboration.

- Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) announced the exchange of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Lam Research India at the ongoing SemiconIndia in Gandhinagar.
- The first stage is expected to be completed by December 2023, with the second stage anticipated to be concluded by June 2024.

India and Papua New Guinea have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share India Stack.

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of India and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share INDIA STACK — a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale.
- The MoU is expected to enhance capacities and facilitate sharing and implementation of population-scale Digital Public Infrastructure and Transformational Platforms/projects to improve living standards and enhance efficiency and transparency in governance.

About Papua New Guinea

- Capital: Port Moresby
- Prime minister: James Marape
- Currency: Kina

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION

Senior bureaucrat Shiv Das Meena appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu (TN) government has appointed senior bureaucrat Shiv Das Meena as the next Chief Secretary of TN.
- He will take charge as the 49th chief secretary of TN.

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- Meena will take over as **Chief Secretary** from **V Irai Anbu**, who is **retiring from service on June 30, 2023**.
- Meena is an 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer hails from Rajasthan.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park : Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve : Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve : Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

China's Qu Dongyu re-elected unopposed as head of United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization

- The head of the **United Nations's (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **Qu Dongyu**, was **re-elected** for a **second term** as head of the FAO.
- Qu, will serve a new **four-year term** from August 1, 2023.
- FAO directors can hold the role for a **maximum of two consecutive terms**.
- He was the only candidate standing for the role of FAO Director-General, and received **168** out of 182 votes in a ballot in Rome, Italy.

About Qu Dongyu :

- Qu was born in Yongzhou, Hunan, **China** in October 1963.
- From 2001 to 2011 he was **Vice President** of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
- Between 2011 and 2015 he served as vice-chair of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in China and in 2015 he became **Vice-Minister** of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs**.

About FAO :

- Established : 16 October 1945
- Headquarters : Rome, Italy
- The FAO is a **specialised agency** of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- The FAO comprises **195 members**, including 194 countries and the European Union.

About China :

- President : Xi Jinping
- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

Ajit Pawar sworn-in as second Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

- **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar**, took oath as **Maharashtra's second deputy chief minister** with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and existing Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in attendance.
- Earlier, Ajit Pawar resigned as **Leader of the Opposition** after a meeting with NCP MLAs.
- Ajit Pawar joined Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the BJP government in Maharashtra.
- Now, Maharashtra will have **two deputy chief ministers**.
- **Devendra Fadnavis** is the other deputy chief minister.
- Along with Ajit Pawar, **8 other NCP Leaders** also took oath as ministers.
- They are **Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse Patil, Hassan Mushrif, Dharmarao Baba Atram, Aditi Sunil Tatkare, Sanjay Bansode, Anil Patil** and **Dhananjay Munde**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

Debadatta Chand assume charge as MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda

- **Debadatta Chand** has taken charge as the **managing director (MD)** and **chief executive officer (CEO)** of **Bank of Baroda**.
- His appointment follows superannuation of **Sanjiv Chadha**.
- Chand began his career in **1994** as an officer at Allahabad Bank and later worked as a manager at the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** from 1998 to 2005.

About BoB :

- Founded : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank
- Bank of Baroda operates more than **11,000 ATMs across India**

Gernot Dollner take charge as New Audi CEO, succeeds Markus Duesmann

- **German luxury car brand Audi** has appointed **Gernot Dollner** as new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the Board of Management, effective **September 1, 2023**.
- He will take over **Markus Duesmann**.
- Gernot Dollner joined Volkswagen as a Ph.D. candidate in 1993 and subsequently served in a number of management roles at Porsche, including as head of Concept Development and head of the **Panamera Series**.
- Since 2021, he has overseen the **Volkswagen Group's Product and Group Strategy** and the **General Secretariat**.

Dr Neerja Gupta becomes 18th & 1st female vice-chancellor of Gujarat University

- After 73 years of the establishment (1949) of **Gujarat University** in Ahmedabad, **Dr Neerja Gupta** has been selected as the **18th & first female vice chancellor (VC)**.
- She has been appointed for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date she takes over the charge of the office or till she attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- She will take over from **Himanshu Pandya**, who completes his second term as V-C this month.
- She was a lecturer at the English department of the institute from 1998 till 2009.

State Bank of India appoints 4 directors - Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey & Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has appointed **4 directors** on the central board of the bank.
- According to the disclosure under **Regulation 30 (4)** of the **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015**, SBI has reappointed **Ketan Shivji Vikamsey** and **Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape** to its board and has added **Rajesh Kumar Dubey** and **Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat** as directors.
- The appointment is for a period of **3 years**, from June 26, 2023, to June 25, 2026.

About SBI :

- Established : 01, July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

Tribhuvaneshwar Saran Singh Deo appointed as Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

- **TS Singh Deo** has been appointed as the **Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh**.
- TS Singh Deo becomes the **1st Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The 2023 Chhattisgarh Assembly poll is scheduled to be held by **November, 2023** to elect all 90 members of the state's Legislative Assembly.
- T.S. Singh Deo has been elected from **Ambikapur Assembly Constituency 3 times** since 2008.

About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister : Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital : Raipur
- National Park : Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary.

IAS officer Anurag Verma assumes charge as Punjab's 42nd chief secretary

- The Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Anurag Verma** took charge as the **42nd chief secretary of Punjab** .
- He succeeds **Vijay Kumar Janjua**, who retired on June 30., 2023.
- He belongs to Patiala, has earlier served as the **deputy commissioner** of Bathinda, Ludhiana and Jalandhar districts.
- He held the charge of **additional chief secretary, home affairs and justice**, along with some other additional charges.

Gaming platform Zupee onboards Kapil Sharma as a brand ambassador

- **Cashgrail Private Limited-owned Zupee**, a gaming platform, has announced comedian and actor **Kapil Sharma** as its new **brand ambassador**.
- Sharma will be seen in the company's new ad film which will have a **360 degree campaign**.
- Zupee announced its latest campaign, '**India ka Apna Game**' which celebrates the bond and popularity of Ludo, honouring its connection among the masses, while further extending the platform's outreach.

About Zupee :

- CEO and Founder : Dilsher Singh Malhi
- Zupee sells gaming products like Ludo and other board and casual games.

Centre Extends Term of Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General of India for 3 years

- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the **re-appointment** of **Tushar Mehta** as **Solicitor General for India (SGI)** for a further period of **3 years** along with his team of **6 additional solicitor generals (ASG)** in the Supreme Court.
- Mehta hails from, **Gujarat, India**.
- He began his career as an advocate in 1987.
- He was appointed as the **Additional Solicitor General of India** in 2014.
- He was appointed as **Solicitor General** on October 10, **2018** and since then he had been granted extension twice.

About SGI :

- The SGI is **subordinate** to the Attorney General for India.
- The SGI is the **second-highest law officer** of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is assisted by Additional Solicitor Generals of India (Addl. SGIs).
- The duties of the Solicitor General are laid out in **Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987**.

SJVN Chairman Nand Lal Sharma assumes additional charge of Bhakra Beas Management Board Chief

- The Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN), **Nand Lal Sharma** took over the **additional charge** as **Chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)**.
- He took over from **Sanjay Srivastava**, who retired on June 30, 2023.
- Sharma's appointment is initially for a period of **3 months** or till further orders.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Sharma began his career as an officer in the Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services in 1989.

About BBMB :

- The BBMB is a **statutory body** constituted under **Section 79** and **Section 80** of the **Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966**.
- BBMB is engaged in the regulation of the supply of water and electricity from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Projects to the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh.

State Bank of India appoints Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti as Chief Financial Officer

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has appointed **Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti**, who has been with the bank since 1991, as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
- Kodavanti replaces **Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra** who has resigned from the post.
- Rao, who is a **Chartered Accountant (CA)**, has been working with the Bank since August 1991.
- He has vast experience in Banking, Forex and Finance, and Accounting.

About SBI :

- Established : 01, July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

V Venu was appointed as new Chief Secretary of Kerala; Sheikh Darvesh Saheb appointed as new Director General of Police

- The **Kerala** government has appointed a 1990 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **V Venu** as the new **chief secretary of Kerala**.
- He is set to replace Chief Secretary **VP Joy** who is set to retire on June 30, 2023.
- He was in charge of the **Rebuild Kerala Initiative** which was tasked to rebuild the state after the floods of 2018 and 2019.
- He has worked as a special officer for land acquisition for **Kannur International Airport**.

The government of India extends Brajendra Navnit's tenure as India's ambassador to WTO by 9 months

- The Government of India (GoI) **extended** the tenure of **Brajendra Navnit** as **Ambassador** and **Permanent Representative of India** to the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** by **9 months** till March 31, 2024.
- Navnit had assumed office as ambassador in June 2020 and his tenure was till June 28, 2023.
- The **Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the proposal of **Department of Commerce** for **extension** in tenure of foreign deputation of Brajendra Navnit.

About WTO :

- Established : 1 January 1995
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General : Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an **intergovernmental organization** that regulates and facilitates international trade.

Rohit Jawa took charge as MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever Limited after Sanjiv Mehta's retirement

- **Rohit Jawa** has assumed charge as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**.
- He replaced **Sanjiv Mehta** who retired after the HUL's annual general meeting.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Sanjiv Mehta took over as MD & CEO of HUL in **October 2013**.
- Sanjiv Mehta introduced several transformative business programmes such as ‘**Dial Up the Big Q**’ and ‘**Winning in Many Indias**’ to make the business more consumer-centric, agile, and resilient.

About HUL :

- Established : 1931
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- HUL is a British-owned Indian consumer goods company.

Bandhan Bank’s chief financial officer Sunil Samdani resigns

- Private lender **Bandhan Bank** announced that **Sunil Samdani resigned** from the post of **chief financial officer (CFO)** to explore professional opportunities outside the bank.
- Sunil Samdani, who also served as the **executive President** and **key managerial person (KMP)** of Bandhan Bank **stepped down** from his position.
- As per the terms of appointment, Samdhani will serve his notice period of **3 months**, till **October 1, 2023**.
- Samdani has an experience of over 23 years in financial services.
- Prior to joining Bandhan Bank as CFO, he held important positions like the **Head of Business Analytics and Strategy** at **Development Credit Bank**, and **CFO** at **Karvy Financial Services Ltd**.

About Bandhan Bank :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Lieutenant General MU Nair was appointed as the Head of the National Cyber Coordination Centre

- The **National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC)**, the **cybersecurity** and **e-surveillance agency** in the government of India, has appointed Lieutenant general **MU Nair** as the **new National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC)** replacing **Lt Gen (retd.) Dr Rajesh Pant**.
- He is **India’s third cyber security chief** after **Lt Gen (retd.) Dr Rajesh Pant** and first chief **Gulshan Rai**.
- Lt Gen MU Nair is an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy.
- He assumed the role of the **28th Signal Officer-in-Chief** in **July 2022**, bringing with him experience and expertise in the field of cyber warfare, signal intelligence, and communication and information technology.

Aadhav Arjuna from Tamil Nadu selected as the President of the Indian Basketball Federation

- The president of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association (TNBA), **Aadhav Arjuna** was elected as **president** of the **Basketball Federation of India (BFI)** in the election held at the Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, Delhi.
- Aadhav got 38 of the 39 votes, against the outgoing president **K Govindaraj**.
- **Aadhav Arjuna** becomes the **first person from Tamil Nadu (TN)** to be selected as the **President of BFI**.

About BFI :

- Founded : 1950
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- First female president of BFI : Poonam Mahajan

BharatPe appoints former Razor pay executive Pankaj Goel as new CTO

- Fintech unicorn **BharatPe** has appointed **Pankaj Goel** as **new chief technology officer (CTO)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Goel joined 8 months after the resignation of **Vijay Aggarwal**, who had served as BharatPe's CTO since March 2020.
- In his new role, Goel will lead the technology team and report to **Nalin Negi**, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and interim CEO at BharatPe.
- He held leadership positions at companies such as Intuit, Trilogy, and Sun Microsystems.
- Prior to joining BharatPe, Goel was the **head of payments engineering at Razorpay**.

About BharatPe :

- Established : 2018
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi

NATO Extended the tenure of Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg up to October 2024

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) members extended the tenure** of alliance chief **Jens Stoltenberg** for **another 1 year** until **1st October 2024**.
- It's the **fourth time** Stoltenberg has had his mandate extended.
- He is the **second-longest serving NATO secretary-general** after former Dutch foreign minister Joseph Luns, who spent almost 13 years at the helm from 1971.
- The decision to extend Stoltenberg's term comes one week before President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts will gather in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, for a critical NATO summit to discuss providing increased security guarantees for Ukraine amid its war against Russia.

About NATO :

- Established : 4 April 1949
- Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General : Jens Stoltenberg
- NATO is an **intergovernmental military alliance** between **31 member states** i.e., 29 European and 2 North American.

Google to appoint Former Apple Executive Sreenivasa Reddy as new India policy head

- Tech giant **Google** is set to appoint a well-known manufacturing and policy expert **Sreenivasa Reddy** as the **new India policy head**.
- He is likely to join Google towards the **end of 2023**.
- Reddy would be replacing **Archana Gulati** who exited Google in September 2022 after serving a tenure of 5 months.

About Google :

- Founded : September 4, 1998
- Headquarters : California, United States
- CEO : Sundar Pichai

Vice Admiral Atul Anand takes over as Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs

- **Vice Admiral Atul Anand** took over as **additional secretary** of the **Department of Military Affairs** in the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- He succeeded Lieutenant general **Anil Puri**, who superannuated on February 28, 2023.
- Vice Admiral Atul Anand was commissioned into the executive branch of the Indian Navy on January 01, **1988**.
- He is an alumnus of **National Defence Academy** (71st Course, Delta Squadron); Defence Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur (Bangladesh) and National Defence College, New Delhi.

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About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

Deepak Parekh quits HDFC after 46 years ahead of its merger with HDFC Bank

- **HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh (78) stepped down** after serving the mortgage lender for 46 years.
- He left his Chase Manhattan Bank job in **1978** to join HDFC when he was 33 and built it India's largest private sector housing finance company.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited appoints Krishna Kumar Thakur as Director of Human Resource

- A 1998-batch officer of **Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS)**, **Krishna Kumar Thakur** has been appointed as a **Director (Human Resources)** on the board of **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**.
- Thakur will serve on the Board of BHEL for a period of **5 years**.
- This appointment is seen as a significant development for the renowned public sector engineering and manufacturing enterprise.
- Thakur has an experience of 25 years in Indian Railways and **Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)** with fine handling of HR matters and administration.

About BHEL :

- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Nalin Shinghal
- BHEL is an **Indian central public sector undertaking** and the largest government-owned power generation equipment manufacturer.
- It is under the ownership of the Government of India (GoI) and administrative control of the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.

BCCI appoints Ajit Agarkar as chairman of senior men's selection committee

- The **Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI)** has appointed **Ajit Agarkar** as the **chairman** of the **Senior Men's Selection Committee** replacing **Chetan Sharma**.
- The decision was made by the **Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC)**, consisting of Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape.
- The Senior Men's Selection Committee now consists of **Ajit Agarkar (Chairperson)**, **Shiv Sundar Das**, **Subroto Banerjee**, **Salil Ankola**, and **Sridharan Sharath**.
- He represented the country in 26 Tests, 191 One Day International (ODI) , and four T20Is, in addition to playing 110 first-class, 270 List A, and 62 T20 matches.
- He was appointed as the **chief selector** for the senior Mumbai team and undertook coaching responsibilities with the Delhi Capitals.

About BCCI :

- Founded : December 1928
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- President : Roger Binny
- The BCCI is the **national governing body of Cricket in India**.

L&T Finance Holdings Ltd appoints Sudipta Roy as Managing Director and CEO

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- **L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (LTFH)** announced that **Sudipta Roy** will assume the position of **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company with effect from January 24, 2024, subject to necessary regulatory and/or statutory approvals.
- **Dinanath Dubhashi**, MD & CEO, L&T Finance Holdings, will superannuate from the Company on April 30, 2024.
- The Board of Directors of LTFH also announced the appointment of Roy as the company's **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.
- He joins the **non-banking finance company (NBFC)** from ICICI Bank.
- His appointment as COO and elevation as MD & CEO is part of the NBFCs succession planning.

About L&T Finance Holdings:

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, maharashtra, India
- L&T Finance Holdings Limited is one of India's most valued and **fastest-growing Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**.

GK Satish Becomes 1st Indian Appointed By Russian Oil Giant Rosneft On Its Board

- Russian energy giant **Rosneft** has appointed **Govind Kottieth Satish**, former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director, to its **board**.
- Satish, 62, is the **first Indian** to be appointed to the board of Rosneft.
- The appointment comes as a sign of Russia's strategy aimed at **boosting trade links** with India.
- Rosneft in its annual general meeting held on **June 30, 2023** announced the appointment of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director G.K. Satish as a member of its board which consists of a **total 11 members**.

About Rosneft :

- Founded : 1993
- Headquarters : Moscow, Russia
- CEO : Igor I Sechin
- Rosneft specialises in the exploration, extraction, production, refining, transport, and sale of petroleum, natural gas, and petroleum products.
- The Rosneft board also includes representatives from **Qatar** and the **Philippines**.

Senior IAS & Telecom Secretary, K Rajaraman Appointed as New Chairperson of IFSCA

- A 1989-batch senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and Telecom Secretary, **K Rajaraman** has been appointed as the new **Chairperson** of **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** by central government.
- He has been appointed as IFSCA chief for **3 years** from the date of his assuming charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.
- He will succeed **Injeti Srinivas**, who had taken over as the **first chairman of the IFSCA** in early July 2020 for a period of 3 years.

About IFSCA :

- Headquarters : GIFT City, Gujarat
- The IFSCA is the **regulatory body** for the Indian special economic zones such as the GIFT International Financial Services Centre for International Financial Services and commodity markets under the ownership of the Government of India (GoI).
- The IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.

Justice S K Singh appointed as acting chairperson of National Green Tribunal

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The Central government has appointed **Justice Sheo Kumar Singh** as **Acting Chairperson** of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, till a new Chairperson is appointed.
- He replaced **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel**, who retired on July 6, 2023.
- He joined the judicial service in 1984 and worked as a district judge in various districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- He worked as a district judge in various districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP), as Registrar (Judicial) at the Supreme Court of India, and as Registrar General, Allahabad High Court.

About NGT :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** is an Act of the Parliament of India which enables the creation of a **special tribunal** to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.
- It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of (Constitution of India/Part III) **Article 21 Protection of life and personal liberty**, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.

ASICS ropes in Shraddha Kapoor as brand ambassador for India

- **Japanese sports performance brand ASICS** has appointed Bollywood actor **Shraddha Kapoor** as the **new brand ambassador for India**.
- The actor will be endorsing the brand's footwear and women's sportswear segment.
- ASICS India continues to strengthen its philosophy of 'sound mind, sound body' and also build a stronger brand prominence among Indian female fitness enthusiasts.

About ASICS :

- Headquarters : Kobe, Japan
- Managing director at Asics India : Rajat Khurana
- Asics sells in India through its website along with **leading e-commerce platforms** and currently has 88 stores spread across India.

Latvia's foreign minister Edgars Rinkevics sworn in as European Union's first openly gay President

- **Edgars Rinkevics**, 49 Latvia's **long-serving foreign minister (from 2011 to 2023)**, has made history by becoming the **first openly gay president** of a European Union(EU) member state for a four-year term.
- He is the 7th president of Latvia.
- He succeeded **Egils Levits**, who didn't seek reelection.
- As the new president, Rinkevics will represent Latvia at the upcoming NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- The European Union never had a gay head of state before & it has had openly gay heads of governments before.
- Although the position of Latvia's president is generally ceremonial, Latvia's president can veto legislation and call referendums.

About Latvia :

- President : Edgars Rinkēvičs
- Prime Minister : Krišjānis Kariņš
- Capital : Riga
- Currency : Euro

Isha Ambani & Former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi Appointed as Directors On RIL's Financial Services Unit

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's daughter **Isha** and former Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) **Rajiv Mehrishi** have been appointed as **directors** on the board of demerged financial services unit of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Earlier, Reliance announced its plans to demerge its financial services undertaking into **Reliance Strategic Investments Limited (RSIL)** and rename and list it as **Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)**.
- Based on proprietary data analytics, the financial arm of Reliance will lend to consumers and merchants and eventually branch out to insurance, payments, digital broking, and asset management.

About RIL :

- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Mukesh Ambani

Rajiv Kumar Porwal assume charge as Director (System Operation) of Grid India

- **Rajiv Kumar Porwal** has assumed charge as **Director (System Operation) of Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India)**.
- As Director (System Operation) of Grid India, Porwal will be responsible for the overall secure and reliable operation of the India's Power System, operational planning, grid integration, scheduling and dispatch of electricity, monitoring real-time electricity grid operations, post facto analysis of the grid operations through the NLDC & RLDCs as well as cyber security.
- Prior to his elevation, he was contributing as **Executive Director, NRLDC, Grid-India**.
- He has around three decades' experience in Power System Operation spread across POWER GRID and Grid-India.

About Grid Controller of India Limited :

- Founded : March 2009
- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : S.R Narasimhan
- Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) is a division of the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India (GoI).

B. Neeraja Prabhakar becomes a new Chairperson of ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research Advisory Committee

- **B. Neeraja Prabhakar**, the Vice-Chancellor of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, was appointed as the **chairperson** of the **Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the prestigious Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)** in Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- The ICAR-IIOPR in Pedavegi is the **country's sole esteemed research institute** exclusively dedicated to the study of oil palm and the development of technologies applicable to oil palm-growing states.

About ICAR :

- Established: 16 July 1929
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Himanshu Pathak

SBI Card appoints Abhijit Chakravorty as new MD & CEO for two years; succeeds Rama Mohan Rao Amara

- **The country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card)**, has appointed **Abhijit Chakravorty** as its **new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- He will **replace Rama Mohan Rao Amara**, who will cease to be MD from August 11, 2023.
- Chakravorty's appointment would be effective **from August 12, 2023 for a period of two years**.

About SBI Card :

- Established : October 1998
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana

Microsoft India president Anant Maheshwari steps down, Irina Ghose becomes New Managing Director

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- **Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari** has **resigned** from his role after a stint of almost 7 years at the software company.
- Meanwhile, Microsoft has elevated company's chief operating officer (COO) **Irina Ghose to the role of Managing Director (MD) for India.**
- As part of the leadership changes, **Navtej Sigh Bal** has been **elevated** to the **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** role.
- Earlier, he was heading the government, public sector and education business for Microsoft in India.
- **Venkat Krishnan**, who was heading partnerships, has been promoted to **head the government business unit.**

About Microsoft India :

- Founded : 1990
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Centre appoints Justices Ujjal Bhuyan, SV Bhatti as 2 new Supreme Court judges

- **Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** and **Kerala Chief Justice S Venkatanarayana Bhatti** were appointed by the President of India Droupadi Murmu as **Supreme Court judges.**
- The appointments came within a week of the Supreme Court Collegium, led by **Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud**, recommending their names to the government.
- With the 2 new appointments, the judicial strength of the apex court has gone up to **33**, leaving only one vacancy vacant.
- This is, notably, the 11th appointment to the top court made in 2023.

Note :

- The Acting Chief Justice is to be appointed by the **President under Article 126 of the Constitution.**
- The Supreme Court, consisting of the Chief Justice of India and up to 33 fellow judges, has extensive powers in terms of original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction.
- Supreme Court judges retire at the age of **65.**

About Supreme Court of India :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The Supreme Court of India came into existence on 28 January 1950.

Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah elected as the new President of Olympic Council of Asia

- **Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al-Sabah** was elected the new President of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** from 2023-2027 at the 42nd OCA General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Sheikh Talal received 24 of the 44 votes cast, while the OCA Director General, Mr. Husain Al-Musallam, received 20.
- Sheikh Talal succeeded his elder brother, **Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, who led the OCA until 2021.
- Former Secretary General of the OCA, **Randhir Singh of India**, had led the OCA as Acting President since 2021 until the election.

About OCA :

- Founded : 16 November 1982
- Headquarters : Kuwait City, Kuwait
- Membership : 45 member National Olympic Committees.
- The OCA is a governing body of sports in Asia.
- OCA in partnership with **Asian Sports Federation (AESF)** announced the "**Road to Asian Games**" campaign for the 2022 Asian Games.

Australia appoints Michele Bullock as 1st female governor of central bank for next 7 years

- **Australia** has appointed a woman, **Michele Bullock** to **lead** its central bank, the first time ever in the 63-year history of the **Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)** for the next **7 years.**
- She will succeed **Philip Lowe**, who will leave office on September 17, 2023 marking the end of his 43-year career at the central bank.

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- Bullock who currently serves as the **RBA's deputy governor** will start her 7 -year term on 18 September 2023.

About Reserve Bank of Australia :

- Established : 14 January 1960
- The RBA is currently undergoing a **major reorganisation** following an independent review of its operations.

About Australia :

- Prime Minister : Anthony Albanese
- Capital : Canberra
- Currency : Australian dollar

Finance Ministry appoints SEBI Executive Director Pramod Rao as Member in the Board of International Financial Services Centre Authority

- The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** has appointed **Pramod Rao, Executive Director of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, as a **Member in the Board of International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)**.
- He replaced **Sujit Prasad**, Executive Director SEBI, who was appointed as a Member (representing SEBI) in IFSCA in July 2020.

SBI Capital Markets Ltd. appointed Rajay Kumar Sinha as its new MD & CEO

- **SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS)**, has appointed **Rajay Kumar Sinha** as the **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** at the wholly owned subsidiary and investment banking arm of State Bank of India (SBI).
- Sinha replaced **Amitava Chatterjee** who moved to SBI, Corporate Centre as Deputy Managing Director, in charge of Commercial Clients Group.

About SBICAPS :

- Founded : August 1986
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- SBICAPS is a wholly owned investment banking subsidiary of State Bank of India (SBI).

Rakesh Pal appointed as 25th Director General of Indian Coast Guard

- **DG Rakesh Pal** has been appointed as the **25th Director General** of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- He was given the **additional charge of Director General Coast Guard** in February 2023.

Awards & Honors :

- For his illustrious service he has been conferred with the award of **Tatrakshak Medal (TM)** in 2013 and **President Tatrakshak Medal (PTM)** for distinguished service in 2018.

About ICG :

- Established : February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- The ICG is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India.

Government appoints Sat Pal Bhanoo as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has appointed **Sat Pal Bhanoo** as the **managing director (MD)** of the company.
- He will take over as the LIC MD in place of **Siddhartha Mohanty**, who was appointed as the chairman of LIC in April, 2023.
- Bhanoo's appointment is effective from the date of assumption of charge and up to the date of his superannuation on **December 31, 2025** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About LIC :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty

Centre appoints Haryana IPS officer Manoj Yadava as Director General of Railway Protection Force

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- The Union government has appointed Haryana cadre 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Manoj Yadava** as next **Director General** of the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**.
- He will replace incumbent **Sanjay Chander**, a 1987-batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre who will retire on July 31, 2023.

Other Appointments :

- IPS officer **Shafi Ahsan Rizvi**, posted as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), is appointed as **Advisor** of the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also cleared the name of Maharashtra cadre IPS officer **Rajesh Pradhan** as **Joint Director** in the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** on a deputation basis.

About RPF :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- RPF is an armed Force of the Union under the administrative and operational control of Indian Railways, **Ministry of Railways**, Government of India established by the **Railway Protection Force Act, 1957**; enacted by the Indian Parliament for "the better protection and security of railway property and passenger area".

Longest-serving Dutch PM Mark Rutte quits politics after 13 years

- **Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte** announced he was **quitting politics** after **nearly 13 years** in power, in a shock end to his time as the longest-serving leader in the history of the Netherlands.

About Netherlands :

- Capital: Amsterdam.
- Currency : Euro

Indian-origin doctor S. Vincent Rajkumar becomes new chairman of International Myeloma Foundation

- Renowned scientist, clinician and researcher, **S. Vincent Rajkumar**, has been appointed as **chairman-elect** of the **Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)**.
- He takes over from the current chairman, **Brian G.M. Durie**, who is not seeking re-election to the post.
- Dr. Durie will remain a **member** of the Board of Directors and will hold the new position of Chairman Emeritus.

About multiple myeloma :

- Multiple myeloma is a cancer of the **bone marrow plasma cells - white blood cells** that make antibodies.
- A cancerous or malignant plasma cell is called a **myeloma cell**.

About IMF :

- Founded : 1990
- Headquarters : North Hollywood, California, United States of America
- Founders : Brian Novis, Susie Novis, and Brian G.M. Durie
- The IMF is an **American non-profit organisation** serving patients with myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow.
- The Foundation's reach extends to more than 525,000 members in 140 countries worldwide.

4 High Courts gets new Chief Justices

- The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** appointed Chief justices of **4 new High Courts**.

Appointments :

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- **Justice Sunita Agarwal** became the new **Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court**.
- **Justice Alok Aradhe** is the new Chief Justice of the **Telangana High Court**.
- **Justice Subhasis Talapatra** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the **Orissa High Court**.
- **Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai** would take over as the new Chief Justice of the **Kerala High Court**.
- The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President under **Article 217**.
- A High Court Judge retires at the age of **62**.
- A Judge (including Chief Justice) of a High Court could be transferred **under Article 222**.

Former Intel India Head Nivruti Rai Appointed As MD And CEO Of Invest India

- **Nivruti Rai**, the former Intel India head, joined Invest India as the **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest India**.
- She has taken over the charge from **Manmeet K Nanda**, Joint Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), who had been serving as the interim MD and CEO since March 2023.

About Invest India :

- Invest India is the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India**, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**.
- The Board of Invest India is chaired by **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT**.

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry :

- Cabinet Minister : Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State : Anupriya Patel, Som Parkash

Jaguar Land Rover appoints Adrian Mardell as its CEO for 3-year term

- **Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)**, a unit of Indian automaker Tata Motors, has appointed interim boss **Adrian Mardell** as **chief executive officer (CEO)** for a **three-year term**.
- The appointment was made by **Tata Motors**, which owns JLR.
- JLR also appointed **Richard Molyneux** as **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
- Previously, Molyneux was the Acting CFO from **December 12, 2022**.

About Jaguar Land Rover :

- Founded : 18 January 2008
- Headquarters : Whitley, Coventry, United Kingdom
- Jaguar Land Rover is a subsidiary of Tata Motors.
- Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC is the holding company of Jaguar Land Rover Limited, also known as JLR, and is a **British multinational automobile manufacturer** which produces luxury vehicles and sport utility vehicles.

About Tata Motors Limited :

- Establishment : 1945
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran

CMA Neeraj Joshi Elected as Institute Of Cost Accountants Of India's Central Council Member

- **City-based Cost & Management Accountant (CMA) Neeraj Joshi** has been elected as the **Central Council Member (CCM)** of the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** and **CMA Chaitanya Moharir** elected as the **Western India Regional Council Member (RCM)**.

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- This is the **second time** that Joshi & Moharir represented Pune at the central and regional council.

About ICAI :

- Established : 28 May 1959
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal
- The ICAI is a professional accountancy body in India under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, Government of India.
- The Institute was established by a special act of Parliament, namely, the **Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959** as a statutory professional body for the regulation of the profession of cost and management accountancy.

China names Pan Gongsheng as Governor of China's central bank

- **Pan Gongsheng** was named **China's central bank governor** in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling **Communist Party's** once-a-decade change of power.
- Pan, 60, was appointed by the National People's Congress Standing Committee replacing **Yi Gang**, an American-trained economist who reached the official retirement age of 65.
- The Pan Gongsheng appointment marks the **first time since 2018** that the top two positions at the **People's Bank of China (PBOC) - governor and Communist Party secretary** will be held by **oen person**, potentially streamlining decision-making at the very top.

About China :

- President : Xi Jinping
- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya Sworn in as Chief Justice Of Bombay High Court

- The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** appointed **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** from the **Allahabad High Court (HC)** as the **Chief Justice** of the **Bombay High Court**.
- The position of Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court had been vacant since the retirement of **CJ RD Dhanuka** on May 30, 2023.
- Currently, the Bombay HC, which has a sanctioned strength of **94 judges**, is functioning with 66 judges, including 40 permanent and 26 additional judges.
- **Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar nominated 4 women Parliamentarians to panel of Vice-Chairpersons**
- In a historic move, Chairman, Rajya Sabha, **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar** has nominated **4 women Parliamentarians** namely **PT Usha, S. Phangnon Konyak (first woman from Nagaland) , Dr. Fauzia Khan, and Sulata Deo** to the panel of **Vice-Chairpersons**.
- It is also noteworthy that all women members nominated to the panel are **first term Parliamentarians** and **Smt. S. Phangnon Konyak** is the **first ever woman from Nagaland** to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- The panel reconstituted before the Monsoon Session contains a total of **8 names**, out of which half (4) are women.
- **V Vijayasai Reddy, Ghanshyam Tiwari, Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah, and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray** have also been nominated to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

Aim of the move :

- To ensure gender parity, by ensuring a **50% representation of women** in the 8-member panel.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- This is the **first time** in the history of the Upper House that equal representation has been given to women members in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

About Rajya Sabha :

- The Rajya Sabha, constitutionally the Council of States, is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India.
- The total allowed capacity is **250 (238 elected, 12 appointed)** according to **article 80** of the Indian Constitution.

Tata Steel reappoints TV Narendran as its MD and CEO for 5 years

- Based on the recommendation of the **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**, Tata Steel has reappointed **TV Narendran as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a further period of **5 years** effective September 19, 2023 through September 18, 2028.

About Tata Steel Limited :

- Founded : 26 August 1907
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- Tata Steel Limited is an **Indian multinational steel-making company**.

BRICS' New Development Bank elects Thuraiya Alhashmi as a board member

- **BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB)** has elected **Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organizations Department** at the **UAE Ministry of Finance**, as a **member** of its Board of Directors and a Constituency Director.
- She was appointed following an internal voting process during **NDB's 8th Annual Meeting**, held recently in **Shanghai, China**.
- Thuraiya Alhashmi will become the **first Emirati and Arab woman** to assume a Director's position at the New Development Bank.

About BRICS' NDB :

- Established : 2015
- Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- President : Dilma Rousseff
- Membership : Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay
- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the **BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)**.

Government extends Amitava Mukherjee's additional charge as CMD of NMDC Steel

- The **Ministry of Steel (MoS)** has **extended the tenure of Amitava Mukherjee's additional charge as Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of NMDC Limited**, formerly National Mineral Development Corporation and NMDC Steel Limited for a period of **3 months** with effect from September 01, 2023 to November 19, 2023.

About NMDC Limited :

- Established : 1958
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana

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Axis Bank appoints former RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan as its non-executive chairman

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval for the appointment of N S Vishwanathan as the non-executive (part-time) chairman of the bank for a 3-year term.

Supreme Court extends Enforcement Directorate Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15, 2023

- The Supreme Court (SC) extended the tenure of Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra till September 15, 2023.
- According to the previous judgement, Mishra's term was set to conclude on July 31, 2023.

About Directorate of Enforcement (ED) :

- Founded : 1 May 1956
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The Directorate of Enforcement is a domestic law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- Prime objective of the ED is the enforcement of 3 key Acts of the Government of India namely, the
 - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
 - The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
 - The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

Former Ashok Leyland MD R Seshasayee appointed as the Chairman of Asian Paints

- Indian multinational paint company, Asian Paints has appointed R Seshasayee as the Chairman of the board of directors of the company with effect from October 1, 2023, and he will continue in this position until the end of his tenure on January 22, 2027.
- He will succeed the current Chairman, Deepak Satwalekar, whose term is scheduled to end on September 30, 2023.
- Currently, he serves as the Chairman of the Investment Committee in the paints company and is also a member of both the Audit Committee and the Nomination & Remuneration Committees.

About Asian Paints :

- Founded : 1 February 1942
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The company is engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling and distribution of paints, coatings, products related to home décor, bath fittings and providing related services.
- It is the holding company of Berger International.

Himachal Pradesh IAS officer Ritesh Chauhan gets additional charge as MD of NAFED

- 2005-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, Ritesh Chauhan (IAS) has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).
- Presently, he is serving as CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojan (PMFBY) and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

About NAFED :

- Founded : 2 October 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- NAFED is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.

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India's UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj assumes chairmanship of 62nd Session of UN Commission for Social Development

- India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Ruchira Kamboj has assumed the chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) and stressed its crucial role in addressing social challenges.
- India is a member of the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development, and its term expires in 2027.
- The central theme for the 62nd session is “Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to accelerate progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.”
- This theme underscores the vital connection between social development and social justice, as they form the bedrock for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

About UN CSocD :

- Founded : 16 February 1946
- Headquarters : New York, United States of America

IPCC elected UK Professor Jim Skea as its new Chair

- United Kingdom (UK) Professor Jim Skea has been elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the globally authoritative United Nations (UN) body on climate change science.
- The election took place during the 59th plenary session of the IPCC in Nairobi, Kenya.
- He was elected by 90 votes to 69 in a run-off with Thelma Krug of Brazil.
- With nearly 40 years of climate science experience and expertise, Jim Skea will lead the IPCC through its 7th assessment cycle.
- 4 candidates ran for the Chair of the IPCC they are Thelma Krug (Brazil), Debra Roberts (South Africa), Jim Skea (United Kingdom), Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium).
- Among the 4 candidates 2 were women.
- These were the first elections in the history of the IPCC with women candidates running for this position.
- The IPCC completed its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) in March 2023.

About IPCC :

- Established : 1988
- Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- IPCC is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations. Its job is to advance scientific knowledge about climate change caused by human activities.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the IPCC.

Justice Alok Aradhe sworn in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

- Justice Alok Aradhe was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court at Raj Bhavan, Telangana.
- He succeeds Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who is elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

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AWARDS AND HONOUR

Boxing champion Mary Kom named Global Indian Icon at UK-India Awards

- Sporting legend and India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, **Mary Kom**, has been **honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award** at the annual UK-India Awards in Windsor, south-eastern England.
- The 40-year-old former Rajya Sabha member spoke of her 20-year journey of hard work and devoting her life to boxing as she accepted the award from Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Dorai swami.
- **Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, behind Oscar-nominated 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age' received a Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contribution to the field of cinema across both nations at the awards, organised by India Global Forum (IGF) as part of UK-India Week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will get the renowned Lokmanya Tilak Award in 2023:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be awarded the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak Award 2023.**
- An official announcement in this regard was made by the President of Tilak Smarak Trust Dr Dipak Tilak and Rohit Tilak at a press conference in Pune.
- The award will be conferred by the hands of the President of the Trust Dr. Deepak Tilak on August 1, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.
- Companion of the Order of Logohu: Papua New Guinea conferred the highest civilian award for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South. – May 2023
- Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji in recognition of PM Modi's global leadership – May 2023
- Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau: During his visit to Papua New Guinea, PM Modi was conferred with Ebakl Award by President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. of the Republic of Palau – May 2023

NTPC has received the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023

- NTPC has received the prestigious **Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023** for **"Best use of AI/AR/VR in Learning and Upskilling"** and **"Best Advance in Creating an Extended Enterprise Learning Programme"**.
- Director (HR), NTPC, **Shri Dilip Kumar Patel** received the awards on behalf of NTPC at a **programme held in Gurugram.**

About NTPC

- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Gurdeep Singh is the Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC

Shri Anurag Thakur confers the 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards; inaugurates Regional Community Radio Sammelan

- The awards were conferred during the **Inaugural Session of the two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelan (North) which was inaugurated by the union minister at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi.**
- The winners of the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards are a recognition of Community Radio Stations that have done commendable work in their field, in the public interest.
- These awards are being conferred during the Community Radio Regional Sammelan being held on the occasion of National Broadcasting Day on 23rd July 2023.
- For the **9th National Community Radio Awards, a total of 12 Awards in 4 Categories** are being given.

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- The award-winning Community Radio Stations are situated in the States of Haryana, Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Tripura.

Thematic Awards

- First Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana; Name of Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Rah
- Second Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odisha; Name of Programme: Adhar O PoshanBigyan
- Third Prize: Green Radio, Sabour, Bihar; Name of Programme: PoshanShrinkhla

Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards

- First Prize Radio SD, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh; Name of the programme: Hizra in Between
- Second Prize Kabir Radio, Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh; Name of Program: Selfie Le Le Re
- Third Award: Radio MindTree, Ambala, Haryana Name of Programme: Book Bugs

Promoting Local Culture Awards

- First Prize: Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odisha; Name of Programme: Asmita
- Second Prize: Friends FM, Tripura, Agartala; Name of Programme: Revived a dying art: MASK & POT
- Third Prize: PantnagarJanvani, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand; Name of Program: Dadi Ma Ka Batua

Sustainability Model Awards

- First Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odisha
- Second Prize: VayalagaVanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
- Third Prize: VAGAD Radio “90.8”, Banswara, Rajasthan

RANKING AND REPORTS

The "Metabolic Noncommunicable Health Report of India-the ICMR-INDIAB National Cross-sectional Study" has revealed updated national figures for non-communicable diseases.

- The new national estimates for non-communicable diseases (NCDs)- “Metabolic non-communicable health report of India-the ICMR-INDIAB National Cross-sectional Study” was recently released.
- The study was funded by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **India has 101 million people with diabetes and 136 million people with prediabetes.**
- **Highest diabetes states: Goa, Puducherry and Kerala**
- **Highest prediabetes state: Sikkim**
- **Highest hypertension State: Punjab**
- **Highest Generalised obesity and abdominal obesity: Puducherry**
- **Highest hypercholesterolemia and LDL cholesterol: Kerala**
- **Lowest NCDs states: U.P., Mizoram, Meghalaya and Jharkhand**

India and Asian top Recipients of FDI: UNCTAD Report

- **Foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries in Asia remained flat year-on-year at \$662 billion during 2022, despite clocking about half of global inflows, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its World Investment Report 2023.** Inflows were highly concentrated.
- **Five economies (China, Singapore, Hong Kong (China), India and the United Arab Emirates, in that order) accounted for almost 80% of FDI to the region.**
- **In East Asia,** inflows to China rose by 5% to \$189 billion, mainly in manufacturing and high-tech industries and mostly from European multinational enterprises (MNEs). Flows to Hong Kong (China) fell by 16% to \$118 billion.
- **In South-East Asia,** Singapore, the largest recipient, registered another record, up 8% to \$141 billion. Flows to Malaysia grew by 39% to \$17 billion – a new record for the country.

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- FDI to Viet Nam and Indonesia rose by 14% and 4%, to \$18 billion and \$22 billion, respectively. FDI to the Philippines fell by 23% as a result of several divestments.
- **In West Asia**, flows to Saudi Arabia fell by 59% to \$7.9 billion. FDI to the United Arab Emirates increased by 10% to \$23 billion – the highest amount ever recorded. The country attracted the fourth-highest number of greenfield projects in the world. Flows to Türkiye rose by 9% to \$13 billion.
- **In South Asia**, FDI flows to India rose by 10% to \$49 billion as the country became the third-largest host country for greenfield project announcements and the second-largest for international project finance deals. FDI in Bangladesh grew by 20% to \$3.5 billion.
- **In Central Asia**, flows to Kazakhstan almost doubled to \$6.1 billion, mainly in extractive industries. FDI also rose in Uzbekistan, by 11%, to \$3 billion.

About FDI:

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a category of cross-border investment in which an investor resident in one economy establishes a lasting interest in and a significant degree of influence over an enterprise resident in another economy.

About UNCTAD

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations Secretariat that promotes the interests of developing countries in world trade.
- Founded: 30 December 1964
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founder: United Nations General Assembly
- Secretary-General: Rebeca Grynszpan

Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have the most number of rich households in India

- **Ten Indian states account for more than 80 per cent of the rich households**, according to a newly released study.
- **Maharashtra houses a majority of them - 2.62 million.**
- **It is followed by Tamil Nadu with 0.9 million.**
- This is according to a recently released study by the think tank **People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE)**, titled **The Rise of the Middle Class: A Force to Reckon With.**
- It also notes that close to 4 per cent of India's households are rich.
- That is 10.67 million households in India as of FY21.

About Tamil Nadu

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- NP: Guindy National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park (Annamalai), and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

About Maharashtra

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

Performance Grading Index (PGI): Assessment for school education, Chandigarh made a comeback to join Punjab, which kept first place.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- **Chandigarh made a comeback to join Punjab, which retained its top position, to be among the best performing states in the latest Performance Grading Index (PGI) report for school education.**
- **Last years' top performing states - Kerala and Maharashtra-are among the second best performing states/ UTs in the grading.**
- But none of the states/UTs could achieve the top five grades in the overall category, based on various domains like access, learning outcomes, infrastructure, equity, teachers' training and governance processes.
- PGI, revamped in 2021-22 in the wake of National Education Policy, has classified states/UTs into ten grades.
- The highest achievable grade is Daksh, which is for states/UT scoring more than 940 out of 1000 points.

India best-performing in South Asia in terms of trade facilitation: UNESCAP

- **India is now the best-performing nation amongst all the countries of South Asian region in terms of trade facilitation, as per the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) report.**
- As per the **Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, India improved its score compared to 2021 survey.**
- The 2023 survey, covering more than 140 economies and evaluating 60 trade facilitation measures, has positioned India at the forefront of global trade facilitation reports, with an impressive score of 93.55 per cent in 2023 vis a vis 90.32 per cent in 2021.
- The 2023 survey has recognised India's exceptional progress across various sub indicators, with the country achieving a perfect score of 100 per cent in **four key areas: Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, and Paperless Trade.**

About UNESCAP:

- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is the Secretariat of the United Nations for the Asian and Pacific region. One of the main functions of UNESCAP is to promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration.
- The commission was originally located in Shanghai, Republic of China, from its foundation until 1949, when it moved its headquarters to United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand

Four Indian-origin biz leaders on 2023 Forbes' 100 Richest self-made Women list

- **Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have made it to the Forbes list of America's 100 most successful self-made women, with a combined net worth of a whopping USD 4.06 billion.**
- Building supply distributor **Diane Hendricks, with a \$15 billion net worth, retained the top spot for the sixth year in a row.**
- This year's list has **eight entrants, including television producer Shonda Rhimes and Insitro CEO Daphne Koller.**

India's ethanol program will cap future sugar exports: BMI

- As per the **BMI report, India's ethanol program will cap future sugar exports.**
- In recent years, **India has emerged as the world's second-largest producer and a major exporter.**
- But, India going forward with the expansion of the government-led ethanol programme will have a smaller role in the sugar export market.
- **India's ethanol blending reached 11.5%, while the government's target is to reach 20% by 2025.**

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- As per the report, it is doubtful that India will be able to achieve its target by 2025 as the programme will cap exports of feedstocks used in ethanol production.
- BMI noted that Indonesia is also getting back to an ethanol blending programme with a 5% rate initially, and a target to get to 10 per cent by 2030.
- India needs to sharply increase sugarcane planting to reach the target.

NITI Aayog released the 3rd edition of the 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022

- NITI Aayog released the 3rd edition of the 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for States/UTs **Tamil Nadu (TN) topped the 3rd edition of the NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022** with an overall score of **80.89**, piping Maharashtra (78.20) and Karnataka (76.36).
- The report was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, **Shri. Suman Bery**.

EPI 2022 Overall Rankings :

Rank	State	Category	Score
1	Tamil Nadu	Coastal	80.89
2	Maharashtra	Coastal	78.20
3	Karnataka	Coastal	76.36
4	Gujarat	Coastal	73.22
5	Haryana	Landlocked	63.65
6	Telangana	Landlocked	61.36
7	Uttar Pradesh	Landlocked	61.23
8	Andhra Pradesh	Coastal	59.27
9	Uttarakhand	Himalayan	59.13
10	Punjab	Landlocked	58.95

- Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022 which assesses the readiness of the states in terms of their export potential and performance.
- Among the **landlocked regions, Haryana topped** the ranking with a score of 63.65 followed by Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- In the category of **union territories/small states, Goa (51.58)** was ranked first. Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh were ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively.
- Among **export districts, Jamnagar in Gujarat topped** the chart. It was followed by Surat, Mumbai Suburban, Mumbai, Pune, Bharuch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautam Budha Nagar and Bengaluru Urban.

About Export Preparedness Index 2022 :

- The EPI 2022 report seeks to empower State governments with **region-specific insights** to assist decision-making, identify strengths, address weaknesses, and foster comprehensive growth across States and UTs of India.
- The ranking is based on **4 main pillars**:
 1. **Policy Pillar**
 2. **Business Ecosystem**

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3. Export Ecosystem
4. Export Performance

Iceland is the world's most peaceful country according to the 2023 Global Peace Index

- The **Institute for Economics and Peace** has released the **2023 Global Peace Index**, which ranks the **most peaceful countries** in the world.
- This is the **17th edition of the annual report**, which is considered the leading measure of peacefulness worldwide.
- Out of 163 countries, **India's rank on the Global Peace Index is 126, with an overall score of 2.31, which is below the global average of 2.314.** Although India faces persistent challenges in attaining high levels of peace, it provides a chance for enhancement.
- Since 2008, **Iceland has consistently remained the most peaceful country, excelling in domestic and international conflict resolution, societal safety and security, and lack of militarization.**

Top 10 Countries :

RANK	COUNTRY	POINTS
1	Iceland	1.124
2	Denmark	1.31
3	Ireland	1.312
4	New Zealand	1.313
5	Austria	1.316
6	Singapore	1.332
7	Portugal	1.333
8	Slovenia	1.334
9	Japan	1.336
10	Switzerland	1.339

About Iceland:

- Capital: Reykjavík
- Currency: króna
- Prime minister: Katrín Jakobsdóttir

About Institute for Economics and Peace

- The Institute for Economics and Peace is a global think tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia with branches in New York City, Mexico City and Oxford.
- Founded: 2008

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Vistara-Lufthansa Partnership To Enhance Connectivity Across 12 Destinations In Europe

- **Vistara**, India's leading full-service carrier, has expanded its codeshare partnership with **Lufthansa**, one of Europe's premier airlines, enabling enhanced connectivity to Vistara customers while travelling across Europe.
- Now, the 12 key destinations that get included in **Vistara's network** are Amsterdam (AMS), Stockholm (ARN), Berlin (BER), Budapest (BUD), Copenhagen (CPH), Rome (FCO), Hamburg (HAM), Helsinki (HEL), Lisbon (LIS), Munich (MUC), Oslo (OSL), Prague (PRG).

The National Anti-Doping Agency of India signed an MoU with the South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization in New Delhi.

- **The National Anti-Doping Agency of India (NADA)** India signed an MoU with **South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO)**, comprising of Anti-Doping Organizations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, at the **NADA India – SARADO Cooperation Meet** in New

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Delhi, in the presence of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Ms Sujata Chaturvedi, Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, SARADO Secretariat & Member Country Representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

- The **MoU aims to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sport.**
- Shri Narendra Modi has envisioned India to become a sporting powerhouse in the coming years.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is committed to transforming this dream into a reality and is working relentlessly to improve Indian athletes' sports performance at the national and international levels.

About NADA

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 24 November 2005
- Chairman: Minister of Sports (India)

The DGCA has signed an agreement with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency for unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility:

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility.**
- This MoU will focus on collaboration on unmanned aircraft and innovative air mobility between the two civil aviation authorities.
- This **collaboration would include cooperation between DGCA and EASA in the areas of development of certification standards and environmental standards** and related requirements for the certification and use of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility operations which includes licensing of personnel, training, air traffic management and infrastructure, **including Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) standards and services.**

About DGCA

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent agency: Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Deputy Ministers responsible: V.K. Singh

About EASA

- Founded: 15 July 2002
- Founder: European Parliament

The Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy have signed an agreement with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd to create a gallery at the National Maritime Heritage Complex.

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Coast Guard & Indian Navy with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd.**, in Gandhinagar for the planning, development, construction, and commissioning of a gallery on the **theme “Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard”** at the
- **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) which is being constructed at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat).**
- The Government of India is building the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**
- The foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2019.

First-ever IIT campus to be established outside of India- MoU for setting up IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar-Tanzania, has been inked

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- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar-Tanzania was signed between the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India, IIT Madras and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) Zanzibar- Tanzania, in the presence of Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.
- This is the first ever IIT campus to be set up outside India.

About Tanzania

- Capital: Dodoma
- Currency: Shilling
- Prime minister: Kassim Majaliwa
- President: Samia Suluhu Hassan

The University of Jaffna and IIT Madras establish an agreement to boost academic cooperation and research projects.

- To foster academic collaboration and promote research initiatives, the University of Jaffna and the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The signing took place at the Kilinochchi campus, where the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Jaffna, Dr. K Pirapaharan, handed over a copy of the MoU to Indian Consul General Raakesh Natraj.
- The MoU entails a range of opportunities for both institutions, including student and faculty exchanges.

Atal Innovation Mission launches 'ATL Industry Visit' in collaboration with Bayer

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Bayer inaugurated a one-of-a-kind industrial visit project called Atal Tinkering Labs at Bayer's production site in Vapi, Gujarat.
- According to NITI Aayog, "It is critical to raise public awareness in order to fuel the manufacturing policy and realize its potential."
- Bayer has partnered with Niti Aayog since 2021 to support various initiatives of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- To nurture and strengthen science-based learning, Bayer has adopted a total of 125 ATL schools in seven states.

About AIM

- AIM is the government of India's main program to encourage an innovative and entrepreneurial culture there.
- Create awareness and a governance framework to supervise the nation's innovation ecosystem. Create new programs and policies for supporting innovation in various economic sectors.

Significant Initiatives by AIM

- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** These are fostering a problem-solving mentality in Indian classrooms.
- **Atal Incubation Centers:** Creating world-class startups and expanding the incubator model.
- Challenges for **Atal New India** include encouraging product innovation and aligning it with the needs of diverse sectors/ministries.
- **Mentor India Campaign:** A nationwide mentor network created in conjunction with the public sector, corporations, and institutions to support all mission objectives.
- The mission of the **Atal Community Innovation Center** is to foster community-centered innovation and ideas in unserved/underserved areas of the country, particularly Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **ARISE (Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises):** To promote innovation and research in the MSME sector.

About Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

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- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- WLS & NP: Gir National Park, Velavadar National Park, Marine National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

The Climate Policy Initiative and the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on sustainable finance:

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Climate Policy Initiative - India (CPI)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for mutual assistance and cooperation to **increase the mobilisation of global sustainable capital flows into India.**
- The commencement of India's G20 Presidency begins **with the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future"**.
- Sustainable development is a key priority that runs across the priorities of G20 working groups. Mobilisation of sustainable finance is critical to achieving a transition to green and resilient economies.
- **IFSCA has taken significant steps in accelerating global sustainable capital flows by creating a conducive regulatory environment,** based on international best practices, focused especially on the needs of India and developing countries.

About IFSCA

- The IFSCA is a statutory authority established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 ("IFSCA Act") with a mandate to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres ('IFSC').
- GIFT-IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India.
- The IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region.

The MoD and FSSAI signed an agreement to encourage millet use, healthy eating habits, and the provision of wholesome food to the armed forces:

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote the use of millet and healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces** and ensure the availability of safe & nutritious food **was signed in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi.**
- Both Ministers **also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence' to promote the consumption of Shree Anna (millets) and its health benefits.**
- The MoU was signed by Director General (Supplies and Transport) Lieutenant General Preet Mohinder Singh on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and CEO, of **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Shri G Kamala Vardhana Rao.**
- It aims **to create awareness about the nutritional benefits of diet diversity and millet-based food products among the personnel.**

About Ministry of Defence:

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Giridhar Aramane

About FSSAI

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Founded: 5 September 2008
- Headquarters: New Delhi

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) inks MoU with IIML -EIC

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- **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and IIML-EIC, have signed a MoU at IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Lucknow EIC, Noida campus in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and IIML-EIC to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.**
- The IFSCA is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services, including that of the insurance sector, in the IFSC, which is treated as a separate international financial jurisdiction, distinct from the rest of India.
- **IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform at the regional/ global level.**

About UP:

- Capital: Lucknow
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- NP: Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Rajaji National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park

BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) sign a memorandum of understanding

- **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and PIEDS BITS Pilani, have signed a MoU at BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator, Pilani Campus in Rajasthan**
- **This MoU aims to put in place a framework for cooperation and understanding between IFSCA and BITS Pilani PIEDS Finxcelerator to collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities.**
- **IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform at the regional/ global level.**
- **This MoU will enable cooperation and collaboration on diverse initiatives regarding FinTech.**

About IFSCA

- The IFSCA is a statutory authority established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 (“IFSCA Act”) with a mandate to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (‘IFSC’).
- GIFT-IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India.
- The IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region.

About Rajasthan

- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- NP: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur, Mukundara National Park

A Memorandum of Understanding was inked to create IIT Delhi's first campus in Abu Dhabi

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish the 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.**
- **The MoU was signed by HE Mubarak Hamad Al Mheiri, ADEK Under Secretary, Shri Sunjay Sudhir, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and Professor Rangan Banerjee, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.**

About UAE:

- Capital: Abu Dhabi
- Currency: Dirham
- Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan-3, Lander Vikram, rover Pragyan to return to Moon

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** plans to retain the names of the **Chandrayaan-2 lander (Vikram)** and **rover (Pragyan)** for their **Chandrayaan-3** equivalents as well.
- This means, the Chandrayaan-3 lander will bear the name 'Vikram' (after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme) and the rover, 'Pragyan'.
- Following Chandrayaan-2, where a last-minute glitch led to the failure of the lander's (Vikram) soft landing attempt after a successful orbital insertion, another lunar mission (Chandrayaan-3) for demonstrating soft landing was proposed.

About ISRO :

- Founded : 15 August 1969
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman : Sreedhara Somanath

IIT-Madras Pravartak Tech partners with Vidya Shakti to take education to 100 villages in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh through 'Online Classes and Virtual Reality'

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation** has partnered with 'Vidya Shakti' to take education to the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh (UP) through the use of **Online Classes and Virtual Reality (VR)**.
- To tackle the 'knowledge gap' created by Covid-19 between students from urban and rural areas.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 'SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to Strengthen Maritime sector

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, inaugurated the 'Sagar Sampark' **Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS)** in New Delhi, Delhi to strengthen the **maritime sector in India**.

Participants :

- Shri Shripad Y. Naik, the Minister of State of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Shri TK Ramachandran, IAS Secretary, MoPSW and other senior officials from the ministry and Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships.
- DGNSS is a terrestrial-based enhancement system which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)**.
- 'SAGAR SAMPARK' DGNSS has been launched at **6 locations** under the **Directorate General of Lighthouses And Lightships (DGLL)** in the field of Radio Aids to Marine Navigation.

About Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways :

- Cabinet Minister : Sarbananda Sonowal
- Minister of State : Shripad Yesso Naik, Shantanu Thakur

ISRO Successfully launched its 3rd lunar mission - Chandrayaan 3 from Sriharikota

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched its **third lunar mission - Chandrayaan 3** on-board the heavy lift **LVM3-M4 rocket** in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.
- The Vikram lander of the mission is expected to soft-land on the surface of the **South Pole region of the Moon** on around **August 23 or August 24, 2023**.
- India will become the **4th country** to master the technology of soft-landing on the moon's surface after the **United States (US), China** and the **former Soviet Union**.
- **Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA)** will measure the near-surface plasma density and its changes with time.
- **Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA)** will measure seismicity around the landing site and delineate the structure of the lunar crust and mantle

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- **Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)** will determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks around the landing site.
- **Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer (APXS)** will derive the chemical composition and infer the mineralogical composition of the moon's surface.
- **Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE)** will study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the earth in the near-infrared wavelength range.
- **Veeramuthuvel**, aged about 46 years, is **currently project director of Chandrayaan-3 mission** under the leadership of Sreedhara Somanath.

About ISRO :

- Founded : 15 August 1969
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman : Sreedhara Somanath

IIT-Kharagpur to develop tamper-proof signalling system for safety in trains

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur**, is developing a **tamper-proof signalling system** based on blockchain technology for the **Indian Railways**.
- The system is going to be embedded with enhanced safety measures; the new system would complement the existing Data Logger which is considered the **'Black Box' of rolling stock**.

NASA released new image to celebrate Webb space telescope's first year of science

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** released a new image of a small star-forming region captured by **James Webb Space Telescope** to celebrate the completion of the **telescope's first year of science**.
- The new image features the nearest star-forming region in the **Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex**.
- Its proximity at **390 light-years** allows for a highly detailed close-up, with no foreground stars in the intervening space.
- The region contains approximately **50 young stars**, all of them similar in mass to the Sun, or smaller.

About NASA :

- Established : July 29, 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C, United States of America
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Simplifai launched world's 1st generative AI tool for insurance

- **Simplifai**, an AI automation solutions firm, has launched **Simplifai InsuranceGPT**, a custom-built, **world-first GPT tool fuelled** by the company's no-code AI-powered platform.
- The first custom-built AI GPT tool for insurers offers ChatGPT-like enhanced decision making for **automated claims management**, while maintaining privacy and data security.

About Simplifai :

- Founded : 2017
- Headquarters : Oslo, Norway
- Simplifai is a secure AI solutions company.
- Its AI Automation platform is used to create **Simplifai Archiver, Claims Handling, Document Handling, Debt Collection and Customer Service solutions**.

ISRO & Bhabha Atomic Research Center join hands to develop nuclear engines for rockets

- India's space agency, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, is jointly developing a **nuclear-powered engine** along with **Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC)**, it is **reliably learnt**.
- ISRO-BARC are developing what are called **Radio thermoelectric generators (RTGs)**.
- The RTGs use radioactive materials, such as **Plutonium-238 or Strontium-90**, which release heat as they decay.
- Essentially, the engine contains **two parts**, the **radioisotope heater unit (RHU)** which generates heat and the RTG, which converts the heat into electricity.

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European satellite being made to crash intentionally on Earth

- The **European Space Agency's (ESA) Aeolus wind satellite**, after exceeding its planned life in orbit, is making its way **back to Earth**.
- The satellite, which has been orbiting our planet for nearly 5 years, is currently falling at a rate of around **1 km per day**, with its descent accelerating.
- Now, gravity, Earth's atmosphere, and solar activity are dragging Aeolus down from its operational altitude of **320 km**.
- In a **first-of-its-kind operation**, ESA's spacecraft operators will soon intervene and attempt an assisted reentry.

About Aeolus Wind Satellite :

- Aeolus is a satellite mission launched by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to **study Earth's winds** and their influence on the planet's climate and weather patterns.
- The mission is named after Aeolus, the ruler of the winds in Greek mythology.
- Aeolus was launched on **August 22, 2018**, from the Guiana Space Centre in **French Guiana**.
- It is a **1,360-kilogram satellite**.

About European Space Agency :

- Established : 30 May 1975
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director General : Josef Aschbacher

SpaceX Successfully Launched 22 Starlink V2 'Mini' Satellites into Low Earth Orbit

- The Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, commonly referred to as **SpaceX** launched **22 Starlink V2 'Mini' satellites** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** from **Space Launch Complex 40** at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- The Falcon 9's first stage came back down to Earth for a landing about **8.5 minutes** after liftoff as planned.
- According to a SpaceX mission description, it was the **sixth launch** and landing for this particular booster.
- Until now, Spacecraft has launched more than **4,850 Starlink craft** to LEO in total.

About SpaceX :

- Founded : March 14, 2002
- Headquarters : Hawthorne, California, United States
- CEO & Chairman : Elon Musk
- SpaceX, is an American spacecraft manufacturer, launch service provider and satellite communications company.

IoTechWorld Avigation Receives DGCA certification for new agri-drone model -AGRIBOT A6

- Agri-drone manufacturer **IoTechWorld Avigation Private Limited** has obtained a **Type Certificate (TC)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** for its latest drone model, the '**AGRIBOT A6 (2nd drone from IoTechWorld)**).
- The drone, which is an upgraded version of its predecessor, was designed and **manufactured indigenously by IoTechWorld**.

What is a Type Certificate?

- **Type Certificate** for drones is an official document **issued by the DGCA** certifying that a specific type of drone meets all the **technical parameters and safety standards for operation in India**.
- Type certification is mandatory for startups prior to undertaking operations under the **Drone Rules, 2021**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

About Iotechworld Avigation Private Limited :

- Established : 2017
- Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- Co-Founder and Director : Deepak Bhardwaj

About DGCA :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General : Vikram Dev Dutt
- The **DGCA** is a **statutory body of the Government of India** to regulate **civil aviation in India**.
- It became a statutory body under the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Air Force to host first-ever Largest multilateral exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in October 2023

- In a significant development for India's military prowess and global alliances, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is gearing up to host its **first-ever multilateral air force exercise** called **Tarang Shakti**, in October or November 2023.
- Tarang Shakti is set to be the **largest multinational air exercise** ever held in India.
- To bolster military cooperation, enhance interoperability, and foster global collaboration.
- The location of the exercise has not been disclosed; air forces from countries like **France, Australia, the United States (US)**, and the **United Kingdom (UK)** are expected to join Tarang Shakti.

About IAF :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Indian defence ministry inks Rs 2,725 crores contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for Indian Naval Ship Shankush submarine

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** inked a **Rs 2,725 crores contract** with the **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** for refit of submarine **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Shankush**.
- The contract has been signed for **Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC)** of Submarine INS Shankush.
- The project, known as Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC), aims to upgrade the **submarine's combat capabilities**.
- INS Shankush, a **sub-surface warfare class submarine**, will undergo a minor overhaul at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

Indian Naval Ship Rana & INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in Bay of Bengal

- **Indian Naval ships (INS) Rana and INS Sumedha** undertook a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with **French Navy ship FS Surcouf** in the **Bay of Bengal along the coast of Vishagapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- INS Rana, a **guided missile destroyer** and INS Sumedha, an **indigenously built offshore patrol vessel** were from the Indian Navy side.
- The **French Navy's La Fayette class frigate Surcouf** participated in a variety of activities with Indian Navy ships.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

About France :

- President : Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister : Élisabeth Borne
- Capital : Paris
- Currency : Euro

Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas completed 7 years of service in Indian Air Force

- **Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas completed 7 years** of service in the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The Tejas Mk-1 is a **light supersonic multirole jet** designed by the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is capable of doing multiple missions including **air-defence (air-to-air) intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), air-interdiction (striking enemy targets deep into enemy territory), maritime strike and reconnaissance missions.**
- Currently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has **32 squadrons** (16-18 planes each) of fighter jets against the 42 needed to tackle a collusive two-front threat against Pakistan and China.

Ministry of Defence & Hindustan Aeronautics Limited signs Rs 458 crores contract for two upgraded Dornier Aircraft for Indian Coast Guard

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the procurement of **two Dornier Aircraft** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** along with an associated engineering support package at an overall cost of **Rs 458.87 crores.**
- The aircraft will be procured under the **Buy (Indian) Category.**
- The Dornier aircraft are being indigenously manufactured at **HAL (Transport Aircraft Division), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP).**
- It will significantly contribute in achieving Atma Nirbharta in defence, in consonance with the **'Make in India' initiative** of the Government.
- The aircraft will be fitted with a number of advanced equipment viz., **Glass Cockpit, Maritime Patrol Radar, Electro Optic Infra-Red device, Mission Management System** etc.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

Ministry of Defence launches a single window NCC Integrated Software for Cadets

- In a major step towards **promoting digitisation** and in sync with Digital India mission, Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** launched an **NCC Integrated Software** in **New Delhi.**
- The NCC Integrated Software, developed in partnership with **Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo Informatics (BISAG)**, is a single window interactive software for Cadets, designed on the **'Entry to Exit Model'.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- During this event, the **NCC** and **State Bank of India (SBI)** also signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in the presence of Raksha Mantri to **open zero balance accounts** of all NCC Cadets with debit card, cheque book & passbook facility under SBI's "Pahli Udaan" scheme.
- About **5 lakh cadets** will be benefitted by this MoU every year.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

Spain's Navantia and L&T sign a teaming agreement to bid for the Indian submarine programme

- **Spain's state-owned shipbuilder Navantia** and **engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** signed a **Teaming Agreement (TA)** to **jointly in Delhi** bid for a ₹43,000-crore (4.8 billion euros) project to build **6 advanced submarines for the Indian Navy**.
- This agreement follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between L&T and Navantia earlier in **2023 in Madrid, Spain**.
- The TA for submission of a techno-commercial bid for the **P75-India submarine programme** was signed by officials of the two firms in the presence of **Spanish ambassador José Domínguez**, L&T CEO SN Subrahmanyam and Augustin Alvarez Blanco, Navantia's vice president for naval construction.

About Larsen & Toubro (L&T) :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : S. N. Subrahmanyam

First United States Navy ship Salvor arrives at L&T Kattupalli shipyard for repairs

- The **United States Navy Ship (USNS) Salvor**, a rescue and salvage ship, arrived at **Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) shipyard**, in Kattupalli near Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) making it the **first** to conduct a **mid-voyage repair** under the **5-year Master Ship Repair agreement (MSRA)** between the US Navy and private shipping contractor, L&T.
- A **Military Sealift Command's rescue and salvage ship** from the United States (US) docked near **Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)** for **repair work** on July 9, 2023.
- It is the **third US Navy ship** visiting the L&T shipyard for voyage repairs, after **USNS Charles Drew** and **USNS Matthew Perry**.
- Earlier, repairs of Marine Sealift Command (MSC) Fleet Support Ships - **USNS Charles Drew** and **USNS Matthew Perry** were completed by L&T.

About Larsen & Toubro (L&T) :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : S. N. Subrahmanyam

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates HAL's Regional Office In Malaysia to Facilitate Close Defence Industrial Collaboration

- Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** regional office in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of **Malaysia**.
- The regional office will boost the defence industrial collaboration between India and Malaysia and serve as a hub for the HAL's engagement with the South-East Asian region.
- Malaysia is home to the **second largest members** of the Persons of Indian Origin and has a significant presence of the NRI community.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

About HAL :

- Established : 23 December 1940
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairperson & MD : CB Ananthakrishnan
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is a government-owned corporation involved in the design, fabrication, and assembly of aircraft, jet engines, and helicopters.

Defence Acquisition Council approved proposals to buy 26 Rafale-Marine jets & 3 Scorpene submarines

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, in a meeting chaired by Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh**, approved proposals to **procure 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets and 3 Scorpene diesel-electric submarines** for the Indian Navy.
- The DAC has granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French government based on **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)**.
- These 26 Rafale fighter aircraft comprise **22 single-seated Rafale marine aircraft and 4 twin-seater trainer versions**.
- At present, IAF is operating **36 Rafale jets** procured under a €7.87 bn deal signed in April 2016.

INS Sunayana participated in Operation Southern Readiness - 2023 in Seychelles

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayna** was at **Seychelles** to participate in **Op Southern Readiness 2023** conducted by **Combined Maritime Forces(CMF)**.

Aim :

- To enhance maritime security, countering piracy to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in the region.
- A delegation of CMF from Bahrain headed by **Cmde Oliver**, Commander of CTF56 witnessed the training exercises onboard.

Participants :

- Navies from **United Arab Emirates (USA), Italy, United Kingdom (UK), Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, member nations of European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR)**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

About Seychelles:

- President: Wavel Ramkalawan
- Capital: Victoria
- Currency: Seychelles Rupee

India-Mongolia joint military exercise “Nomadic Elephant – 2023” commenced at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- An **Indian Army** contingent comprising **43 personnel** left for **Mongolia** to take part in a joint military exercise '**Nomadic Elephant 2023**' between India and Mongolia.
- Nomadic Elephant 2023 is the **15th edition**.
- Nomadic Elephant 2023' is scheduled from 17 July 2023 till 31st July 2023.

Participants :

- Indian Army soldiers from the **Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment and Soldiers** of the **Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084** are participating in the exercise.

Theme of the exercise :

- To focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate.
- The **14th edition** of the Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise (IJME-2019) was held in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh** from 5th to 18 October 2019.
- The first edition of the IJME-2004 was held at the Mongolian Armed Forces' Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) in Terelj.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

About Mongolia :

- President : Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh
- Prime Minister : Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene
- Capital : Ulaanbaatar
- Currency : Tögrög

Indian Army Signs a Contract for Procurement of Tactical Access Switch with Tata Advanced Systems Limited

- The **Indian Army** signed the contract for procurement of **Tactical Access Switch** with **Tata Advanced Systems Limited**, continuing with the commitment towards the **'Make in India'** initiative.
- The compact, modular and ruggedized networking device would provide **faster switching capability** and thus strengthen the tactical communication capability of the Indian Army.

About Indian Army :

- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff : General Manoj Pande

About Tata Advanced Systems Limited :

- Founded : 2007
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- Chairman : Vijay Singh
- MD & CEO : Sukaran Singh
- TASL is an **Indian aerospace manufacturing, military engineering and defense technology company**.
- It is a fully owned subsidiary of **Tata Sons**, a holding company for the Tata Group.

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata arrive at Jakarta, Indonesia for Bilateral Maritime Exercise

- Two frontline **Indian Naval ships (INS) Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata** arrived in **Indonesia's Jakarta, Indonesia** to participate in the **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with the Indonesian Navy.
- INS Sahyadri is the **3rd indigenously designed** and built **Project-17 class stealth frigate**.
- INS Kolkata is the **first indigenously designed** and built **Project-15A class stealth destroyer**.
- INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata have been built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

India hands over missile corvette Indian Naval Ship Kirpan to Vietnam

- On completing 32 years of illustrious service to the nation, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kirpan** has been **decommissioned** from the **Indian Navy** and Handed Over to Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) at **Cam Ranh, Vietnam**.
- INS Kirpan is an **indigenously-built in-service missile Corvette**.
- It is a Khukri class missile corvette commissioned into the Navy on **January 12, 1991**.

Features of INS Kirpan :

- It has a displacing capacity of close to **1,400 tonnes**.
- It is capable of a speed of **more than 25 knots**.
- The Khukri class is equipped with Diesel Engines assembled in India.
- Cam Ranh Bay is a **deep-water bay** located in Khánh Hòa Province, Vietnam, on the South China Sea.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds talks with Argentinian counterpart -strengthening bilateral defence ties

- Argentine Defense Minister **Jorge Taiana** held a **bilateral meeting** with his counterpart India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- They announced the signing of an **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the two countries and a **Specific Agreement on Academic Cooperation for peacekeeping**.
- **Tri-service Guard of Honour** was also presented to the visiting dignitary before the meetings.
- Jorge Taiana also invited Rajnath Singh to the **2nd Latin American Conference of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (ALCONU)** to be held in Argentina on 12 September, 2023.

Italy Honours Indian Army contribution in second World War

- Remembering the supreme sacrifices by the Indian Soldiers, the Commune of Montone (in Italy) and Italian Military historians have unveiled "**V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial**" at Montone (Perugia, Italy), as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign during the **Second World War**, and to **honour Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Victoria Cross**, who was killed in action fighting on the heights of Upper Tiber Valley.
- Dr Neena Malhotra, **Ambassador of India in Italy** and the Indian Defence Attaché represented India during the ceremony.
- The motto of the memorial is "**Omines Sub Eodem Sole**" which translates in English as "**We all live under the same sun**".

About Italy :

- President : Sergio Mattarella
- Prime Minister : Giorgia Meloni
- Capital : Rome
- Currency : Euro

Indian Navy hosts the 7th edition of bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023

- The **7th edition** of the bilateral **Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023, JIMEX 23** (6 day long exercise) hosted by the Indian Navy, is being conducted at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.
- This edition marks the **11th anniversary** of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.

Participants :

- **Indian Naval ships (INS) Delhi, Kamorta and Shakti**, under the command of RAdm Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ship **Samidare** under the command of RAdm Nishiyama Takahiro, Commander Escort Flotilla One, participated the exercise.
- The **6th edition** of Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022 (JIMEX 22) hosted by the Indian Navy commenced in the **Bay of Bengal on 11 Sep 2022**.

Other Maritime Exercises between India & Japan:

- Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)
- Malabar Exercise (India – US – Japan - Australia)

ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Sign Contract for Modernization of Indian Submarine INS SHANKUSH

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- **Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS)**, the Germany-based leading naval company, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Indian defence PSU Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** for the overhaul and modernisation of **submarine Indian Navy Ship (INS) Shankush** to extend its operational capability.
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** had signed a **₹2,725-crore contract** with MDL for the **Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC)** of **INS Shankush**, a **Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW)** class submarine, to extend its life.
- The first submarine in this class is undergoing MRLC and is likely to be back on **sail by August, 2023**.
- **INS Shankush**, a **Subsurface Killer (SSK)** class submarine, will be delivered to the Navy **after MRLC in 2026**.

About Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems :

- Founded : January 5, 2005
- Headquarters : Germany
- Chairman & CEO : Oliver Burkhard
- **TKMS** will be responsible for **supplying material packages** of selected systems, equipment and components as well as for **on-site technical support and pressure hull inspection**.

About MDL :

- Founded : 1934
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD : Sanjeev Singhal
- MDL is a public sector undertaking managed by the Ministry of Defence, with the Government of India holding an 84.83% stake.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

HDFC Limited-HDFC Bank merger to be effective July 1, 2023, shares rise nearly 2%

- **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited Chairman Deepak Parekh** stated that **HDFC Bank**, the largest private sector bank in India, and housing finance company **HDFC Ltd** are set to complete their **merger by July 1, 2023**.
- The boards of HDFC and the HDFC bank met on June 30, 2023 to clear and approve the merger & it will be the last board meeting of HDFC.
- Meanwhile, HDFC vice-chairman and CEO **Keki Mistry** informed that the **delisting** of the HDFC stock from exchanges will be effective from **July 13, 2023** & will start trading under HDFC Bank ticker.
- Post-merger, **Parekh** will retire and **Keki Mistry** and HDFC MD **Renu Karnad** will be board members of **HDFC Bank**.

About HDFC :

- Established : 1977
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Deepak Parekh

About HDFC Bank Ltd :

- Founded : August 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

State Bank of India to acquire 20% stake in SBI Pension Funds from SBICAPS

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- The **Executive Committee of the Central Board (ECCB)** of the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has accorded approval to the Bank for acquiring the entire **20%** stake held by **SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS)** in SBI Pension Funds.
- The acquisition by the Bank is subject to receipt of all regulatory approvals.
- SBI Pension Funds is a **Pension Fund Manager (PFM)**, managing the pension corpus under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- Currently, SBI has a **60% stake** in SBI Pension Funds, with the balance stake being held by **SBICAPS (20%)** and **SBI Funds Management (20%)**.

About **SBICAPS** :

- Founded : August 1986
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Amitava Chatterjee
- SBICAPS is a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of SBI.
- It provides Investment Banking and Corporate Advisory Services to its clients.

HDFC Ergo becomes subsidiary of HDFC Ltd

- **HDFC Limited** has acquired an additional **0.5097% stake** in **HDFC Ergo** to make it a subsidiary.
- HDFC Limited acquired **36,42,290 equity shares** of HDFC Ergo, representing **0.5097%** of its total issued and paid-up share capital from ERGO International AG, the other promoter.
- HDFC Limited holds **50.50%** of the total paid-up share capital of HDFC Ergo.
- Accordingly, HDFC Ergo has become a subsidiary of HDFC Limited.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had permitted the **transfer of shareholding of HDFC Limited** in HDFC Ergo to HDFC Bank and advised that HDFC Limited or HDFC Bank should increase the shareholding in the general insurance company to more than 50% before the effective date of the merger Scheme.

About **HDFC ERGO** :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director : Ritesh Kumar
- HDFC ERGO is a **51:49 joint venture** firm between HDFC and ERGO International AG, one of the insurance entities of the **Munich Re Group** in Germany.

CCI approves acquisition of Marnix Lux by Concentrix Corporation

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** gave its approval for the **acquisition of Marnix Lux SA by Concentrix Corporation**, as well as the acquisition of approximately **22% shareholding** in the combined company by the shareholders of Marnix Lux.
- Concentrix Corporation is a **United States of America (USA) based publicly listed company**, engaged in providing customer experience services, a segment of Information Technology and Information Technology enabled Services.
- Marnix Lux is the parent company of **Webhelp S.A.S. (Webhelp)** which is to be active in the provision of business process outsourcing services and specialised services.

About **CCI** :

- Established : 14 October 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Ravneet Kaur
- The CCI is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It is a **statutory body** within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- CCI consists of a chairperson and 6 members appointed by the Central Government.

HDFC Bank to sell 2% stake in National Securities Depository Limited through an initial public offering

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- **HDFC Bank will sell a 2 per cent stake in the initial public offering (IPO) of National Securities Depository (NSDL).**
- **The lender holds a 8.95% stake in NSDL**, which handles most of the securities held and settled in dematerialised form in the Indian capital market.
- In its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), the depository stated that the IPO will see sales of **57.3 million shares** by its six shareholders.
- State Bank of India (SBI) proposes to sell 2% stake by offloading 40 lakh shares in depository organisation NSDL.
- **SBI holds 5% stake in the NSDL** while it intends to divest 2% in the Offer For Sale (OFS) subject to the terms of the proposed IPO.

About NSDL :

- Established : August 1996
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Padmaja Chundururu
- National Securities Depository Limited is an Indian central securities depository.
- It was established as the **first electronic securities depository** in India with national coverage.

SoftBank Sells Another 2% Stake In Fintech Giant Paytm

- **SoftBank** has sold an additional **2% stake in One 97 Communications**, the parent of fintech major Paytm, generating proceeds of \$250 million to \$300 million.
- This is the **first time** that the Japanese investor managed to sell shares of Paytm at a profit since the fintech company got listed in November 2021.

About SoftBank Group Corp :

- Founded : 3 September 1981
- Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan
- Chairman & CEO : Masayoshi Son

CCI approves acquisition of 59.38% stake in Unichem Laboratories by Ipca Laboratories

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** granted **approval to the proposed combination** involving acquisition of shareholding up to **59.38%** of **Unichem Laboratories Limited (Target)** by **Ipca Laboratories Limited (Acquirer)**.
- **Ipca Laboratories Limited** is a pharmaceutical company that manufactures formulations and active **pharmaceutical ingredients** for various therapeutic segments.
- **Unichem Laboratories Limited** is active in the **sale of formulations**, active pharmaceutical ingredients, intermediates, and **contract manufactured finished formulation dosages**, globally.

About CCI :

- Established : 14 October 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Chairperson : Ravneet Kaur**
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

M&M Buys 3.5% stake in RBL Bank for Rs.417 crores

- Diversified business conglomerate **Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M)** has picked up a **3.53% stake** in private sector lender **RBL Bank** formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, for **Rs. 417 crore**.
- However, in no circumstance will it exceed **9.9%**.

About RBL Bank :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

- Founded : August 1943
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : R. Subramania kumar
- Tagline : Apno Ka Bank

About Mahindra & Mahindra Limited :

- Founded : 2 October 1945
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Anand Mahindra
- MD & CEO : Anish Shah
- M&M is an **Indian multinational automotive manufacturing corporation of Mahindra group.**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPS AND PORTALS

Facebook owner Meta to launch Twitter-like 'Threads' app

- **Meta, the parent company of Facebook, is preparing to launch a Twitter competitor called Threads.**
- The rollout represents a direct challenge to Twitter, which has faced numerous controversies since **Musk bought the company for \$44 billion in 2022.**
- Last week, the Tesla billionaire announced a slate of new restrictions on the app, limiting the number of tweets users could view per day, prompting an outcry from many on the platform.
- The **app combines elements from Instagram and Twitter**, potentially appealing to both existing Instagram users and new users looking for a different social media experience.

About Facebook

- Founders: Mark Zuckerberg, Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, Chris Hughes
- Headquarters: California, United States
- Founded: February 2004
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- CTO: Andrew Bosworth
- CFO: David Wehner

SPORTS NEWS

Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry approves wrestlers Vinesh Phogat & Bajrang Punia's proposal for training in Kyrgyzstan & Hungary under TOPS

- **Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry has approved wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia's proposal for training in Kyrgyzstan and Hungary under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).**
- Both the wrestlers had sent their proposals to the Ministry, and TOPS team and it was cleared within 24 hours of their request.
- **Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia will head out to Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan for 36 days training camp.**

About TOPS

- The Target Olympic Podium Scheme is a major effort of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports that aims to support India's finest athletes.
- The plan attempts to improve these athletes' training so that they can win medals at the Olympics.
- In September 2014, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to improve India's performance at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2023

India defeated Iran to win the Asian Kabaddi Championship in Busan, South Korea:

- **India beat Iran 42-32 in the final of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 in Busan, South Korea.**
- This is **India's eighth title in nine editions.**
- **Indian captain Pawan Sehrawat led from the front with a super 10.**
- Earlier in the day, India had beaten Hong Kong 64-20 to end the league stage of the tournament undefeated.
- **Six teams - India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong - participated in the Championships.**
- **India won all five matches in the league stage and topped the points table.**
- Iran came second, only losing to India in the league stage, and made it to the final.

In Mallorca, Spain, Yuki Bhambri wins his first ATP doubles championship.

- In Tennis, **India's Yuki Bhambri clinched his maiden title on the ATP World Tour, winning the doubles trophy at the Mallorca Championships with South African partner Lloyd Harris, in Spain.**
- The **Indo-South African pair defeated the Dutch-Austrian combo of Robin Hasse and Philipp Oswald 6-3 6-4** in the final of the grass-court event, the last in the build-up to the Wimbledon Championships.
- The 30-year-old Indian Bhambri, who is ranked 75 in the ATP doubles tennis rankings, is all set to jump up to a career-best 58th position in the standings.

About ATP:

- The ATP Tour is a worldwide top-tier tennis tour for men organized by the **Association of Tennis Professionals.**
- The second-tier tour is the ATP Challenger Tour and the third-tier is the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour.
- The equivalent women's organisation is the WTA Tour.
- Founded: 1972
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Neeraj Chopra, a prominent Indian javelin thrower, wins the Lausanne Diamond League championship

- Star Indian **javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched the Lausanne Diamond League 2023 title with the best throw of 87.66 meters.**
- Olympic Champion Neeraj returned from an injury that had caused him to miss some competitions after his win at Diamond League 2023 event in Doha in May.
- **Neeraj's golden arm did its magic on the fifth attempt and achieved a throw of 87.66 meters.**
- **Germany's Julian Webber slid secured second place** with a best throw of 87.03 meters while Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got third place with an 86.13 meter throw.

Asian Mixed Doubles Championships are won by the Indian team of Dipika Pallikal and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu in China: Squash

- **India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal at the Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Tournament in Hangzhou, a test event for the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games, in September.**
- Seeded third, Dipika and Harinder dominated proceedings during the 2-0 win over second seeds Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold of Malaysia at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre.
- **This was the first appearance by the 31-year-old Dipika since the 2022 Commonwealth Games** in any event as she prepares for the continental showpiece three months down the line.

The 132nd Durand Cup trophy tour began at the Manekshaw Center in New Delhi

- The **Trophy tour of the 132nd edition of the Durand Cup commenced from the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.**
- The tour was flagged off by the **Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.**
- The tournament will be **held in Kolkata from 3rd August to 3rd September 2023.**
- In this edition, 24 teams will participate in the tournament.

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- The teams of Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh are also taking part in the tournament after a gap of 27 years.
- The tournament is open to all club teams and conducted by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The four-person Indian weightlifting squad at the Asian Games 2023 will include silver medalist Mirabai Chanu and champion Achinta Sheuli from the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- Tokyo 2020 Olympics silver medallist **Mirabai Chanu** and **Commonwealth Games 2022 champion Achinta Sheuli** will be in the four-member Indian weightlifting team for the Asian Games 2023.
- **Mirabai Chanu** will compete in the **49kg** category while **Achinta Sheuli** is set to participate in the **73kg** category at the upcoming continental games, scheduled in Hangzhou, China from 23rd September 23 to 8th October 2023.
- **Bindyarani Devi**, was also included in the team.
- The 24-year-old will participate in the 55kg women's division in Hangzhou.
- Reigning National Games champion **N Ajith** will also be in the Indian team.
- The **Tamil Nadu** weightlifter will compete in the **73kg** category

India wins the SAFF Championships for the ninth time, defeating Kuwait in a penalty shootout 5-4

- **In Football, India has lifted the SAFF Championships trophy for the ninth time, beating Kuwait 5-4** in the penalty shoot-out in the final after a 1-1 stalemate at the end of regulation time at **Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru**.
- A thrilling penalty shootout saw the game go down the wire after Udanta Singh missed his kick.
- Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh again turned out as the hero for the Indian side, saving the final kick from the Kuwaiti captain.

About SAFF

- President: Kazi Salahuddin
- Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Founded: 1997
- Membership: 7 member associations

Bangladesh's captain Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket

- **One Day International (ODI) captain of Bangladesh, Tamim Iqbal** announced his retirement from international cricket.
- In a surprise move, **Tamim declared in Chattogram that the match he played against Afghanistan** was the final match of his career.
- He is one of the most decorated batters and is considered as the best opener ever produced by Bangladesh. He broke down in tears during a hastily arranged press conference in his hometown.

About Bangladesh

- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Bangladeshi Taka
- Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

18-year-old Sakshi Kochhar Becomes Youngest Indian To get Commercial Pilot Licence

- **Sakshi Kochhar** has become the **youngest commercial pilot in India at the age of 18**.
- She achieved this milestone by **surpassing Maitri Patel**, who previously held the record by obtaining her licence at the age of 19.
- Sakshi, born on May 30, 2005, in a small town Parwanoo, the Gateway of **Himachal Pradesh (HP)**.
- She confesses to initially wanting to be a choreographer.

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- Her first solo flight was on **December 21, 2022**, and this year, she received her **commercial pilot licence** from the **United States (US)** on May 30, which is also her birthday.

Max Verstappen wins Austrian Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix** to take another step towards a third successive world title.
- **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second to split the Red Bulls** at their home circuit with Sergio Perez completing the podium at Spielberg.
- This was double world champion Verstappen's seventh win out of nine this season and his fifth successive victory.
- Perez has won the other two races.

Lallianzuala Chhangte and Manisha Kalyan crowned AIFF Footballers of the Year

- **Indian football team midfielder Lallianzuala Chhangte was named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23** while **Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.**
- The 26-year-old **Lallianzuala Chhangte beat Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh of East Bengal to win the award.**
- Lallianzuala Chhangte bagged the award on the back of some stellar performances for the Indian national team and Mumbai City FC, his club.

About AIFF:

- President: Kalyan Chaubey
- Founded: 23 June 1937
- Headquarters: New Delhi

India compound women archers win U-18, U-21 gold medals in World Youth Championships, in Ireland

- **India's women compound archers reigned supreme, winning the Under-18 and U-21 team titles at the World Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland.**
- India women's under-18 compound team of Aishwarya Sharma, Aditi Swami and Ekta Rani defeated **their opponents from USA for their first gold medal of the day.**
- The women's team bounced back from behind to edge past Olivia Dean, Liko Arreola and Leann Drake 214-212.
- **Priyansh and Avneet Kaur won gold in the junior mixed team compound event.**
- **India also had won two bronze medals.**
- **Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma won a bronze medal defeating Mexico in the cadet mixed compound event.**
- **Parth and Ridhi won bronze** in the junior recurve mixed team.

About Ireland

- Capital: Dublin
- Currency: Euro
- Indian-origin Leo Varadkar is new Prime Minister of Ireland

Parth Salunkhe is the first Indian to win the Youth World Championship in recurve archery:

- **Parth Salunkhe became the first male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships** as **India finished with their highest-ever tally of 11 medals.**
- The 19-year-old from Satara in Maharashtra provided the perfect icing on the cake by defeating a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final, **in Limerick, Ireland.**

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- Salunkhe, who topped the rankings round, prevailed over seventh seed Song Injun 7-3 (26-26, 25-28, 28-26, 29-26, 28-26) in a hard-fought five-setter.
- The medal haul of the 24-member Indian contingent **included six gold, one silver and four bronze.**
- **Of the 11 medals India won, six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.**

About Ireland

- Capital: Dublin
- Currency: Euro
- Indian-origin Leo Varadkar is the new Prime Minister of Ireland
- India's women compound archers reigned supreme, winning the Under-18 and U-21 team titles at the World Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland.

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinches Men's Singles title of Canada Open Badminton

- **Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched the Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament defeating Li Shi Feng of China 21-18, 22-20 in Calgary, Canada.**
- Lakshya Sen was down four game points in the second set but saved all and ended up winning the game in straight sets.
- Sen, world number 19, started the first game well and maintained the lead throughout to eventually win by 21-18.
- However, the second game was dominated by Shi Feng and was, at one point, leading by 16-20, before Sen smashed his way to save four game points.
- This is the first BWF World Tour title of Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen after almost a year.

About Canada

- Capital: Ottawa
- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau
- The Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada.

About BWF

- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Formation: 1934
- President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
- Membership: 194 member associations

Max Verstappen won British Grand Prix and takes Red Bull's 11th win in a row

- **Max Verstappen won the British Grand Prix as Red Bull stayed unbeaten for the Formula One season and equalled McLaren's 1988 record of 11 victories in a row.**
- **McLaren's Lando Norris finished second in front of a 160 000-strong home crowd at Silverstone, with fellow Briton and seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes.**
- Norris took the lead from Verstappen on lap 1 after an amazing start but the two-time world champion proved too much for the McLaren driver claiming the lead a few laps later.
- With the threat of rain, the race was far from decided but Verstappen kept his nerve and took the win, extending his lead to closest rival and teammate Sergio Perez to

Minnu Mani becomes Kerala's First Woman Cricketer to Play For India

- **Minnu Mani creates history as the first woman cricketer from Kerala to represent the Indian senior team.**
- Her debut performance includes a wicket in the first over, impressing teammates and coaches alike.
- As India and Bangladesh women's cricket teams were preparing for the first T20I in Mirpur, far away at Mananthavady in Kerala's Wayanad district, the Mani household suddenly came alive.

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- Hailing from the Kurichiya tribe in Wayanad, **Minnu had previously made waves by being the sole player from Kerala to participate in the Women's Premier League (WPL), where she was bought by the Delhi Capitals for a staggering Rs 30 lakh.**

About Kerala

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Arif Mohammed Khan
- WLS: Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Eravikulam National Park, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Begur Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

Nishad Kumar of India won silver at the current Para Athletics World Championships 2023.

- **India's Nishad Kumar has clinched a silver medal** in the ongoing Para Athletics World Championships 2023.
- **Paris will host the Para Athletics World Championships** from 8 to 17 July at the Charlety Stadium.
- Over 1200 athletes from 107 nations are set to take part in this year's competition.
- **Nishad bagged this medal in the High Jump T47 Event.**
- With this win, **Nishad has become the second athlete at this event to grab a medal.**
- The top-four ranked athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games, also to be held in Paris.

About the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships

- The 2023 World Para Athletics Championships is an ongoing Paralympic track and field meet organized by the World Para Athletics subcommittee of the International Paralympic Committee.
- It is the 10th edition of the event and it is held in the Charlety Stadium in Paris, France, from 8 to 17 July 2023.

India wins four gold medals, leading the medal count in the 34th International Biology Olympiad:

- **India topped the medals tally in the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) by securing four gold medals.**
- India has for the **first time turned in an all-gold performance and topped the medal tally in IBO.**
- According to Homi Bhabha Center for Science and Education (HBCSE), the winners are **Megh Chhabda from Jalna district of Maharashtra, Dhruv Advani from Bengaluru in Karnataka, Ishan Pednekar from Kota, Rajasthan and Rahit Panda from Risali, Chhattisgarh.**

In the Men's High Jump competition at the Para Athletics World Championships in Paris, India's Nishad Kumar wins silver.

- **Nishad Kumar of India has won a silver medal at the Para Athletics World Championships 2023,** which are now taking place in **Paris.**
- In the High Jump T47 Event, Nishad took home this medal.
- Nishad's victory makes him the second competitor in this competition to earn a medal.
- The **top four finishers in each of the individual medal events at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships advance to the 2024 Paralympic Games,** which will again be hosted in Paris.

About World Para Athletics Championships

- The World Para Athletics Championships, known as the IPC Athletics World Championships before 2017, is a biennial Paralympic athletics event organized by World Para Athletics, a subcommittee of the International Paralympic Committee.
- Founded: 1994

After a four-year break, Pune will host the UTT competition, the top table tennis league in India:

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- **India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being organized at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune, 2023 under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India after a gap of four years.**
- **The league round-robin will be held between the 13th and the 27th of July.**
- **India's ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal is participating in the UTT league.**
- **He will be leading the Indian team to the 26th Asian Championships to be held from the 3rd to the 10th of September this year in South Korea.**

About UTT

- The Ultimate Table Tennis is a professional-level table tennis league in India.
- It was launched in 2017 and contested by 6 teams.
- It is organized by 11Sports promoted by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani and held under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India.

About Table Tennis Federation of India

- President: Meghna Ahlawat
- Founded: 1926
- Secretary: Kamlesh Mehta
- Headquarters: Delhi
- Membership: 32 state units and 37 institutions

At the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships at Gautam Budh University in Greater Noida, India wins three gold medals on the opening day:

- **India has won three gold medals so far in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships, at the Gautam Budh University, Greater Noida.**
- **Athlete Jyotsna Sabar has clinched gold in the 40kg Youth Category, Asmita in the 45kg Youth & Junior Category, and Komal Kohar in the 45kg Senior Category.**
- **As many as 253 weightlifters, including 52 Indians, are competing across the senior, junior, and youth categories in the five-day tournament.**
- **The tournament will also serve as a test run for the prestigious AWF Asian Junior and Youth Weightlifting championship, slated to begin later this month.**
- **India is hosting the tournament for the second time, having successfully organized it in Pune in 2015.**

India wins three gold and three bronze medals at the Asian Athletics Championships in Thailand.

- **India has so far taken home three gold and three bronze medals from the ongoing Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.**
- **India's Jyothi Yarraji had previously won the gold in the 100-meter hurdles, while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Abdulla Aboobacker triumphed in the men's triple jump and 1500-meter races, respectively.**
- **The other two bronze medalists were Abhishek Pal and Aishwarya Kailash Mishra in the men's 10000m and women's 400m events, respectively.**
- **With this, India fell behind China and Japan in the medal standings.**

About Thailand:

- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai Baht
- Prime minister: Prayut Chan-o-cha

India's six-person team wins two gold medals at the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad in 2023 in Japan

- **The six-member Indian team secured two Gold medals at the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2023 held in Chiba, Japan.**
- **The event took place from the 2nd to the 13th of July.**

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- The **Indian team** also managed to get two Silver and two Bronze medals and finished 9th out of 112 countries.
- This is the **fourth time India** secured a position in the top 10.

About The International Mathematical Olympiad:

- The International Mathematical Olympiad is a mathematical olympiad for pre-university students and is the oldest of the International Science Olympiads.
- It is one of the most prestigious mathematical competitions in the world.
- The first IMO was held in Romania in 1959.
- It has since been held annually, except in 1980

About Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Prime minister: Fumio Kishida
- Currency: Japanese yen

Marketa Vondrousova wins the Wimbledon women's title with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Ons Jabeur

- In Wimbledon, **sixth seed Ons Jabeur will take on unseeded Marketa Vondrousova from the Czech Republic in Women's singles.**
- In Men's singles, **Spanish top seed Carlos Alcaraz will meet Serbian second seed Novak Djokovic in the final.**
- Alcaraz defeated Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev while Djokovic defeated Italian eighth seed Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals in straight sets.

About Wimbledon

- The Championships, commonly known simply as Wimbledon, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is regarded by many as the most prestigious.
- Founded: 1877

Athlete Parul Chaudhary wins a gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships, according to Sports Minister Anurag Thakur

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur hailed **athlete Parul Chaudhary for putting up a determined performance and bagging a gold medal in the Women's 3000 metres Steeplechase Final at the Asian Athletics Championships.**
- The National Centre of Excellence trained athlete clocked an impressive time of 9:38.76 to achieve this feat and she continues to bring laurels to the country.

Asian Athletics Championships 2023: India finishes 3rd with 27 medals in Bangkok, Thailand

- In the **Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, India displayed a fantastic performance as they finished third, winning 27 medals, with 6 Gold, 12 Silver and 9 Bronze.**
- The five day-event started on the 12th of July 2023.

About Thailand:

- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai Baht
- Prime minister: Prayut Chan-o-cha

Indian shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman bags Bronze medal at ISSF Shotgun World Cup 2023 in Italy

- In shooting, **India shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman bagged the bronze medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023 in Italy.**
- **Prithviraj Tondaiman's bronze was India's only medal** at the Lonato shooting meet.
- This was his second individual ISSF World Cup medal, having won a bronze in Doha in March.
- Prithviraj Tondaiman finished third in the final with 34 points. Britain's Nathan Hales won the gold medal with 49 points while Qi Ying of the Republic of China bagged the silver medal with 48 points.
- Overall, India finished ninth in the medals tally at Lonato, which was topped by the USA with two golds and one silver.
- The **ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Italy was a qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics.**

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About ISSF:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events. It also regulates several non-Olympic shooting sports events.
- President: Luciano Rossi
- Founded: 1907
- Headquarters: Munich, Germany
- Membership: 150 regions
- Secretary: Willi Grill (Secretary-General)

Tennis player Carlos Alcaraz defeats Novak Djokovic to win his first Wimbledon championship

- In Wimbledon Tennis, World number one Carlos Alcaraz ended Novak Djokovic's long reign at the All-England Club to win his first Wimbledon 2023 title and his second Grand Slam title with a 1-6 7-6(6) 6-1 3-6 6-4 victory in the final at the Centre Court in London.
- The twenty-year-old Spaniard beat the seven-time champion to become the youngest man to lift the Challenge Cup since 18-year-old Boris Becker won the second of his three Wimbledon titles in 1986.

About Wimbledon

- The Championships, commonly known simply as Wimbledon, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and is regarded by many as the most prestigious.
- Founded: 1877

The Commonwealth Games won't be held in Victoria, Australia, in 2026

- Australia's state of Victoria will not be hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games due to projected exceeding expenditures.
- This has raised doubts about the multi-sport event that takes place every four years.

About Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar
- Prime minister: Anthony Albanese

Indian Shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy sets Guinness world record for fastest badminton shot

- Star Indian Shuttler Satwiksairaj Rankireddy has set the Guinness world record for the fastest shot by a male player in badminton, recording a mind boggling 565 kilometres per hour with his smash during the game.
- Satwik, who along with his partner Chirag Shetty won the Indonesia Open recently, broke a decade-long record set in May 2013 by Malaysian Tan Boon Heong, who had produced a speed of 493 kilometres per hour with his smash.

Indian Surf Team wins bronze medal at Asian Surfing Championship in Maldives

- The Indian Surf Team won the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship, held at Thulisdhoo Island in Maldives.
- 18 countries from Asia took part in this championship.
- Srikanth from Kovalam, Tamil Nadu made it to the semi-finals in the Men's Category.
- The President of the Surfing Federation of India Arun Vasu said that the Surfing team finished overall 3rd with a bronze medal.
- Indian Surfers will now get ready for the first-ever World Surfing League (WSL) event in India to be held in Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu from August 14 to 20 this year.

About WSL

- The World Surf League is the governing body for professional surfers and is dedicated to showcasing the world's best talent in a variety of progressive formats. The World Surf League was originally known as the International Professional Surfing founded by Fred Hemmings and Randy Rarick in 1976.
- CEO: Erik Logan
- Headquarters: Santa Monica, California, United States
- Founded: 1976

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ISSF Junior World C'ships: Harmehar Singh Lally, and Sanjana Sood win silver medal in skeet mixed team event

- In shooting, India bagged one silver to stay in the second position of the medal tally on Day 4 of the ISSF Junior World Championships, in Changwon, Korea.
- Indian pair Harmehar Singh Lally and Sanjana Sood won a silver medal in the skeet mixed team event.
- With that medal, India stayed in second place on the medals table with four gold, four silver and three bronze medals.
- China kept rising at the top with six gold, eight silver, and four bronze medals.
- Italy is in the third spot with two gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

About ISSF:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events. It also regulates several non-Olympic shooting sports events.
- President: Luciano Rossi
- Founded: 1907
- Headquarters: Munich, Germany
- Membership: 150 regions
- Secretary: Willi Grill (Secretary-General)

18-Year-Old Anshuman Jhingran from Navi Mumbai Becomes Youngest Person to Cross North Channel

- An 18-year-old open water swimmer from Navi Mumbai, Anshuman Jhingran, became the youngest person to cross the North Channel.
- He accomplished this incredible feat in just 125 days, earning him a place in the prestigious Guinness World Records.
- Elvis Ali Hazarika was the first Indian to successfully cross the North Channel, adding to India's legacy in the world of open water swimming.
- The North Channel is located between Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- It is considered the toughest of the Ocean Seven Swims (North Channel, Cook Strait, Kaiwi Channel, English Channel, Catalina Channel, Tsugaru Strait, Strait of Gibraltar)

Virat Kohli equals Sir Don Bradman's record of most test centuries after smashing his 29th ton in the second test against West Indies in Trinidad

- Team India batter Virat Kohli created history, becoming the first cricketer to score a hundred in his 500th international game during the second Test against West Indies at Port of Spain in Trinidad.
- Meanwhile, Kohli broke another major record by notching up three figures in Trinidad.
- He moved up to the fourth position among batters with the most tons at the No. 4 position.
- Only Sachin Tendulkar (44), Jacques Kallis (35), and Mahela Jayawardene (30) are above Kohli on the illustrious list.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win the men's doubles title at the Korea Open 2023 in Yeosu, Korea

- Asian Champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated world no. 1 Indonesian duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in a thrilling 3-game men's doubles final 17-21, 21-13, 21-14 to clinch the Korea Open 2023 title in Yeosu, Korea.
- It was Satwik and Chirag's first win over the Chinese pair following two earlier defeats.

ISSF Junior Shooting World Championship: India's Kamaljeet Clinches Gold Medal in Men's Individual

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50 metre Pistol Event

- India's Kamaljeet clinched Gold Medal in Men's individual 50-metre Pistol Event at ISSF Junior Shooting World Championship 2023 at Changwon Shooting Range, Korea.
- India went in with a strong contingent of 90 shooters in the tournament and bagged 17 medals including 6 Golds, 6 Silvers and 5 Bronzes.
- Over 550 shooters from 44 countries participated in the Championships.

The organization NADA has introduced a helpline number 1800-119-919 for athletes to receive information regarding Anti-Doping regulations and guidelines

- The Union government has emphasized that ethical conduct is a key factor in the fair administration of the sporting disciplines and facilitates a safe environment free of harassment and discrimination for all stakeholders.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has launched an Anti-Doping helpline number for the athletes and athlete support personnel to provide information about Anti-Doping rules and guidelines.
- The helpline number is 1800-119-919.

About NADA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 24 November 2005
- Chairman: Minister of Sports (India)

India has secured the second position on the medals tally at the ISSF World Championship held in South Korea:

- India secured the 2nd position on the medals tally at the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships 2023 held in Changwon, South Korea.
- The Indian shooters claimed a total of 17 medals in the under-21 age category, including 6 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze.
- Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet both won two gold medals each, while Sainyam secured three medals - one gold in the 10m air pistol women's category, and one bronze each in the 10m air pistol mixed team and women's team events.

About ISSF:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events. It also regulates several non-Olympic shooting sports events.
- President: Luciano Rossi
- Founded: 1907
- Headquarters: Munich, Germany
- Membership: 150 regions
- Secretary: Willi Grill (Secretary-General)

The Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Greater Noida were inaugurated by Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur.

- The Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2023 in Greater Noida.
- The event is being held in India for the first time.
- The Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will conclude on the 5th of August, 2023.

The Indian Women's team won three gold medals at the FISU Summer World University Games held in Chengdu, China.

- India opened its account at the FISU Summer World University Games with three gold medals on the opening day of the medal events in Chengdu, China.
- The Indian Women's team comprising Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Deswal and Abhidnya Patil clinched gold in the 10m Air Pistol event, ahead of China and Iran.

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- **Manu Bhaker** also secured the gold medal in the women's individual 10m Air Pistol with a score of 239.7 points in the final.
- Hungary's Fabian Sara bagged silver while Yu-Ju Chen of Chinese Taipei earned the bronze medal.
- **Elavenil Valarivan topped the charts to secure India's third gold** with an overall score of 252.5, piping USA's Mary Tucker by 2.1 points in the 10m Air Rifle.
- **India currently leads the gold medal charts with China ranked second** with two golds and five medals overall.

India clinched four medals, including three golds, on the second day of the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships:

- In Athletics, Indian athletes won four medals with three gold and one silver on the second day at the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships 2023.
- **Preeti Lamba won the gold medal in the women's 3000 metre steeplechase** while **Bal Kishan came in first in the men's 3000 metre steeplechase final**. **Sonia Baishya also clinched the gold medal in the women's 400 metres.**
- Indian athletes had clinched four medals - two gold and two silver - on the opening day of the competition as well.
- **Preeti topped the podium in the women's 3000m steeplechase** event with a time of 10:13.06s.

About Sri Lanka

- Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee
- Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

OBITUARIES

Oscar-winning American actor Alan Arkin Passed away

- Veteran United States (US) Actor **Alan Arkin** Best Known For 'Little Miss Sunshine' Passes Away at the age of 89 in California, United States of America (USA).
- Arkin gained stardom with his roles in the films **The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming (1966), Wait Until Dark (1967), The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (1968), Popi (1969), Catch-22 (1970), and The In-Laws (1979).**
- Alan Arkin was nominated for the **Academy Award 4 times** and also won a **Tony Award**(Broadway's top honour), in **1963.**

Former Punjab Assembly deputy speaker Bir Devinder Singh passed away

- Former Punjab Assembly deputy speaker **Bir Devinder Singh** Passed away at the age of 73.
- After graduating as a leader of **All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF)**, Singh was elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)** for the **first time** from Sirhind in 1980 on a Congress ticket.
- He again became a legislator after winning the election from the **Kharar assembly constituency** in 2002.

About AISSF :

- Founded : 13 September 1944
- The AISSF, is a **Sikh student organisation** and political organisation in India.

Legendary artist, illustrator and sculptor Namboothiri passed away

- The **famous illustrator, sculptor** and line sketch **artist, Karuvattu Mana Vasudevan Namboothiri**, commonly known as **Artist Namboothiri** passed away at the age of 97 in Kottakkal, Malappuram district, Kerala.
- Namboothiri was born on 13 September **1925** in Malappuram district of the south Indian state of Kerala, India.
- He was also a **chairman** of the **Kerala Lalithakala Akademi.**

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- The **Kerala Lalithakala Akademi** awarded him the **Raja Ravi Varma Award** in 2003.
- Namboothiri received the **Kerala State Film Award** for art direction for his work in the film ‘**Uttarayanam**’ in 1974.

Madhya Pradesh's 1st Woman Chief Secretary Nirmala Buch Passed away

- Retired Indian Administrative **Pradesh's first woman chief secretary Nirmala Buch** passed away at the age of 96. Services (IAS) officer and **Madhya**
- She had served the **Yojana Aayog (now NITI Ayog)** and she did a pioneering role in framing of ‘gramin vikas’ and ‘panchayati raj’ system in MP.
- She had also served as **financial and education secretary** from **1975-1977**.
- Buch had served as the Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh (MP) from September 1991 to 1993.
- Notably, Nirmala Buch's husband **Mahesh Neelkanth Buch**, who was also an IAS officer, widely regarded as the architect of new Bhopal, had **died** in June 2015 in Bhopal.

Basketball star and Two-time Olympic champion McCray-Penson Passed away

- Former basketball star and **two-time Olympic gold medal winner, Nikki McCray-Penson** has passed away at the age of 51.
- McCray-Penson was born on December 17, 1971 in Collierville, Tennessee, United States (US).
- She was a **two-time Southeastern Conference Player of the Year** at Tennessee in 1994 and 1995.

Spain's only Ballon d'Or winning player Luis Suarez Passed away

- **Luis Suárez Miramontes**, the so-called “**Golden Galician**” who is the only **Spanish man to win soccer’s most prestigious individual award**, the Ballon d’Or, has passed away at the age of 88 in Milan, Italy.
- Luis Suárez Miramontes was born on 2 May 1935, in **Spain**.
- He began his career at Deportivo La Coruna, before moving to Barcelona in 1954.
- Throughout seven seasons, he played a total amount of 253 matches for Barcelona, scoring 141 goals.

Renowned mathematician Dr Mangala J. Narlikar passed away

- **Dr Mangala Narlikar**, an eminent mathematician and the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar who is the founder director of Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) passed away at the age of 80 in Maharashtra

Former Kerala chief minister and Congress veteran Oommen Chandy Passed away

- **Former Kerala chief minister (CM)** and Congress Working Committee member **Oommen Chandy passed away** at the age of 79 in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Oommen Chandy was born on 31 October 1943 in Kottayam, **Kerala**.
- He was the **chief minister twice** for a total of seven years (2004–2006 and again from 2011–2016).
- He was the **longest serving MLA** in the **Kerala Legislative Assembly** and also the longest-serving MLA of any legislative assembly in the history of India.

Awards & Honors :

- Chandy received the 2013 **United Nations Public Service Award For the Asia-Pacific region**, for "Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service.
- He is the **only Indian chief minister** to achieve an award for public service from the United Nations (UN).
- He also received the United Nations Public Service Award for his **Mass Contact Programme (Jana Samparkka Paripadi)**, for hearing and solving the complaints of citizens.

Ex-Australian wicket keeper Brian Taber Passed away

- **Former Australia and New South Wales (NSW) keeper-batter Brian Taber** passed away at the age of 83.
- He was elected to the **Cricket NSW Hall of Fame** in 2021, and had a reputation as one of the nice guys of Australian cricket.

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- A book about Taber's life was published in **2014**, in which former Test captain Brian Booth called him a "wonderful team man".

The 'world's most famous hacker Kevin Mitnick Passed away

- One of the most famous **Computer hackers** in the history of cybersecurity, **Kevin Mitnick** passed away at the age of 59.
- He became a **White Hat hacker** and **cybersecurity consultant** after serving a five-year term in Prison.
- Mitnick published a memoir on his hacking career, "**Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker**," in 2011.

West Bengal MLA Bishnu Pada Roy Passed away

- **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)** from Dhupguri, **Bishnu Pada Roy**, passed away at the age of 61.

Well Known Marathi Journalist-author Shirish Kanekar Passed away

- Veteran **Marathi journalist-author-columnist Shirish Kanekar** passed away at the age of 80 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- His collection of stories 'Lagaon Batti' was awarded the **Maharashtra Literary Parishad Award for Best Comedy**.

Czech-born French writer & author of 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being' Milan Kundera Passed away

- **Milan Kundera**, Czech-born **French writer**, best known for his book '**The Unbearable Lightness of Being**' has passed away at the age of **94 in Paris, France**.
- He was awarded the **1985 Jerusalem Prize**, the **Austrian State Prize for European Literature in 1987** and the **2000 Herder Prize**.
- In **2021**, he was honoured with the **Golden Order of Merit** from the **president of Slovenia**.

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